



Saskatchewan Arts Alliance

This info sheet is intended to give you an idea about what it might be like to serve as a board member for the SAA. It is not meant to be a comprehensive document but to help you understand more about the SAA and the board of directors.

A brief intro to the SAA and what's going on right now...

The Saskatchewan Arts Alliance (SAA) is a non-partisan, member-driven coalition of arts organizations that provides a collective voice for the arts community to the public, government, and arts and culture agencies. The SAA works to strengthen, support and advance the arts ecosystem through advocacy, public education, research, policy development and proactive leadership.

At the SAA, our objectives and actions focus on the following:

- Arts Benefit Everyone
- Every Child Deserves an Arts Education
- The Arts Innovate
- Invest in the Arts

Our Vision...

Is that Saskatchewan arts and artists are supported and valued as essential to a complete and healthy society.

The SAA's Core Services include community forums, arts planning and development, interagency planning and development, representation, and advocacy. In addition to these core services, the SAA develops projects in response to the current needs of, and in consultation with, the arts community. These projects vary from year to year and depend upon supplementary funding.

You can [visit our website](#) for more information about who we are and what we do.

What type of board is the SAA?

Historically, the SAA has been a more hands-on, working board, but we are transitioning out of that model and into a governing board. The SAA is adequately resourced and has a staff complement that can effectively carry out the organization's work and operations.

When and where does the board meet, how often and for how long?

According to our bylaws, the SAA board must meet at least four times per year. Currently, the board meets approximately six times yearly or once every two months, plus the AGM, which is held in September. An annual meeting schedule for the board is determined in advance at

the first board meeting after the AGM in October. How often the board wants or needs to meet can be discussed.

Because we are a provincial organization with board members from throughout the province, we meet for our board meetings online via Zoom. The meetings are generally scheduled for two hours to ensure adequate time is blocked off in everyone's calendars, but we try our best to keep them to a maximum of one hour, and we are quite effective in sticking to the one-hour max rule.

We also prioritize essential agenda items, such as items that require a quorum for a vote or motion to be passed at the beginning of a meeting, to ensure the critical business involving everyone is present and is taken care of promptly.

There is also an annual board retreat where board members can gather for planning, professional development, networking, and just getting to know each other better. What this looks like exactly can be determined as we move forward as a group.

We know that people's time is valuable, and we want to be as efficient and effective as possible while still maintaining good governance and oversight for the organization.

Board Member Honorarium Policy

At our 2022 AGM, we passed an amendment to our bylaws to allow board members to receive an honorarium for attending board meetings. The Board Member Honorarium policy states each Board member is eligible for up to \$155 for each day they attend a board meeting.

Board Members may decline or donate all or a portion of their honorarium payments. Honorarium payments are not intended as salaries or full compensation for lost income; they are meant as payments to indicate appreciation of public service and ease the financial burden of participation to increase inclusivity and access.

How do we communicate?

The SAA board communicates primarily via email. We hope to transition to Slack as a primary form of communication, but it takes time for people to get used to it, so it is a hybrid blend of both. If you are unfamiliar with Slack, we will give you a tutorial, set you up and running, and help with any issues you may encounter.

What is the role of the board and SAA board members?

The board of the SAA has three main ongoing functions:

- To manage the official business of the SAA, outlined in these bylaws, and any applicable policies, which includes holding the AGM and ensuring an annual financial audit is done.

- To advocate for the SAA and its aims and objectives.
- To be responsive to the ED when the ED asks for guidance or support in meeting the aims and objectives.
- To keep track of the organization's work and provide strategic guidance on meeting the aims and objectives.
- To officially ask the ED how SAA's aims and objectives are being met and invite the ED to respond.
- To oversee the ED's recruitment, performance management, compensation, and succession planning.
- To participate in priority-setting decisions about balancing capacity, resources, and goals.
- To manage any risks to the organization's well-being, including resolving high-level conflicts and deliberating on staffing and membership issues.
- To be aware of the SAA's overall financial situation and any deficits, manage the budget within reasonably established limits, and set priorities_ when asked.
- To contribute to a healthy, active, and meaningful Board, including helping recruit potential Board members.

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