



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 rather to help you better understand 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, research, policy development, member services, and proactive leadership.

Our mission: “The SAA acts to ensure the lively existence and continued growth of the arts and cultural industries in Saskatchewan.”

Our work is organized around three core endeavours:

Advocacy: We advocate through partnerships, coalitions, and conversations at the municipal, provincial, and national levels. We mobilize members and allies, conduct research to support our work, and help members build their own advocacy skills.

Membership: We are a collective voice for the arts and offer tangible benefits to members. We provide research, resources, and tools that address real needs, and we work to build a culture in which arts workers and organizations lift each other up.

Good Ways of Working: We maintain strong administrative foundations and governance, lead by example, and take good care of our staff and Board. We make decisions based on our aims and objectives and plan for financial sustainability and succession

You can [visit our website](#) to learn more 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 now a governing board. The SAA is adequately resourced and has a staff complement capable of effectively carrying 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 in-person 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 that 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. Board members can expect regular communication from the ED and Board leadership between meetings, including meeting packages, updates, and requests for input on time-sensitive matters.

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

The Board of the SAA is responsible for:

- 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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