



Vacancy, Board of Directors

The role of the Grand Marais Art Colony Board of Directors is to:

- Determine policy and establish the overall strategic direction of the Grand Marais Art Colony within the policy and resource framework available
- Supervise the management of the Grand Marais Art Colony by acting as good stewards of donor contributions
- Use the combined expertise of members to advise the Co-Directors
- Decide on major property acquisitions and major resource commitments
- Represent the Grand Marais Art Colony externally and assist in the fundraising of resources; and,
- Oversee the delivery of planned results by monitoring performance against objectives and targets

A Board Member should have commitment to the Grand Marais Art Colony's objectives and values, and be willing to champion the Grand Marais Art Colony.

A Board Member must participate in the Board's decision-making processes, including preparation for, and attendance at, meetings of the Board, as well the Board's Committees that the Board Member may be appointed to.

The executive leadership of the Grand Marais Art Colony rests with the Executive Director, Lyla Brown, and the Artistic Director, Ruth Pszwaro, who are responsible for carrying out the day to day operations of the organization within the strategic direction set by the Board of Directors.

The role would involve attending twelve Board meetings per year. Board meetings are generally held in Grand Marais, Minnesota, apart from a possible annual Board of Directors retreat. Attendance at Board meetings can occur through remote access such as conference call or videoconferencing. Membership of the Board of Directors during 2019 and 2020 will require participation in a strategic planning process, the meetings of which are likely to amount to between five and eight a year in addition to regular board meetings.

The role also involves attending and hosting Grand Marais Art Colony events and other engagements such as exhibitions, symposia and fundraising opportunities. Some additional time to study papers and provide ad hoc advice will be required as necessary.

The likely total time commitment is the equivalent of two to three days per month. Terms are for three years and are renewable.

A Board Member should be prepared to work with the Co-Directors and Grand Marais Art Colony staff to facilitate a free exchange of advice.

A Board Member must be prepared to declare and actively manage any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests upon appointment and whenever a matter arises in which the Board Member has an interest which might be perceived to conflict with those of the Grand Marais Art Colony. To this end, Board Members are required to complete and submit an annual declaration of interests and disclose any potential conflict of loyalty.

Board Members are required to understand and embrace the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The law places certain restrictions on becoming a nonprofit board member. Please refer to the State of Minnesota [Guide for Charity Board Members](#).

Residency in Grand Marais is **not** a requirement of this position.



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Position Specification / Essential Criteria

Successful candidates will demonstrate:

- An understanding of and commitment to the objectives and work of the Grand Marais Art Colony as a destination of programmatic excellence
- Strategic decision-making ability
- A commitment to supporting fundraising activity
- Excellent communications and representational skills
- The ability to work effectively as part of a team, with experience of collective decision making at a senior level

In an effort to increase the diversity of skills on the Board of Directors, we would welcome new members who are artists and / or have experience and skills in the areas of finance, development and marketing.

Additional Information

The Grand Marais Art Colony is the longest-lived art colony in the State of Minnesota. It began in 1947 as a summer school of the Minnesota School of Art (now known as the Minnesota College of Art and Design – MCAD). It was incorporated as a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization in 1984 and now serves approximately 15,000 people each year. We aim to provide services to artists, promote art education and nurture art in our community through an environment of creative excellence. We do this through:

- Offering courses to amateur and professional artists in a diversity of mediums
- Fostering an Artists in Residence initiative
- Extending the public knowledge and understanding of art through Entry Point activities
- Providing studio access for independent exploration and experimentation; and,
- Hosting exhibitions and lectures

The Grand Marais Art Colony receives operating funds from the Minnesota State Arts Board as well as the McKnight Foundation, Lloyd K Johnson Foundation, among others. The Grand Marais Art Colony raises the majority of its revenue from self-generated income from:

- Admission to temporary exhibitions and entry point activities
- Relationships with business partners and corporate sponsors, individual donors, patrons and membership dues
- Studio rental income and course tuition fees
- Sales of artwork through the organization's Gallery Store; and,
- Special event fundraisers

In 2018, 66% of the Grand Marais Art Colony's income was self-generated. This is a tremendous strength but means that the Grand Marais Art Colony must be conscious of the economic climate and fluctuations in student numbers.

How to Apply

Please send a description of no more than one page of your professional experience, how it would enhance the governance of the Art Colony, why you want to be on the Board and your contribution to the Art Colony and its mission.

Please submit your materials by 8 November 2019, stating why you wish to be considered for the role, to Lyla Brown by email at director@grandmaraisartcolony.org

Prospective board members who best meet our requirements will be invited to speak with our Executive Committee and Co-Directors sometime in November 2019. Our goal is to have our new Board Members begin their terms in January 2020.