

Minneapolis Arts Commission Recommendation List
Monday, April 01, 2002

To: Mayor R.T. Rybak
City Council President Paul Ostrow

From: Melissa Stephens, MAC, Nominations Chair
Carla Waldemar, MAC, Nominations Committee
Sally French, MAC, Nominations Committee
Jennifer Haugh, MAC, Co-Chair

RE: Minneapolis Arts Commission Recommendations For Vacancies

The Minneapolis Arts Commission Nominations Committee received a total of 50 applications in October 2001 and March 2002 for 10 vacancies. We were challenged by the excellent pool of applicants, but finally narrowed our selection to 34 interviews. As the Nominations Committee interviewed candidates for the Arts Commission, we listened and looked for the qualities that would best assist the Mayor, City Council and Public Arts Program Administrator, Mary Altman, to recognize, support and promote the arts vision for Minneapolis. Some of these strengths and skills include:

- Strong community ties
- Proactive and dedicated attitudes toward organized facilitating
- Effective communication & experience working with diverse arts and neighborhood groups and/or organizations
- Enduring commitment to support and strategically assist in promoting and cultivating the creative strengths and artistic values and visions of the City of Minneapolis
- Culturally diverse Ward distribution that represent the most reliable, committed and skillful candidates possible

The vacant Wards were: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Nominations Committee was able to fill all but Wards 2, 4, 6 and 8 either because the stronger candidates were from other Wards or we did not receive applications from these areas at all. The recommended and current Commissioners are diversely located and live or work close to the borders of other communities (see map). Some of them have had the experience of living in these areas in the past and are more than willing to represent these Wards as their own.

The Commissioners have a history of work with Wards that are not our own. As a result, we all have a clearer understanding and enthusiastic desire to communicate and support activities with all our neighbors. For these reasons, the Committee feels strongly that the City is best served by our list of recommended and current Commissioners.

The list of recommendations that follows completes the Minneapolis Arts Commission's Categories of Appointment representing: 5 Artists, 5 Administrators and 7 Lay People.

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The Nominations Committee's list of recommendations and supporting:

- 1. Heidi Andermack, Ward 3, Artist**
 - Prominent community organizer for NEMAA (North East Minneapolis Arts Assoc.)
 - Working artist and public arts advocate

- 2. Susan Jahn, Ward 5, Artist**
 - Dedicated advocate of cultural diversity, public relations and education
 - Seasoned volunteer organizer, community and artistic leader

- 3. Dr. Maxine Rossman, Ward 5, Arts Administrator**
 - Active communication and work experience with Museums and Universities
 - Decades of experience in the arts as an organizer, communicator and activist

- 4. Randy Hartten, Ward 7, Lay Person**
 - Influential corporate leader and arts advocate
 - Tactical and strategic planner and organizer

- 5. Marcus Marcus, Ward 9, Artist**
 - Committed to rally youth in arts and education
 - Active spoken and written word artist and community organizer

- 6. Marianne Norris, Ward 10, Lay Person**
 - Top level public school administrator
 - Dedicated to creating better communication, activities and awareness with the arts, schools and the City of Minneapolis

- 7. Jessica Kohen, Ward 11, Lay Person**
 - Valuable public relations background in television and other media
 - Acute knowledge of public art initiatives and effective communicator

- 8. Mick Spence, Ward 11, Lay Person**
 - Comprehensive knowledge of art and the law
 - Strong community volunteer, communicator and leader

- 9. Dr. Mary Ann Feldman, Ward 12, Arts Administrator**
 - Resourceful Board Member of the Minnesota Orchestra
 - Talented writer, public speaker and community organizer

- 10. Laurie Brickley, Ward 13, Lay Person**
 - Knowledgeable in marketing and promotions
 - Practical and cognitive job experience with major arts institutions

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The Nominations Committee list of recommended Alternates:

Beth Marie Ward, Ward 8, Administration

Laura Zabel, Ward 9, Artist

Colleen Mullins, Ward 12, Administration

Jane Gregerson, Ward 13, Lay Person

The Nominations Committee recommends that the following applicants be re-elected to the Minneapolis Arts Commission due to their outstanding efforts and dedication to the Commission and assist in fulfilling the arts vision for the City of Minneapolis:

Chris Fischbach, Ward 3, Administration, and

Deborah Jindra, Ward 7, Administration