



CMEAA
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

Meeting Minutes

June 8th, 2022 | Noon EST

13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:

Suzanne Sukkar, Chair
Adel Mosip, Second Vice Chair
Amal Berry, Secretary
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer
Fay Beydoun, Trustee (arrived at 12:30)

Dave Abdallah
Nadine Kalasho Khalil
Nabeleh Ghareeb
John Daoud

Officials and Staff: Director of Appointments, Sumaiya Ahmed Sheikh, Assistant AG, Civil Rights Office, Tonya Jeter; Director, Office of New American Integration, Karen Phillippi; Civil Rights Specialist, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Charles Schoder; Administrator, CMEAA, Alexander Sahouri

Guests: UMS President Mathew VanBesien

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sukkar at 12:23 PM ET, roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

Chair Sukkar declared she would entertain a motion to adopt the agenda:

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion made by Vice Chair Mozip and seconded by Secretary Berry, the Commission approved the meeting agenda of March, 2nd as presented. *Motion carries unanimously*

Chair Sukkar recognized Secretary Berry to introduce the March meeting minutes for approval:

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On Motion made by Commissioner Ghareeb and seconded by Commissioner Abdallah the Commission approved the meeting minutes of March, 2nd as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Chair Sukkar recognized Treasurer Hourani-Harajli to introduce the Treasurers report:

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Hourani-Harajli informed the commission that Alexander and herself had met with LEO finance several times in the last quarter to try and reallocate funding where it would be best used. We were able to allocate over \$5,000 to the grant line. Treasurer Hourani-Harajli encouraged the Commission to consider and recommend projects with the cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000

Vice Chair Mozip inquired whether Alexander was still employed as a contractor rather than a full-time employee; Treasure Harajli confirmed that Alexander is still working for the Commission as a contractor

On Motion made by Commissioner Daoud and Seconded Vice Chair Mozip the Commission approved the Treasurer's report as presented for FY22 December Budget to Actual. Motion carries unanimously.

Chair Sukkar introduced Director of the Office of New American Integration for the LEO update:

V. OGM UPDATE

Attached below the OGM update prepared by Executive Director Hernandez and Director Phillippi

Commissioner Ghareeb asked Director Phillippi if the Afghan arrivals have all arrived and settled yet. Director Phillippi responded that they are mostly arrived and settled but there are some additional Afghans still expected to arrive.

Commissioner Ghareeb then asked how open the joint meeting with the ethnic commissions and MSHDA. Director Phillippi responded that the first meeting was more of a presentation of the services and provided by MSHDA but that future meetings will be more feedback oriented and that if any commissioners wish to be a part of those meetings to reach out to Alexander.

Dave Abdallah then explained to the commission what MSHDA is, how it is mainly a down payment service that assists those who lack qualifications to get a home loan. He added that from a realtor's perspective, MSHDA makes more difficult as there are more layers of approval.

Second Vice Chair Mozip pointed out that there is not the same allocation of funds for mental health services for Yemeni Americans, particularly students, who have been traumatized by war in their birth countries as there is for Afghan and Ukraine arrivals. Director Phillippi responded that the funding was earmarked by the Federal Government and that the state does not have the discretion to distributing those funds to other populations, although similar concerns have been flagged by the states refugee services to the Federal Government. The hope is that through the

feedback they give the federal government, state refugee services can convince the federal government to take a broader approach to this area

Trustee Beydoun requested to speak with Director Phillippi so that they could connect a with a Ukrainian non-profit

Chair Sukkar recognized Alexander to give the Administrative Report.

VI. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Attached below is the Administrator's Report.

Commissioner Ghareeb thanked Governor Whitmer for declaring April Arab American Heritage Month

Commissioner Kalasho Khalil also thanked Governor Whitmer for declaring April Chaldean and Assyrian Month

VII. OGM RECOMMENDATIONS

Alexander noted that he would be reaching out to commissioners soon to distribute the OGM recommendations in small focus groups

VIII. FIRST VICE CHAIR ELECTION

Chair Sukkar notified the commission on the election procedure and recognized CMEAA counsel, Assistant AG Tonya Jeter to announce the nominations and distribute the ballots

A. Nominations

First Vice Chair:

