

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 28th, 2023

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 13:00- 15:00

Meeting Facilitator: Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

Meeting Minute Taker: India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

Members in attendance:

Sebastián Di Poi (SAF)

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Courtney Witter (SAF)

Katherine Parthimos (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Angelica Antonakopoulos (Student-at-Large)

Erik Huang (Community)

Mohammad (Haman) Jamali (Student-at-Large)

Asif Ali (GSA)

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Sean Levis (CSU)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. [January 10th, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [January 10th, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Haman**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none

- *Motion passes unanimously*

b. [February 2nd, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [February 2nd, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Haman**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the [February 28th, 2023] agenda:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Haman**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously*

4. SAF General Updates

a. No updates

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

i. HR/GOV met to discuss wages

ii. Decided to increase by \$2.50/hr to remain competitive with other similar orgs - next step is to meet with fincomm committee

b. SPC

i. Regular project funding budget: \$37,409.19

ii. Living Labs budget: \$62,456.92

- iii. Approved 3 revision requests: Indeterminacy festival: Sustainable Transformations (SLLFP), Engaging Solarity: Taking solar media mobile (SLLFP) and Concordia Film Festival.
- iv. Approved full funding for 3 projects

c. Finncomm

i. Sent out t4a slips to project leaders

- Highlights: \$66,755 total given out in honoraria to student leaders
- 31 t4a slips created for those who received >500 - similar to last year
- Online filing this year after changing systems last year saved the printing of over 200+ pieces of paper (and reduced follow-up to students on info needed drastically)

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. Katherine absent for last 2 weeks

ii. Paige and Elizabeth took over instagram feed

iii. Erik and Haman are taking over instagram this week

iv. Sustainability research award applications open!

v. BIPOC leaders grant funding workshop March 6th

6. Project Funding Allocation (12 projects to review)

a. Regular Project Funding Budget: \$[37,409.19]

b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget: \$[62,456.92]

Project 1: [Food for Thought]

- Requesting [\$158]
- Approved by SPC- full funding
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - An awareness campaign that continues connection with sustainability ambassadors program at the grey nuns residence. Educating via food literacy and games to educate on waste
 - SPC liked this project and supporting sustainability ambassadors and their leadership

roles aligns very well with SAFs values

Project 2: [Urban Resilience Panel]

- Requesting [\$300]
- Approved by SPC - full funding
- Presented by [Haman]
 - Notes
 - Climate change panel on Urban planning in Montreal
 - 3 strong letters of recommendation including office of sustainability
 - \$500 honorarium for panelists
 - Asked SAF for Hive catering funding
 - SPC liked and supported the project

Project 3: [The Greenhouse Terrarium]

- Requesting [\$1,500]
- Approved by SPC - full funding
- Presented by [Haman]
 - Notes
 - Project that 2 students want to build in the greenhouse of Concordia
 - Self-sustaining biosphere creation
 - And attraction to bring more students to the space and spread the knowledge of upcycling
 - Will collaborate with art students to design it
 - SPC really liked the project and decided to fully fund it

Project 4: [CASA Cares' 20th Annual Fashion Show]

- Requesting [\$1,500]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Paige]
 - Notes
 - Annual fashion show in March
 - March 18th at saint james theatre
 - Expecting 400 guests
 - Fundraiser for montreal children's hospital foundation
 - Aiming to raise \$40,000 for the org
 - Asking for \$1500 to cover half of food budget
 - Expecting sales of \$13,500
 - SPC has questions about textile waste, and an invoice from a food caterer. Also wanted clarification of carbon emission
 - Textile waste: accounts for dry cleaning of lended out garments
 - Food: no quote submitted, but have found two in-kind sponsors and are looking for other

- quotes
- Carbon offset: will calculate carbon emissions and reallocate \$100 to other sustainability orgs
 - Cassandra: Do we know their sponsors? In the past we've considered funders when giving projects funding. Are they asking us to fund the carbon offsets?
 - Duha: no we don't know their sponsors
 - Cassandra: has list of carbon offsetters she can suggest to organizers
 - Duha: SPC discussed this a lot. Doesn't seem like they have a plan, but they did mention they are donating \$100 to projects dedicated to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions
 - Cassandra: now given the information Duha has presented, how is the SPC feeling about the project?
 - Asif: still feels concerned about funding the project
 - Angelica: feels conflicted. Great cause and well known event, great initiative to raise money for MUHC. Doesn't have a direct impact on Concordia students. There are less wasteful ways to raise awareness for a children's hospital. Thinks \$100 to sustainable orgs is a good start. But let's consider how they can implement more sustainability practices into the theme and running of the event. Has an icky gut feeling
 - Paige: isn't offsetting carbon emissions a scam anyways?
 - Asif: the event doesn't seem sustainable to me
 - Paige: believes it okay for us to fund food, doesn't like anti-food funding retorik
 - Asif: disagrees but respects Paige's view
 - Paige: the fashion industry is wasteful. It's good to fund children's hospitals, but we don't need to fund obscene amounts on food or venues
 - Angelica: what designers are they working with? We should consider this
 - Duha: we don't know, that's why we wanted them to provide more info

Motion to reject full funding of [\$1,500] to [CASA Care's 20th Annual Fashion Show].

