



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

## Meeting Minutes

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | Noon EST  
440 Burroughs St, Detroit, MI 48202

### ATTENDANCE:

#### Commissioners Present:

Suzanne Sukkar, Chair  
Adel Mozip, Second Vice Chair  
Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer  
Fay Beydoun, Trustee  
Nabeleh Ghareeb  
Dave Abdallah

Jaleelah Ahmed  
John Daoud  
Adhid Miri  
Najib Hourani  
Zane Hatahet  
Alexandria Nassar (arrived at 12:15)  
Haley Jonna

Officials and Staff: Assistant AG, Civil Rights Office, Tonya Jeter; Executive Director, Office of Global Michigan, Poppy Sais-Hernandez; Civil Rights Specialist, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Charles Schoder; Administrator, CMEAA, Alexander Sahouri

Guests: From Alma College: Director of Regional Advancement Kevin Stoy; Dr. Khanssaa Canning, World Languages and Culture/Off Campus Studies Coordinator; Students Mariam Hamdi and August Sack

From Dearborn Symphony: Executive Director Wendy Bagett; Treasurer Brenda Lemecha

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sukkar at 12:05 PM ET, roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

Chair Sukkar requested a motion for Commissioner Ghareeb to act as interim secretary for the purpose of this meeting.

**On Motion made by Commissioner John Daoud and seconded by Commissioner Jaleelah Ahmed, the Commission approved Commissioner Nabeleh Ghareeb to act as interim Secretary for the purpose of this meeting. *Motion carries unanimously***

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Sukkar requested a motion to adopt the September 7<sup>th</sup> agenda as presented.

**On Motion made by Vice Chair Adel Mozip and seconded by Commissioner Dave Abdallah, the Commission approved the meeting agenda of September, 7<sup>th</sup> as presented.**

*Motion carries unanimously*

## **III. Welcoming New Commissioners**

Chair Sukkar welcomed five new commissioners appointed to CMEAA:

Mr. Zane S. Hatahet of Chelsea, appointed for a term commencing June 21, 2022 and expiring April 19, 2026.

Dr. Najib B. Hourani of Lansing, appointed for a term commencing June 21, 2022 and expiring April 19, 2025.

Ms. Haley A. Jonna of Keego Harbor, appointed for a term commencing June 21, 2022 and expiring April 19, 2026.

Dr. Adhid Y. Miri of Bloomfield Hills, appointed for a term commencing June 21, 2022 and expiring April 19, 2026.

Ms. Alexandra Nassar of Grand Blanc, appointed for a term commencing June 21, 2022 and expiring April 19, 2023.

Chair Sukkar then invited the commissioners in attendance to go around and introduce themselves.

Chair Sukkar recognized Interim Secretary Ghareeb to introduce the June meeting minutes for approval:

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Ghareeb invited Commissioners to either put forward amendments to the minutes or for a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

**On Motion made by Treasurer Lina Hourani Harajli, and seconded by Commissioner Dave Abdallah the Commission approved the meeting minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> as presented.**

*Motion carries unanimously.*

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

## **V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Hourani-Harajli informed the commission that Alexander and herself had met with LEO finance to increase the grant line allocation in CMEAA's budget to 12,000. She then explained to the commission that the budget was 85% spent and that it was on target for where CMEAA wants to be.

Following Treasurer Hourani-Harajli opening the floor for commissioners to provide questions or concerns, Commissioner Ghareeb requested confirmation on when the fiscal year ends, to which the Treasurer confirmed to her that the FY22 ends on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the State of Michigan's fiscal year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer Hourani Harajli invited a motion to accept the FY22 July Budget to Actual as presented.

**On Motion made by Commissioner Nabeleh Ghareeb and Commissioner Dave Abdallah the Commission approved the Treasurer's report as presented for FY22 July Budget to Actual. *Motion carries unanimously.***

Chair Sukkar introduced Executive Director of the Office of Global Michigan for the OGM update:

## **VI. OGM UPDATE**

Executive Director Hernandez gave updates on the following initiatives:

Governor Whitmer has declared September 9-18 Welcoming Week in Michigan to highlight the importance of bringing together neighbors of all backgrounds to build solid connections and achieve collective prosperity.

Michigan International Talent Solutions has kicked off the State of Michigan Career Connector Program meant to provide opportunities for ethnic and immigrant communities to come work for the State of Michigan.

The Office of Refugee Services has been focused on Ukrainian resettlement.