- Commissioner Daoud accepts the nomination
- Commissioner Ghareeb declines the nomination
- Commissioner Kalasho Khalil accepts the nomination
- Vice Chair Mozip accepts the nomination
- Treasurer Hourani-Harajli declines the nomination

Votes were cast by commissioners via ballot and collected by Assistant AG Jeter and Alexander and the results were verified by Secretary Berry

B. Vote Tally

First Vice Chair: *The majority of the commission voted in favor of Commissioner Nadine Kalasho Kahlil via tie breaker vote from Chair Sukkar*

Chair Sukkar then recognized President of UMS Mathew VanBesien to give a report on UMS's Arab World performance series.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. UMS Report

See the attached report below from UMS

Chair Sukkar thanked president VanBesien for his report and emphasized how critical and encouraging it was to see a diverse crowd (Middle Eastern people were not the majority audience at these events). The thoughts on diversity were echoed by Commissioner Ghareeb.

Vice Chair Adel Mozip asked how artists are recruited and how it is that they recruit artists from the Arab World and the MEA community in Michigan. VanBesien responded that it is a collaborative effort working with the Arab advisory council and that UMS would like to continue the collaboration in CMEAA in that capacity, and that includes emphasizing showcasing local talent.

Trustee Beydoun mentioned how long UMS has been collaborating with the commission and the MEA community and that we love to do so because UMS does an excellent job showcasing MEA culture to Michigan.

Chair Sukkar suggested that UMS should host some Chaldean arts and culture performances also

B. SET LOCAITON FOR SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS

Vice Chair Mozip volunteered to host the September meeting at TechTown Detroit for the September meeting

For the December Meeting Alexander and Director Phillippi and Charles Schoder will investigate the possibility holding the December meeting at one of the State of Michigan Conference rooms

On Motion made by Commissioner Daoud and seconded by Secretary Berry, the Commission approved holding the September 7th, 2022 meeting at TechTown Detroit, 440 Burroughs St, Detroit, MI 48202. Motion carries unanimously

X. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Sukkar welcomed the Executive Office of the Governor's new Director of Appointments, Sumaiya Ahmed Sheikh, who shortly introduced herself and provided an update that the vacancies on the commission would be appointed by the end of the month. Also, Director

Ahmed Sheikh informed the commissioners that it's the goal of the appointments office to have the MEA community properly represented in the State of Michigan's boards and commissions and encouraged commissioners to reach out via phone or email to relay any individuals for recommendation or with invitations for community events.

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Commissioner Consuela Barber-Lopez of the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan made comment that The Open Meetings Act prohibits virtual attendance for commissioners and that the Ethnic Commissions should work together to lobby for that to change.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sukkar requested a motion to adjourn:

On Motion made by Commissioner Daoud and seconded by Trustee Beydoun, the Commission Adjourned. *Motion carries unanimously*

Meeting adjourned at 1:47

X

Amal M. Berry
Secretary

X

Suzanne K. Sukkar
Chair

Ethnic Commissions- Commission of Middle Eastern American Affairs (36660)
FY22 April Budget to Actual

Available Funds:	
Carry In	-
New	125,000
Admin - Total	125,000

% of Year Elapsed		58%
Projections Based On:		
	12 Mth	Payroll
Remaining	5	11
Completed	7	15

Categories	FY21 ACT YTD	FY22 Spending Plan			Actual Expenditures YTD Thru 4/30/2022			Balance/Projections		
		Plan	Adj	Adjusted Plan	Expenses	Encumbrances	Total Expenses	Current Balance	Projected Balance/Lapse	% of Budget
Salaries & Benefits	-						-	0	0	0%
Office Operations	68	100		100	82		82	18	(24)	82%
Travel	-	200		200			-	200	117	0%
Training	-						-	0	0	0%
Advertising	-						-	0	0	0%
Contractual, Professional Fees & Dues	43,994	70,000	-	70,000	41,317	28,683	70,000	0	(29,167)	100%
Information Technology	2,448	2,400	(500)	1,900	349		349	1,551	759	18%
Telecommunications	1,081	1,100	-	1,100	568		568	532	74	52%
Grants	50,000	27,600	5,500	33,100	20,000	-	20,000	13,100	(692)	60%
LEO Cost Allocation	16,477	23,600	(5,000)	18,600	8,325		8,325	10,275	2,525	45%
Budgeted Expenditures:	114,069	125,000		125,000	70,641	28,683	99,324	25,676	(26,407)	79%

