

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 16th, 2025

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 13:00 - 15:00

Meeting Facilitator: Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

Meeting Minute Taker: India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

Members in attendance:

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Iqbal Hussain (SAF)

Mai Pradhan (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Sarah Aspler (CSU Council)

Mia Kennedy (CSU Executive)

Jonah Doniewski (FASA)

Snigdhodeb Dutta (Arts & Science)

Somayeh Rashvand (Student-at-large)

Annick Davignon (Concordia Faculty)

Members absent:

Rhonda Chung (GSA)

Yasmine Kaced (Student-at-Large)

Juliette Weil (Concordia Staff)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [June 5th 2025] minutes and the [September 24th 2025] minutes :

- **Moved by: Jonah**
- **Seconded by: Snigdhodeb**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the [December 16th 2025] agenda:

- **Moved by: Annick**
- **Seconded by: Jonah**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none

- *Motion passes*

4. SAF General Updates

a. Changes in funding deadlines for 2026

- We removed Jan deadline, so winter deadline is only March 1st
- We removed May and July for summer and changed it to June 1st
- This model is more sustainable for the org and for the board, as reimbursements can be more timely, and it also gives more time within board meetings to discuss things other than funding
- This is SAFs first year using this model. The Jan deadline was removed due to holidays, and the two summer deadlines were combined into one for June 1st. This also aligns well with the Sustainability Research Award and leaves enough time for this process

b. Working with COCo

- By-law updates
 - Need many updates to align more with new Concordia things and to make stronger more solid by-laws
 - SAF is spending around \$1,050 on training and COCo gave 22 hours pro-bono. For any additional hours, Duha is applying to internal Concordia funding
- ED coaching - Taharima Habib
 - Duha has not had much ED training from previous EDs, so she wants to be more knowledgeable of laws and policies so SAF can align more with these rules and regulations, and also ensure certain government and legal paperwork is done properly and timely
- Updated our final report for projects
 - Reduced from 22 sections to 8 sections, more qualifying questions rather than quantifying to give more space for projects to write about their experiences

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

- No updates

b. SPC

- SPC committee can approve anything less than \$3,000, and will give recommendations for funding of other projects if there is time.
- SAF also has a surplus of ~10k from unanticipated summer fee-levies

- Project funding annual budget: \$100,000
- Allocated in first fall round: \$31,480
- Allocated in SPC meeting: \$13,845.80
- Remaining until May 31st, 2026: \$45,325.80
- Total requested this period: \$67,445

c. Finncomm

i. No updates

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. No updates

6. Project Funding

Regular Project Funding Budget: \$100,000

Total Project Funding Remaining until May 31 2026: \$45,325.80

Allocated in first fall round: \$31,480

Allocated in SPC meeting: \$13,845.80

Total requested this period: \$67,445

SPC committee approved projects

- Summary of Fall 2025 Period 2 Applications
- Cinema Politica Fall 2025 Screenings: Sustainability & Justice: approved partial funding of [\$1,500] for venue rental
- MA Studies symposium: (art)iculating Worlds: approved partial funding of [\$500]
- Forest management in Quebec & the climate crisis: approved full funding of [\$1,950]
- JSEC Sustainability Case Competition: approved partial funding of [\$650] for venue rental
- Art Matters Sustainable Printing Initiative: approved full funding of [\$2,745.80]
- The Backlash Era: Challenges and Futures for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: approved full funding of [\$2,745.80]
- KING: approved partial funding of [\$1,500] for equipment rental
- Adam, Eve & Me: approved full funding of [\$2,000]

Board of Directors Project Funding Discussion

Project 1: [Paifang Collaborator Project: Queer Asian Capacity Building in Chinatown]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: December 2025 to February 15th 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Initiative of JIA Foundation. SAF actually funded through Living Labs a roundtable in Chinatown. Organisation works on preserving Chinatown and working with elders to protect and promote cultural heritage of Chinatown
 - Jia Foundation is also part of SHIFT, and many Concordia students are involved
 - Paifang is a queer community festival in Chinatown. It was a one day event last year with around 300 attendees. There were workshops with elders with traditional chinese

- medicine, drag, live singing etc.
- The Collaborator project aims to connect queer asians and their allies to resources to design and deliver their own workshops
- SAF is being asked to fund the second phase of this project, which surrounds the creation of a toolkit and conducting strategic planning for the upcoming festival in May or June
- They expect workshops to have around 25 participants, with 10-15 of those being Concordia students or alumni. Many alumni are also involved in the foundation
- Project budget is \$11,500, asking SAF for \$5,000 for stipends for team working on the project, \$25/hour for 200 hours for 5 people
- SPC was divided, some wanted full funding, others partial funding
- Snighdhodeb: really liked the project, but is concerned about the budget. Willing to give 80% of request since Jia foundation is a big group and can most likely supplement other \$1,000
- Jonah: agrees with Snighdhodeb, perhaps being more restrained with this project is fine given the large support for this project, they can for sure find the remaining funding elsewhere

Motion to approve partial funding of [\$4000] to the [Paifang Collaborator Project: Queer Asian Capacity Building in Chinatown].