- **Moved by: Cassandra**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed, approved unanimously*

Project 5: [Sustaining Inclusion project]

- Requesting [\$4,000]
- Recommendation for full funding
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Project by concordia students volunteering at the art hives
 - Want to engage different populations in the university to create art in a non directive

- creative space
- Expecting 200 students to be engaged by 12 art hives events over winter semester
- 6 student groups have confirmed interest in art hives
- Letter of support from CUCCR and providing them in-kind items/materials
- \$600 for food, \$50/session from frigo vert and the hive. \$200 for art supplies they couldn't find from CUCCR. \$3000 going towards honoraria for students working on this project at \$25/hr. \$200 for marketing and outreach
- SPC liked this project, seems like they are well connected. Budget items made sense
- Cassandra: Likes the project! It's a proactive approach to ensuring inclusive and accessible spaces on campus
- Erik: really awesome that they've gotten so much support from many groups. Seems like a really cool project and really likes the project
- Asif: Feels that there's a lot of projects that want SAF to just fund food at their events. Food is a huge part of municipal solid waste, and he would like to be assured that the whole process of serving and disposing of food is sustainable.
 - Seb: Most projects have plans in place for extra food leftover: such as giving food to participants or hosts. Most have a plan to handle food waste. Although this specific project didn't have a clear plan
 - Paige: food elevates engagement on campus. The fact that we fund food is true and inevitable, there can't always be a debate about it. There's food insecurity on campus
 - Asif: Am I entitled to express my opinion?
 - Facilitator: yes Asif is entitled to express his opinion on the matter, and I also acknowledge that there is food insecurity on campus indeed
 - Seb: I encourage you Asif to look at how critical SAF is in choosing caterers, and how the caterer is sustainable

Motion to approve full funding of [\$4,000] to the [Sustaining Inclusion project].

- **Moved by:** Cassandra
- **Seconded by:** Erik
 - In favour: 5
 - Against: 1
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;* approved

Project 6: [Revision Request: The Diaspora intervention network of Awareness and Healing (DINAH) Mission]

- Requesting [\$5,000] in addition to the \$10,000 already funded in April 2022. Event was postponed from October to March 2023.
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes

- Have funded project last year
- We funded the venue rental
- Safe trauma informed survivor-based healing space for Black and african diaspora
- Panel discussion of black women wellness, trauma informed yoga etc.
- Funded by many other orgs
- \$5,000 is for \$4,000 for audio-visual for the event, \$1000 is to cover food from local Haitian food caterers. Inflation caused the food price to go up
- Duha has received a breakdown of the catering amount
- Duha: how does everyone feel about the project in general and the event?
- Cassandra: thats a big revision request... feels like an additional application for me
- Duha: has been to Dinah mission events and they were very well done and well organized. Their work is catered to Black and gender diverse women
- Cassandra: approaching it from a practical point of view. We are looking at a project that was agreed upon. And due to a situation out of their control, they need more funding. So maybe we should stick to our decision of fully funding the project. But another part of me says that they should try to reduce costs? But maybe to be simple we just stick to our commitment and fully fund their revision?
- Erik: how many are attending
 - Duha: 100
 - Would be \$15/person
 - Erik: okay \$3500 for 100 people for 3 meals make sense then
- Erik: what is the audio visual equipment they need?
 - Duha: included breakdown of equipment and technicians. Equipment is rented
- Erik: are we the only org they are asking a revision request to?
 - Duha: not sure
- Event is happening very soon
- Erik: If this project originally asked for \$15,000 last year would we still have funded it?
- Cassandra: remembered there was a rhetoric of wanting to support the project but a high ask
- Cassandra: maybe we can fund half of the revision?
- Erik: is this a high amount given what we have left in the project funding budget
- Erik: reviews minutes from last year, there seemed to be a similar struggle and question surrounding the amount they were requesting
 - Duha: Yes I remember last year we we were running short in our funding so maybe that's why it seemed like a big ask
- Erik: is inclined to make a motion to approve full funding

Motion to approve additional funding of [\$5,000] to the [DINAH Mission] project.