Remaining Available Funds	-
---------------------------	---

ETHNIC COMMISSIONS (PA 56 of 2019)
Commission for Middle Eastern American Affairs (36660)
FY22 CMEA April Budget to Actual

	Appropriation	YTD Expenditures & Encumbrances	Projected Full Year
Communications	\$ 1,100	\$ 568	\$ 1,100
Contractual	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ 70,000
- Alexander Sahouri		\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Total Contractual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000
Travel	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Supplies & Materials	\$ 100	\$ 82	\$ 100
Total Supp & Mat		\$ 82	\$ 100
Grants	\$ 33,100	\$ -	
- University Musical Society		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
- EHRA		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
- Misc		\$ -	\$ 7,600
Total Grants		\$ 20,000	\$ 27,600
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cost Allocations	\$ 18,600	\$ 8,325	\$ 18,600
IT Costs Allocations	\$ 1,900	\$ 349	\$ 1,900
Total Projected Budget	\$ 125,000	\$ 99,324	\$ 119,500
Actual Appropriated Amount	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Difference	\$ -	\$ 25,676	\$ 5,500

Report ID:	SIGMA Exp Detail - FIN GEN ACC	SIGMA	Thru APD - 7
Run Date:	05/10/2022	Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD	FY - 2022
Run Time:	8:06:54 AM	Appropriation - 36660: Commission on Middle Eastern American affairs	

OBJECT GROUP	OBJECT	Department Object Label	VCUST	Vendor Legal Name	APD	Jrnl Doc (Code,Dept,ID)	Jrnl Vendor Invoice No	Jrnl Doc Ref (Code,Dept,ID)	Jrnl Doc Accounting Line Desc	YTD EXP
6100 - Telecommunications and Utilities	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	2	PRC,186,220000013652	9889576528			\$81.12
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	2	PRC,186,220000020072	9891775842			\$81.15
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	3	PRC,186,220000032983	9893995963			\$81.10
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	4	PRC,186,220000040708	9896238368			\$81.04
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	5	PRC,186,220000052416	9898478772			\$81.09
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	6	PRC,186,220000061137	9900730331			\$81.04
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	7	PRC,186,220000073571	9903045577			\$81.02
6100 - Telecommunications and Utilities									SUM:	\$567.56
6112 - Internal Purchased Services	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	3	JV1,186,220000007472			DTMB IT billing-Oct 2021	\$53.84
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	4	JV1,186,220000007787			DTMB IT billing-Nov 2021	\$53.84
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	4	JV1,186,220000008945			DTMB IT billing-Dec 2021	\$73.84
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	5	JV1,186,220000010500			DTMB IT billing-Jan 2022	\$73.84
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	6	JV1,186,220000011743			DTMB IT billing-Feb 2022	\$46.92
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	7	JV1,186,220000013318			DTMB IT billing-Mar 2022	\$46.92
6112 - Internal Purchased Services									SUM:	\$349.20
6120 - External Purchased Services	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	2	PRM,186,220000007076	10/4/2021	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,997.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	2	PRM,186,220000008040	10/18/21	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,025.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	2	PRM,186,220000011601	11/1/21	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,878.94
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	3	PRM,186,220000017222	11/15/2021	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,780.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	3	PRM,186,220000020059	12/6/2021	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,672.00
	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc		NOT ENTERED	4	JV1,186,220000009500			LEO CSS&M Allocation Q1 FY22	\$165.88
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	4	PRM,186,220000028571	12/20/2021	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,834.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	5	PRM,186,220000033775	1/18/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,700.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	5	PRM,186,220000038733	1/31/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,186.00

Report ID:	SIGMA Exp Detail - FIN GEN ACC	SIGMA	Thru APD - 7
Run Date:	05/10/2022	Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD	FY - 2022
Run Time:	8:06:54 AM	Appropriation - 36660: Commission on Middle Eastern American affairs	