- **Moved by: Snighdhodeb**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 2: [PERVERTS]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: November 2025 - March 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Film student project
 - Queer and woman led film involving Concordia students and alumni
 - Centering queer joy and radical silliness, grimy and gritty aesthetic
 - Queer discourse around sex, bodies and play. Rejecting queer assimilation and conservatism
 - 15 minute film project, aiming for a zero waste film set focusing on materials from CUCCR
 - Also applying for CCSL and CUTV
 - Total budget is \$40,420, asking for \$5,000

- Project provided a budget with options of what SAF can fund
- Paige: project is combatting pinkwashing of queerness and promoting the sustainability of queerness and queer liberation, it definitely aligns with SAFs vision of sustainability
- Snighdhodeb: Did they mention any vendors for foods? Also yes they are promoting queer identities, but how will it serve the purposed of queer communities outside of Concordia/the broader queer community
 - Duha: they said they will be prioritizing local vendors for food
 - Jonah: is also curious about food costs in relation to how long working days are where it comes to \$40/person per day. Also agrees that funding makeup, transport, and costumes does not align with SAF but focusing on food is more productive for SAF
 - Duha: also asked about an intimacy coordinator, and the project will be hiring one. We can also focus on funding wages
- Paige: somewhat agrees with not funding makeup and stuff. But she also understands high expenses for catering especially if it is local. Lets partially find catering and fully fund wages? SAF can fund whatever remains of the wages after funding received from Canada Council and CUTV
- Jonah: it might be better to focus on food and catering
- Sarah: agrees with Jonah that we should focus on this
- Snighdhodeb: 40 per person per day for catering, it's still unclear about the length of work days. Food catering can be lower cost. Wants to fund 50% for \$1,600
- Paige agrees with Snighdhodeb's suggestion

Motion to approve partial funding of [\$1,600] to the [PERVERTS] project for food costs.

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

Project 3: [Sankofa Farming Cooperative]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: ongoing
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Sankofa is the only garden at Loyola without SAF funding
 - Indigenous and Black led farming cooperative, so Sankofa created a space for non-white students to be involved
 - First time application from Sankofa and they had a very strong application
 - Working group from QPIRG, aims to address food apartheid affecting Black and

- Indigenous communities in Montreal
- Provide free and nutritious foods
- Looking to fill the gap in Black led urban farming
- Operate as a living classroom, centering elder wisdom and leadership. Had youth volunteering days this year. Collabs with DESTA to distribute meals to Black and Indigenous youth. Bi-weekly volunteer dates engage many Concordia students
- Budget is for honorariums and materials
- Jonah: project seems super important and interesting, very important for BIPOC communities and food solidarity. The budget is very reasonable as well. Important objectives.
- Snighdhodeb: Has volunteered with them and they do great work, supports funding this project in full.
- Paige: supports full funding as well

Motion to approve full funding of [\$5,000] to the [Sankofa Farming Collective].

- **Moved by: Jonah**
- **Seconded by: Mia**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously;*

Project 4: [Uzuri Gala & Conference 2026]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: March 26th and 28th 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - SAF gets an application every year, they have received funding in the past but have also been rejected before
 - Organised by ASAC Concordia aimed at celebrating African excellence and empowerment
 - Yearly cultural gala showcasing art and cuisine, as well as a professional networking event
 - More than 400 attendees, very popular among students
 - Emphasizing sustainable practices and networking opportunities to build confidence in Black students
 - Aiming to have around 150 students and conference and 500 at Gala
 - Gala venue rental is highest cost, and conference location has not been confirmed yet
 - Have also requested funding from CSU, CCSL, Desjardins and TD bank
 - Total budget is \$38,898, asking for \$5,000 from SAF. Main funding is for Gala venue rental and panel speaker honoraria for conference
 - Annick: reaches many people, great place for a SAF presence, but what is connected with

- our mission directly in this project. Maybe a specific speaker?
- Snighdhodeb: Sees artistic merit of project. But it doesn't represent SAFs sustainability mission very clearly. Maybe they can find funding more closely aligned with the event values. There will be a lot of participants at this event, but this project does not directly align with SAF
- Somayeh: many aspects of this project are unclear
- Jonah: feels similar to Snighdhodeb and Somayeh. I think it's better if we focus on smaller and more independent programming, especially in terms of sustainability. Just funding the venue space seems like an unfortunate use of this chunk of money
- Mia: this is an important event for the Montreal Black community and funding the venue could be really helpful
- Jonah: feels uncomfortable with RBC and TD bank as part of the funders for this event
- Somayeh: also does not feel comfortable with these banks as funders
- Paige: fuck TD and fuck RBC

Motion to deny funding of [\$5,000] to the [Uzuri Gala & Conference 2026].