The Hispanic and Latino Commission is about to announce their scholarship awards, and also on September 21<sup>st</sup> they are holding an advocacy day at the Capitol.

Chair Sukkar recognized Alexander to give the Administrative Report.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Attached below is the Administrator's Report.

## **VIII. OGM RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION**

Chair Sukkar opened the discussion by mentioning that as CMEAA is working towards a new direction; operations, community outreach, and legislative advocacy are the areas of focus. She mentioned that the commission couldn't do all of our work needed in our quarterly meetings and that committees should be formed for each of the three areas.

In terms of legislative advocacy, Chair Sukkar indicated support to advocate in the legislature for CMEAA to be embedded in statute. For Community outreach, Chair Sukkar suggested we partner again with UMS to hold our own Arab American Heritage and Chaldean-American Month celebrations next April. She informed the commission that Alexander and herself had met with UMS to discuss this already.

Trustee Beydoun echoed support for the collaboration and mentioned how the relationship with the legislature should also be about educating the body on the MEA community and its impact on Michigan.

Commissioner Ghareeb also indicated support for the comments made by Chair Sukkar and Trustee Beydoun.

Dr. Miri mentioned how the Chaldean Community Foundation is proactive in publishing up to date data on the Chaldean Community, such as the Chaldean community contributing 11.6 billion dollars to Michigan's economy.

Commissioner Ahmed mentioned that "we [the MEA community] must be the one's to tell our stories" due to all the negative stereotypes held by others and portrayed in the media.

Vice Chair Mozip reminded the commission that before COVID there was an annual lunch-in with the legislature and he expressed desire to bring that practice back.

Chair Sukkar then summarized the feedback from the OGM Strategic Recommendations (attached below) focus group sessions. You can find the summary of that feedback attached. Suzanne then opened the floor for more input.

Commissioner Ghareeb brought up the possibility of having a joint commission meeting so that commissioners could get to know the other Ethnic Commissions more. Alexander responded he and the other Ethnic Commission staff are working on it.

Commissioner Hatahet contributed a thought on how the commission has a role to play in advocating on the issue of public curriculum and how he's worried about the politization of the matter.

Dr. Hourani asked if the concern regarding lobbying was for lobbying in general or for a specific interest. Executive Director Hernandez answered his question that the concern was that no individual commissioner or the commission as a body will be advocating on behalf of a single entity/non-profit/community-partner to the legislature.

Executive Director Hernandez went on to stress what she believes has been a missed opportunity for CMEAA in the past to make recommendations for the State's budget. She told the commission about the State of Michigan's Poverty Task Force and how every year they make recommendations to the governor and legislature on the budget.

Trustee Beydoun rejoined the conversation by first stating how she believed this is the most productive the Commission has been since she began and followed by stressing that the commission must represent all the MEA community, not just Dearborn, in advocacy spaces.

Chair Sukkar then requested commissioners to volunteer to be lead or participate in the operations committee, legislative advocacy committee, and the community engagement committee.

Trustee Beydoun volunteered to lead the legislative advocacy committee with Vice Chair Mozip, Treasurer Hourani-Harajli, and Commissioner Jonna joining as well.

Commissioner Ghareeb volunteered to lead the operations committee and was joined by Commissioner Nassar.

Commissioner Ahmed volunteered to lead the community engagement committee and was joined by Dr. Miri and Commissioner Nassar.

Alexander, attempting to tie the discussion together asked the commissioners if it made sense to them to work through the OGM's strategic recommendations as guide drafting strategic priorities in these committees with the hope that the commission will vote on strategic priorities in the December meeting. The commission agreed.

Chair Sukkar then enlisted Trustee Beydoun, Commissioner Ghareeb, and Commissioner Ahmed to be the planning Committee for the Arab and Chaldean American Heritage Month celebration.

Chair Sukkar then moved on to discuss the December Meeting Location

## **IX. Old Business**

### **A. Select December Meeting Location**

Chair Sukkar suggested that CMEAA needed to hold a meeting in Washtenaw County, so she offered to host the next commission meeting at the Dickenson Wright offices in Ann Arbor.

Chair Sukkar requested a motion.

