

MOSAIC HARMONY  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, October 12, 2023

**Attending (virtual):** Sabine Creamer, Crystal Jefferson, Sallie Williams, Hey-Jin Kong, Jim Price, Claudia Stallings, Karen Stern, David North

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

The Minutes of the 9/14/23 Board meeting was approved. Sallie will forward the Minutes to the webmasters for posting on MoHa's website.

**Membership Report:**

As a result of the September 19 kickoff of our Membership Drive and the September 23 Festive Fall Frolic, MoHa's membership numbers are growing! It has been a delight to welcome as members three returning alumni and one new MoHa singer. There have been eight visitors, two of whom have indicated they will join as of the October 3 rehearsal. What wonderful "first steps" towards reaching our goal to recruit thirty new members this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**Community Building Report:**

The Community Building Committee has come up with some excellent ideas. For example, they recommend that we recognize new members by including a brief bio and picture in the monthly newsletter. We can host a social time for new and returning members from 7-7:30 on rehearsal nights. Additional ideas include having events outside of rehearsal such as attending a gospel concert at the Kennedy Center, hosting a nature walk for any members who want to join in, participating in a "Peace Crane" origami event to share with Tema and/or GenOUT, and continuing with the Do Tell Mama fundraiser which also builds connections within the choir.

**Fundraising Report:**

Claudia is researching potential donors and will be asking choir members for leads so that she can reach out to them in the coming months. Giving Tuesday this year is on Tuesday, November 28. Since that is a rehearsal night, Claudia will highlight ways to support the choir financially at upcoming rehearsals. There was a discussion of finalizing the date for Do Tell Mama. Since the hosts have January 13<sup>th</sup> available, the board voted to approve January 13, 2024, as the date with January 20, 2024, as a backup date in case of inclement weather. Hey-Jin offered that the Community Building Team can help with set-up and other tasks at Do Tell Mama.

**Grants Report:**

The ArtsFairfax Ticket Subsidy grant can be used for an event taking place in Fairfax County. We currently have no concerts in Fairfax for which we plan to sell tickets. There was discussion of whether to sell

tickets for the April 6, 2024, Community Concert. In 2022, the April concert was donation only. However, tickets were sold in 2018 and 2019. The Board voted to sell tickets for the next Community Concert at \$20 for adults and \$12 for children. We will decide at a later date whether to give free tickets to the guest choirs, Tema and GenOUT, to distribute to their guests. We will move forward working with SAG to identify an underserved group to invite to our April 2024 concert. Sallie will apply for the Ticket Subsidy grant.

Sallie submitted a grant request to Imprint, a company that makes custom promotional products. Another opportunity is the Virginia Commission on the Arts Operating Support grant which opens for applications in December 2023.

Laura Weiss brokered an introduction between Sallie and UUCF's liaison for Social Justice ministries, Andrew Boetcher. Sallie will follow up with Andrew about potential social justice grants and opportunities to sing at social justice events.

Grant applications require biographies of board members. Sallie will send bio examples to the board. Board members will send their bios to her before the November board meeting.

### **Concert Committee Report:**

The board discussed June concert ticket prices. The goal is to incentivize purchases but not make the price so high that it is not affordable. The board approved \$30 per ticket prior to June 24 and \$35 per ticket at the door.

There will also be a volume discount – four or more tickets purchased at the same time will be \$25 per ticket if Eventbrite allows this special offer. Sabine will test this feature.

Karen updated the board on Concert Committee activities. Members left the last concert committee meeting with assignments. There is a need for more support with Moha's social media postings on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook. Kim has indicated she needs help with drafting and posting on social media. The committee is considering engaging an intern but that requires a time commitment to supervise the intern. Hey-Jin offered to bring up the opportunity to volunteer with Moha when she attends the next GenOUT rehearsal.

The concert committee is creating two 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary websites – one for the public and one for alumni including links to the songs.

There is a potential concert at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute. Sabine will confirm with her contact that we will perform for free but donations to cover our costs are welcome.

Moha has been invited to sing with Tema on March 23, 2024, in the event that the Ghanaian sister choir is unable to travel to sing with Tema. Sabine will update the board and choir when performance details are updated.

The Interfaith Harmony Concert is scheduled for February 4, 2024. Sabine, David, and Karen will meet with their counterparts at Temple Rodef Shalom tomorrow morning to work out concert details. The

target to have all concert details (participating choirs, concert coordination team, program (flow of show, technical equipment, audio/video, set up, speakers, etc.) finalized is November 10, 2023.

**Financial Report:**

Jim sent the September budget reports to the board by email. Board members have reviewed the reports. The choir received a very generous anonymous donation of \$10,000 in September. The donation helped us meet our September budget income projection. We need to raise funds to meet our regular monthly expenses and close the significant projected budget deficit for 2023-2024. Several board members expressed an interest in a more detailed budget for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. Jim will need to contact Kim for that information. Jim will send the venue contract to any board member who wishes to see the contract.

The next board meeting is November 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.