- **Moved by: Somayeh**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes;*

Project 5: [SHOWPAO: THE ALBUM]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: August 2025 - May 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Application from Focus, a Filipino group on campus
 - Focus: connect, celebrate and challenge – aiming to celebrate the Filipino community
 - The annual celebration event has transformed into an album capturing heritage through original songs and local Filipino artists. Themes are identity, memory, home
 - Hosting one day event to celebrate album release with marketplace and local food vendors. Aiming to have around 200 Concordia students there
 - Have received funding from CSU and CCSL and filipino diaspora members
 - Total budget is \$25,500, asking for \$5,000 from SAF: \$2,000 equipment rental, \$3,000 for event venue rental for launch
 - Jonah: when you say full day rental for space from morning until night, will it be open all day?
 - Duha: yes they will have many vendors and it will be open all day, participants can come and go
 - Sarah: is maybe interested in funding the rentals
 - Duha: cost estimates are based on last year's rentals

- Jonah: also wanted to flag the amount of money paid for wages, and if it was under minimum wage?
 - Duha: there is also an option to give suggestions to project to reapply with more information
- Snighdhodeb: Agrees with chat, suggests for project to be more specific with their quotes before funding. If we approve this we might be missing out on other stronger projects. Also agrees with Joan about the concerns with wages. Has issues with clarity of the budget
- Jonah: maybe it doesn't make sense for them to reapply given that many costs are rentals of equipment they might need more quickly. Does it even make sense to ask them to do that

Motion to deny funding of [\$5,000] to the [SHOWPAO:THE ALBUM] project.

- **Moved by: Annick**
- **Seconded by: Snighdhodeb**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes;*

Project 6: [Nowhere, Oklahoma, stop-motion animated film]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: September 2024 - May 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Film application, short stop motion animated film. Has been in development since September 2024
 - Follows a character, Woody, in an abusive household, his father is a butcher and is serving a banquet in the town to celebrate a new railroad. He is hunting crows to feed the people instead. Woody joins a group of local boys in hunting crows. The crows are giving Woody messages about his missing mother
 - Film explores themes of childhood resilience, grief and loss, and poverty. Connections between the time period of the dustbowl era of film and current times of economic and civil unrest. Creating a film that inspires viewers to maintain a sense of wonder despite hardships
 - Next phase is production of hands-on stop motion: filmmakers are engaging with CUCCR for materials
 - Applied for FASA and CUTV, received CCSL funding, have letters of support from CUCCR and various profs
 - Total budget is \$12,300, asking for \$3,600 from SAF: printing, color processing of film, festival applications, stop-motion materials
 - Jonah: friend is working on the project, also reviewed the project with FASA and it was a

very thorough application. The letter of support from CUCCR is a big deal since they are a big sustainability org on campus. It was also mentioned for previous projects that we don't really fund costumes and things like that, we should consider this.

- Duha; we have funded materials in the past, it is more important to know what is happening to equipment afterwards and where its rented from: is it donated to CUCCR, etc. Funding equipment is not a hard no from SAF
- Annick: The production and visuals seem like they can bring about a lot of conversations in audiences. Do we know if they are aiming to have a direct intervention to bring conversations up surrounding the film?
 - Duha: It depends on the film festival whether or not there is a conversation time surrounding the film. But in general films from the Mel Hoppenheim school at Concordia tend to have social and political themes that are relevant. There is an intention to have themes like this. Although we cannot say this for sure about each festival they will apply to
- Paige: in favor of funding animation, and seeing animation as a serious cultural media is important. It's also important to have conversations around the dustbowl era. Fiction fosters empathy and that is the most sustainable thing of all

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,600] to the [Nowhere, Oklahoma, stop-motion animated film] project.

- **Moved by: Sarah**
- **Seconded by: Annick**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes;*

Tabled projects until January BoD meeting

- D.O.A.P Craft Circle
- Lodavo
- CUFO healing retreats for unhoused artists
- Hive Free Dinners & Grocery Program

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

a. Upcoming board meetings

8. Adjournment