**On Motion made by Treasurer Lina Hourani-Harajli and seconded by Commissioner Nabeleh Ghareeb the Commission approved to hold the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Dickenson Wright offices located at 350 S Main St #300, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.**

*Motion carries unanimously.*

Chair Sukkar recognized Alexander to give a quick update about new business before hearing proposals from Alma College and Dearborn Symphony

## **X. New Business**

Alexander informed the commission of the Hispanic and Latino Commission's desire to collaborate on a voting round table in October and that his contract is nearly completely spent so that he would be limited the following week and not working from September 16<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>

Chair Sukkar recognized CMEAA's guests from Alma College and Dearborn Symphony to present their proposals.

### **A. Alma College Proposal**

Alma College's proposal and Slide Show are attached.

Vice Chair Mozip asked if Dr. Canning was the only one teaching Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. Dr. Canning confirmed that she is the only one and it is another reason why they are asking for CMEAA's support. She explained that Alma College and the surrounding area is very White population with very little cultural diversity and that she needed to do something to bring more culture to the campus and the community.

Trustee Beydoun noted that this is a fine proposal and that taking students the Arab American National Museum and throughout Dearborn is a great idea.

Dr. Miri suggested that the Alma College program also Visit the Chaldean Community Foundation, Trustee Beydoun agreed and added that visiting Hamtramck and Sterling Heights would also be a good idea.

### **B. Dearborn Symphony**

Dearborn Symphony's proposal is attached.

Trustee Beydoun noted that the Dearborn Symphony is a great organization and asked if their programming would be educational in nature in terms of teaching the students about Arab American Culture and Contributions. Executive Director Baggett responded that the teachers will be teaching the students the song *Gidi wa Hamar*. Trustee Beydoun followed up suggesting that Dearborn Symphony and the teachers work with the Arab American National Museum to incorporate educational materials to be taught before the performance.

Chair Sukkar then requested that the commission's guests from Alma College and Dearborn Symphony leave the room while the deliberations occurred.

The discussion began by Treasurer Hourani-Harajli offering the commission a few scenarios as there was not enough money in the budget to fund both proposals fully: either the commission could split the \$12,000 of the grant line in the FY22 budget to the two proposals; fund one proposal with a definite amount and then award the remaining balance of the FY22 budget to the other proposal; or split funding for proposals between the FY22 budget and the FY23 budget.

Chair Sukkar then opened deliberations on the Alma College Proposal.

Commissioner Ghareeb began by noting that Alma College's proposal was very clear.

Treasurer Hourani-Harajli noted that the commission should not consider the proposals against each other but instead consider themselves on their own; whether the commission should fund the proposals, and if so, how much funding would be awarded.

Commissioner Hatahet inquired if Alma College was a private, public, or religious school and asked if that was an issue to consider. He was informed it is a private liberal arts college.

Treasurer Hourani-Harajli pointed out one of the young students learning Arabic and being introduced to Arab culture for the first time at Alma College is so impactful because him and those who have similar backgrounds and experiences will see the MEA community in a better light after such programming. She indicated full support for the proposal.

Commissioner Ghareeb noted that when she met Dr. Canning, Dr. Canning had been searching the surrounding area for other Middle Eastern people to help her get the funding for more MEA cultural programming on and off the Alma campus. Commissioner Ghareeb noted that the college itself has funded part of the programming for the on-campus programming and suggesting that the commission should support funding the off-campus programming.

Commissioner Hatahet raised concerns that due to the funds we are awarding being public fund that the commission needs to be judicious on how to spend the money, that the commission be viewed as a source for exposure to businesses and other organizations to MEA history and education.

Chair Sukkar and Alexander reminded the commission that if we do not spend our remaining FY22 budget, the commission loses that funding and that it would be the second year in a row that the commission did not spend its budget.

Executive Director Hernandez recommends that language use in the motions not delineate an exact amount but instead would approve the distribution of remaining the FY22 budget funds.

Dr. Hourani noted that he was uncomfortable approving the distribution of next year's funds and that the commission should only approve distributing FY22 funds. He also mentioned that the section of the Alma College proposal describing a study abroad opportunity for one student was a project too small of in scope to be funding.

Commissioner Ghareeb said that the emersion of the culture would be a good opportunity for students and Treasurer Hourani-Harajli added that it was \$2,500 to send the individual student but that \$1,500 is being requested for everything else, with Chair Sukkar suggesting that the commission could award Alma College with \$7,500 instead of the full \$10,000 requested.

Chair Sukkar asked if there was any other discussion regarding the Alma College and Dearborn Symphony proposals. She then invited someone to make a motion on funding the proposals.