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: 4
 - Against: 1
 - Abstain: 1

- *Motion passed*; approved

Project 7: [Chrysalis]

- Requesting [\$6,095]
- Recommendation for full funding
- Presented by [Paige]
 - Notes
 - Queer oriented concordia event
 - 10-13 drag performers who are concordia students
 - Showcasing up and coming queer and trans BIPOC community members
 - Using Reggies bar for the event
 - Need 300 people to get the space for free
 - 6 concordia students organising the event
 - Expecting 350 attendees
 - Event is March 30th
 - SPC rally liked project, their approach is sensitive to queer folks
 - Bulk of funding is for honoraria for performers and DJs, poster printing, collateral from Reggie's
 - Angelica: a student run food source on campus, reggies, is at risk of closing and is in financial peril. They will get some sort of revenue from the sale of alcohol. Believes funding events at reggies is important since reggies is a food source for students on campus

Motion to approve full funding of [\$6,095] to the [Chrysalis] project.

- **Moved by: Elizabeth**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
 - In favour: 5
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed*; approved

Project 8: [Cement]

- Requesting [\$6,704.71]
- Recommendation for partial funding of [\$3,250] for honoraria
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Short film done as an experimental documentary
 - Explores human impact on the environment
 - Budget is for food and Bunker set rental
 - Questions about the main theme and message: animalistic side of humanity,

individualistic view of climate crisis. If that is their message it doesn't align with the saf's mission.

- Outreach: they will be screening at concordia and CFF
- SPC wanted to partially fund the project for honoraria, wanted to support people working on the project. We asked for a preview.spoiler on the film
- Duha: we asked what is the end message of the film: they are using the symbol of cement as a metaphor for our evolution as society in shaping the future. Will we continue to isolate ourselves from nature with concrete walls or will we contact nature?
- Paige: likes the explanation of the film, its true that concrete goes against how the land is formed naturally
- Cassandra: The explanation cleared things up for me, but the messaging is a bit confusing regardless. But the film seems to challenge the individualistic responsibility on climate change. Likes the assumption that the individual pressure is making is sick, when in reality this is a systemic issue. Want to empower the individual but not put all the responsibility onto them
- Paige: mental health and climate change needs to be more explored. Hasn't seen something like this addressing the mental health component directly

Motion to approve full funding of [\$6,704.71] to the [Cement] project.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: 3
 - Against: 1
 - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed*; approved

- Erik: abstained because of how the higher production costs being on-site at the bunker for filming was a high ask, since we weren't solid on how the message of the film will be conveyed through it. Agreed with partial funding for labour of filmmakers
- Haman and Asif: in favour of partial funding
- Haman: the costs seem really high for a film. There are many digital features that can be used that don't require onsite filming
- Asif: how do we determine what is "valuable" for SAF?
 - Seb: we have criteria for determining how well a project meets SAFs values
- Facilitator: According to Robert's rules, this decision is legally binding, but there seems to be a desire for partial funding versus full funding. I am open to opening a recast of votes up to the board, but the decision to do so would have to be unanimous. I would like to open the option of striking the vote that has been cast and opening the option of a vote for partial funding.
- Paige: doesn't think we should do that
- Erik: I don't mind if the board decides to go with full funding. I used my abstention as a way to show that I don't mind if the board supports this project and that I'm not picky either way and am happy to go with what the board decides

- Paige: feels that full funding would be good. Haman's point about how things are cheap now, I think that opting for the cheap way sets a bad precedent. This film is clearly garnering discussion so I think it deserves to be fully funded

Motion to strike previous motion, and revote on the motion of the [Cement] project.

- **Moved by: Asif**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against:
 - Abstain:
- *Motion passed;* approved
- Paige: voted in favour in the spirit of cooperation
- Seb: all seem ok with funding honoraria, what is of concern is funding other aspects of production. SAF being aligned with the message of the project isn't a question since it is sparking discussion amongst the board, and will surely spark discussion at its screening
- Asif: has changed his mind and supports fully funding

Motion to approve full funding of [\$6,704.71] to the [Cement] project.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
 - In favour: 5
 - Against: 1
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed;* approved

Motion to table [Suko Magazine] and [Co-op CultivAction Summer Urban Agriculture School (SLLFP)] until next meeting.

- **Moved by: Elizabeth**
- **Seconded by: Haman**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed;* approved

Project 9: [Mind.Heart.Mouth (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$12,183.75]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - SAF has been funding this project since it started in 2019
 - Its an intergenerational garden that builds community care and resistance through sustainable gardening.
 - Have been able to work on many projects at the loyola campus gardens. Provide food to food banks and emergency baskets
 - Allows students to engage with seniors through the garden
 - SAF recommended for higher wages. Funding is for coordinator honoraria and student honoraria
 - Sustainability targets: Food 1.2, and Food 1.4, and Food 1.6, and Research 4.1. Has been approved by the office of sustainability.
 - SAF has approved around the same funding in past years

Motion to approve full funding of [\$12,183.75] to the [Mind.Heart.Mouth (SLLFP)] project.

- **Moved by: Asif**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed;* approved

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

- a. Our spotlight series on March 6th at the 4th space on project funding for BIPOC leaders, register [here](#)

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none

- *Motion passed*; approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 15:28.