OBJECT GROUP	OBJECT	Department Object Label	VCUST	Vendor Legal Name	APD	Jrnl Doc (Code,Dept,ID)	Jrnl Vendor Invoice No	Jrnl Doc Ref (Code,Dept,ID)	Jrnl Doc Accounting Line Desc	YTD EXP
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	6	PRM,186,220000043530	2/14/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,348.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	6	PRM,186,220000047409	2/28/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,862.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	6	PRM,186,220000051170	3/15/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,662.00
	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc		NOT ENTERED	7	JV1,186,220000012301			LEO CSS&M Allocation Q2 FY22	\$1,053.33
	6129 - Printing and Copying Services	6129 - Printing and Copying Services		NOT ENTERED	7	CA9,171,PR2218602942			DTMB Print Services Monthly Bill MAR 2022 P56710 22 name tags	\$82.08
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	7	PRM,186,220000056666	03/28/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,240.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	7	PRM,186,220000060994	04/11/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,132.00
6120 - External Purchased Services									SUM:	\$42,618.23
7000 - Payments to Individuals and Private Groups	7090 - Grant Payments to Individual/Group - Vendor (Non-1099 Rep)	7090 - Grant Payments to Individual/Group - Vendor (Non-1099 Rep)	CV0020267	UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY	5	GPR1,186,220000004238	GFR1000000000049554	GG,186,220000000618		\$10,000.00
	7090 - Grant Payments to Individual/Group - Vendor (Non-1099 Rep)	7090 - Grant Payments to Individual/Group - Vendor (Non-1099 Rep)	CV0048260	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	5	GPR1,186,220000003768	GFR1000000000048830	GG,186,220000000646		\$10,000.00
7000 - Payments to Individuals and Private Groups									SUM:	\$20,000.00
		Sum:								\$63,534.99

Department	Document Name	Unit	Doc Code	Document ID	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Commodity Code Description	Open Amount	Appropriation	Fund	Doc Comm Service From Date	Doc Comm Service To Date
186	CMEAA Administrative Consultant	2923	PO	220000000754	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	Administrative Consulting FY22	35,055.06	36660	1000	10/1/2021	9/30/2022

Updated June 2022

Global Michigan

- Working closely with the Refugee Services team on Ukraine arrivals. The US Congress passed legislation that will grant Ukrainians entering with Humanitarian Parole access to public benefits and some refugee-type services. Ongoing challenges include issues regarding documentation status and funding / eligibility levels.
- Governor Whitmer issued a proclamation to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month. All Commissioners should have received it from the commission staff.

Michigan International Talent Solutions

- MITS is in the beginning/planning stages of an initiative that is geared toward educating foreign-born on state of Michigan hiring processes and connecting to opportunities.

Office of Refugee Services

- UPDATE: MDHHS OEMH (Office of Equity & Minority Health) COVID Vaccine Initiative for Immigrant and Refugee communities. RFP responses are being reviewed with award announcements planned for the end of June.

Ethnic Commissions

- **Community Engagement**

HLCOM held their annual college graduation ceremony at the Lansing Center in late April. They had approximately 70 graduates and over 200 total attendees at the ceremony.

- **Legislative and General Advocacy**

Commissioners and staff from all 3 ethnic commissions attended a stakeholder meeting with MSHDA about its programs and services. MSHDA requested the meeting to garner feedback on 3 upcoming opportunities with ARPA funding including the Missing Middle, Energy Efficiency, and the Housing & Community Development Fund. The meeting was the first of more to come to improve impact and ensure commissioners are operating as effective stakeholders for the SOM.

MAPAAC hosted a successful Legislative advocacy day which included 4 legislators and several community partners.

- **Operations**

Commission staff met with the new Director of Appointments for the Governor's office. One item of discussion was increasing representation on state boards and commissions.

Commission staff continue to work on strategic recommendations for improved operations, community engagement and legislative advocacy. Commissioners should expect scheduling requests to discuss final recommendations.

CMEAA partnered with SOM Equity Officers on Arab American Heritage month events.



CMEAA
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

Administrator's Report

Alexander Sahouri

CMEAA Administrator

SahouriA1@michigan.gov

(810) 265-9557

Good afternoon Commissioners,

This spring has seen a few firsts for CMEAA. For example, for the first time in the commission's history, it helped advise and plan for several celebrations of Arab American Heritage Month in April for State of Michigan employees. Hundreds of state employees attended the LEO only Lunch and Learn, and the two Equity and Inclusion Office events available for all State of Michigan Employees.

