

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



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JUN 30 2021

President of the Senate

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Richard Cohen

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

Member

State Arts Board

Effective: June 30, 2021

Expires: January 6, 2025

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed June 25, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Replacing: Thomas Moss

Filed June 25, 2021
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Application for the position At-large Member

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Minnesota State Arts Board

Position: At-large Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Mr. Richard J Cohen en64@gmail.m

Phone: (651) 274-3221

County: Ramsey

Mn House District: 64B

US House District: 4

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Richard J. Cohen

Date: 6/16/2021 9:30:11 PM

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JUN 30 2021

President of the Senate

Richard J. Cohen
1613 Bohland Ave.
St. Paul, Mn. 55116

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
State Capitol
St. Paul, Mn. 55155

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President of the Senate

Dear Governor Walz:

Thank you for allowing me to offer my application for membership on the Minnesota State Arts Board.

During my legislative career I took pride in many of the issues in which I was involved, but I believe that I played an important role in the enhancement and success of public support for the arts in Minnesota. And, my Minnesota activity also led to service in several national capacities as well.

I began my legislative activities relative to the arts in my first year in the State Senate. I founded the Legislative Arts Caucus to enhance the understanding my colleagues in the Senate and the House of the importance of the arts in Minnesota. In addition to local arts leaders and organizations we brought in national figures like Isaac Stern and August Wilson. I than in my first finance chairmanship provided significant general fund increases to the Arts Board and especially in partnership with Governor Carlson in 1997.

Later, during my chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee the Legacy Amendment passed the Senate and subsequent to that passed the entire Legislature when it was than placed on the general election ballot. In particular, I am proud of the establishment of the Arts and Cultural Fund as part of the Legacy Amendment and within the fund the dedication of the access grants allowing support for historically underserved communities with the arts in the state. Additionally, in addition to chairing the Finance Committee, I also chaired the Legacy Subcommittee.

However, I seek this appointment not simply because of what I might have done in the past, but because I feel that I can provide leadership on the Board at a difficult time. For the first time in decades there are some fissures developing within the arts community, and this is especially troublesome with the need to begin work on the re-authorization of the Amendment. I hope that my knowledge of the arts in Minnesota as well my reputation throughout the state might be of help and leadership on the Board.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Cohen

Richard J. Cohen

970 Raymond Ave. Suite 204
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-274-3221 senrichardcohen@gmail.com

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Employment:

Attorney
Former State Representative (1977-79; 1983-87)
Former State Senator (1987-2021)
Former chair, State Senate Finance Committee (2003-11; 2013-17)

President of the Senate

Arts and Community Activities:

National:

Appointee of President Barack Obama, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (2009-2017)
Former chair, National Conference of State Legislatures Arts, Tourism, and Cultural Resource Commission
Former President, National Association of Jewish Legislators
Former member, National Policy Board: Americans for the Arts
Former chair, National Conference of State Legislatures Fiscal Affairs Committee
Participant: American Assembly (Columbia University): The Arts and the Public Purpose (1997)
Lecturer: Various states and national conferences on the Minnesota Legacy Amendment

Minnesota:

Founder, Legislative Arts Caucus
Member, Jewish Community Relations Council Board
Member, Mt. Zion Temple Board of Directors
Former member, Tyrone Guthrie Theater Board of Directors
Former member, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Board of Directors
Former member, Confederation of the Somali Communities of Minnesota Board

Awards (arts and related):

National Leadership Award: Americans for the Arts
Sally Irvine Arts Award: US Bank/Ordway Theater for the Performing Arts
Advocacy Award: Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
Golden Chair, Minnesota Motion Picture and Television Board
Legislator of the Year: Minnesota Council on Non-Profits
Legislator of the Year: University of Minnesota

Education:

B.A. Northwestern University
J. D. William Mitchell College of Law