In another first, the Ethnic Commission staff was informed of an opportunity to work with MSHDA by facilitating commissioners and/or our community partners in advising them on any gaps they might have in their programs. We hope that this project with MSHDA will serve as a pilot that gives us a roadmap on how to work with other offices and agencies in the State of Michigan.

The focus in the last quarter of CMEAA's operations has been driven by the work we began late last year with the commissioner surveys. The Ethnic Commission's staff has continued its efforts in tuning operations and narrowing down strategic recommendations. These recommendations are now ready to be presented today and will be shortly by Executive Director Hernandez.

The commission also received a certificate of appreciation from the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for our efforts in the redistricting process.

Thank you all for your continued service.

Sincerely,

Alexander

University Musical Society (UMS):

Report to the Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, 2021/22 Programs

With support from CMEAA, University Musical Society (UMS) was able to offer an Arab World Series over our 2021/22 season that celebrated Arab/Middle Eastern American artists. Based on feedback from our audiences, artists, and project partners, we believe we were successful in promoting more inter-cultural understanding across Michigan (and beyond) and fostering a greater appreciation of diverse cultural expressions and the incredible artistry that exists among Arab- and Middle Eastern-American artists. Overall, we had 3,043 in-person and 4,392 digital participants in our Series offerings, or 7,435 people total. We are grateful to the Commission for helping to make this project possible.

The Series included both live, in-person performances as well as distinctive digital experiences, all featuring renowned artists from the Middle East and the Arab diaspora, both traditional and contemporary:

* **Tarek Yamani:** Composer/jazz pianist Tarek Yamani worked with UMS on a year-long digital residency in tandem with the Chicago-based Spektral Quartet. On October 27, 2021, the Quartet performed the world premiere of a new work by Tarek, commissioned by UMS and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (with additional support from the Arab American National Museum), titled *Berytus*, after the ancient Roman name for Beirut. The performance was livestreamed from a Chicago concert hall and watched by audiences from around the world, with 4,392 viewers tuning in.

* **Ali Chahrour**, a contemporary choreographer/theater maker from Lebanon, brought his company to Michigan for a performance of *Layl (Night)* on February 12, 2022, performed in Arabic with English supertitles. Inspired by Arabic stories, legends, and poems relating to love, the dance-theater work referenced stories and lore from throughout the Levant and Mesopotamia, both historical and current. 505 people attended the performance, which was followed by a Q&A with the artist, and an additional 75 community members participated in related educational events, a dance master class offered to University of Michigan students and a community dance workshop.

* The **National Arab Orchestra (NAO)** made its UMS debut in a concert on March 19, 2022 in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, after their original March 2021 concert had to be postponed due to pandemic-related venue closures (in place of the postponed concert, UMS offered a free digital concert with the NAO that celebrated the works of Asmahan and Umm Kulthum). Performing with renowned Lebanese singer Abeer Nehme, the concert featured repertoire ranging from the traditional classical canon of Arab music to works by contemporary Middle Eastern composers. 2,196 people attended the concert, along with 52 community members who joined us for a pre-concert reception to celebrate the Arab Series Advisory Council, a group of regional leaders and artists who helped plan the Series with UMS.

* ***Sahra: An Evening of Performance*** was the final event in the Arab World Series. Held on April 9, 2022 at Spot Lite in Detroit, an intimate art gallery/performance venue owned by Roula David, the evening was a double bill featuring Detroit-based artists Tawil & Khoury, who

performed their contemporary performance art work *Zombie Frequencies of the Palestinian Diaspora*, followed by Moroccan musician ensemble Kabareh Cheikhats, a group whose ecstatic music pays tribute to Morocco's most famous female traditional folk singers. (Detroit-based DJ Tammy Lakkis had originally been slated to perform as well but had to reschedule her set to a different evening.) 215 people attended.

In addition, UMS supported our partners at the Arab American National Museum (AANM) and their presentation of *JAM3A – A Virtual Music Festival*, in late September 2021, celebrating Arab talent, community, and identity. The AANM had originally planned to hold JAM3A in person, but they moved to a digital format due to Covid-related health concerns. UMS was a financial supporter of the festival. The AANM, in turn, helped support our digital concert featuring Tarek Yamani's new commission in October 2021.