Commissioner Hatahet abstained from the vote as he is on the Scholarship Committee.

**On motion made by Trustee Fay Beydoun and seconded by Commissioner Dave Abdallah the Commission approved to distribute up to \$7,500 to Alma College for MEA curriculum and programing and the remaining funds of the allocated FY22 budget to be distributed to the Dearborn Symphony. Motion Carries Unanimously**

#### XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sukkar requested a motion to adjourn:

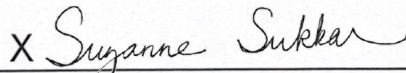
**On Motion made by Commissioner Nabeleh Ghareeb and seconded by Commissioner John Daoud, the Commission Adjourned. Motion carries unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05

X 

Amal M. Berry  
Secretary

Nabeleh  
Ghareeb

X 

Suzanne K. Sukkar  
Chair

Interim



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

<b>Available Funds:</b>	
Carry In	-
New	125,000
<b>Admin - Total</b>	<b>125,000</b>

% of Year Elapsed		83%
<b>Projections Based On:</b>		
	12 Mth	Payroll
Remaining	2	5
Completed	10	21

Categories	FY21 ACT YTD	FY22 Spending Plan			Actual Expenditures YTD Thru 7/31/2022			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	(18)	82	82		82	0	(14)	100%
Travel	-	200	(200)	-			-	0	0	0%
Training	-						-	0	0	0%
Advertising	-						-	0	0	0%
Contractual, Professional Fees & Dues	43,994	70,000	-	70,000	59,570	10,430	70,000	0	(11,667)	100%
Information Technology	2,448	2,400	852	3,252	2,956		2,956	296	(246)	91%
Telecommunications	1,081	1,100	-	1,100	841		841	259	76	76%
Grants	50,000	27,600	4,400	32,000	20,000	-	20,000	12,000	6,667	63%
LEO Cost Allocation	16,477	23,600	(5,034)	18,566	12,642		12,642	5,924	2,830	68%
<b>Budgeted Expenditures:</b>	<b>114,069</b>	<b>125,000</b>		<b>125,000</b>	<b>96,091</b>	<b>10,430</b>	<b>106,520</b>	<b>18,480</b>	<b>(2,354)</b>	<b>85%</b>

Remaining Available Funds (0)

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

	Appropriation	YTD Expenditures & Encumbrances	Projected Full Year
Communications	\$ 1,100	\$ 841	\$ 1,100
Contractual	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ 70,000
- Alexander Sahouri		\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Total Contractual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000
Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies & Materials	\$ 82	\$ 82	\$ 82
Total Supp & Mat		\$ 82	\$ 82
Grants	\$ 32,000	\$ -	
- University Musical Society		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
- EHRA		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
- Misc		\$ -	\$ 12,000
Total Grants		\$ 20,000	\$ 32,000
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cost Allocations	\$ 18,566	\$ 12,642	\$ 18,566
IT Costs Allocations	\$ 3,252	\$ 2,956	\$ 3,252
Total Projected Budget	\$ 125,000	\$ 106,520	\$ 125,000
Actual Appropriated Amount	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Difference	\$ (0)	\$ 18,480	\$ (0)

Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD

<b>Report ID:</b>	SIGMA Exp Detail - FIN GEN ACC	<b>SIGMA</b>	Thru APD - 10
<b>Run Date:</b>	08/15/2022	<b>Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD</b>	FY - 2022
<b>Run Time:</b>	8:23:08 AM	<b>Appropriation - 36660: Commission on Middle Eastern American affairs</b>	

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
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	8	PRC,186,220000087807	9905374305			\$91.07
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	9	PRC,186,220000094916	9907724061			\$90.96
	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	6102 - Other Phone Expenses (At&T, Sprint, Etc)	CV0007142	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP	10	PRC,186,220000106929	9910031197			\$91.17
<b>6100 - Telecommunications and Utilities</b>									<b>SUM:</b>	<b>\$840.76</b>
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
	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN		NOT ENTERED	8	JV1,186,220000013916			AprFY22MLAN	\$14.75
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	8	JV1,186,220000014758			DTMB IT billing-Apr 2022	\$104.49
	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN		NOT ENTERED	9	JV1,186,220000015684			MayFY22MLAN	\$14.75
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	9	JV1,186,220000011743			DTMB IT billing-Feb 2022	\$2,248.66
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	9	JV1,186,220000016126			DTMB IT billing-May 2022	\$104.49
	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN	6703 - DTMB IT - LMAN		NOT ENTERED	10	JV1,186,220000017117			JuneFY22MLAN	\$14.75

Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD

<b>Report ID:</b>	SIGMA Exp Detail - FIN GEN ACC	<b>SIGMA</b>	Thru APD - 10
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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
	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice	6736 - DTMB IT - Monthly Invoice		NOT ENTERED	10	JV1,186,220000017829			DTMB IT billing-June 2022	\$104.49
<b>6112 - Internal Purchased Services</b>									<b>SUM:</b>	<b>\$2,955.58</b>
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
	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

Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD

<b>Report ID:</b>	SIGMA Exp Detail - FIN GEN ACC	<b>SIGMA</b>	Thru APD - 10
<b>Run Date:</b>	08/15/2022	<b>Appn Summary - Exp Detail - YTD</b>	FY - 2022
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	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
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	8	PRM,186,220000065140	04/25/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,240.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	8	PRM,186,220000069780	5/20/22	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,240.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	9	PRM,186,220000073538	06/03/2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,024.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	9	PRM,186,220000076246	6.17.22	PO,186,220000000754		\$3,349.29
	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc	6032 - LEO Exec Alloc		NOT ENTERED	10	JV1,186,220000017190			LEO CSS&M Allocation Q3 FY22	\$458.11
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	10	PRM,186,220000080319	07.01.2022	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,808.00
	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	7020 - Other Purchases Services 1099 Report	VS0196785	Alexander Sahouri	10	PRM,186,220000085036	WE071422	PO,186,220000000754		\$2,592.00
<b>6120 - External Purchased Services</b>									<b>SUM:</b>	<b>\$61,329.63</b>
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
<b>7000 - Payments to Individuals and Private Groups</b>									<b>SUM:</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
		<b>Sum:</b>								<b>\$85,125.97</b>

Expense Detail

Appropriation (All)  
Fund (All)

CC	CC DESC	Sum of Var - Cash Expenditures	Sum of Var - Accrued Expenditures	Sum of Var - Encumbrance	
10	Salary & Wages	10,964.67	0.00	0.00	10,964.67
20	Office Operations	82.08	0.00	0.00	82.08
40	Contractual, Professional Fees & Dues	65,027.55	-3,780.00	10,429.77	61,247.55
45	Information Technology	2,955.58	0.00	0.00	2,955.58
50	Telecommunications	921.94	-81.18	0.00	840.76
60	Grants	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
(blank)	(blank)				0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>99,951.82</b>	<b>-3,861.18</b>	<b>10,429.77</b>	96,090.64



**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](mailto:SahouriA1@michigan.gov)

(810) 265-9557

Good afternoon Commissioners,

Hope you all have had a fun and relaxing summer and Labor Day weekend. As we move forward into the fall lets review some of our accomplishments over the last three months in our community engagement, operations, and our advocacy.

With the help of Vice Chair Mozip and Commissioner Ghareeb, CMEAA was able to solicit two sponsorship proposals from two prospective community partners: the Dearborn Symphony and Alma College. Hopefully via these partnerships will continue CMEAA's strong tradition of community engagement via sponsorships.

Moving on to operations; CMEAA has developed a new onboarding process with an updated handbook. We have onboarded all the new commissioners. My discussions with all of them so far have been very pleasant. We are happy to be welcoming such a fine group of people to our commission.

Regarding the MSHDA pilot that was reported at the June meeting, we have established a quarterly meeting cadence with MSHDA. The next meeting will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> for any of you interested in joining. We have gotten great feedback so far from the commissioners on MSHDA's programs but also on how they and other offices and agencies can work with us better; particularly there was an issue of MSHDA's presentation of the programs being too long, not leaving enough space for feedback.

The last piece of news to report regarding operations is that the Ethnic Commission staff and OGM have presented strategic recommendations to nearly all of you, with all the feedback compiled so that we have a starting point for our discussion on this topic today.

Finally, an update on our advocacy. I represented the CMEAA at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights Summit in June. At the summit we participated in discussions and learned with

leaders in the field of securing civil rights for t marginated people. These types of opportunities are important for informing our advocacy as we determine our priorities going forward.

As always, thank you all for your continued service.

Sincerely,

Alexander





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

## **Strategic Recommendations Feedback**

### **13 out of 15 Commissioners Attended**

This information is a summary of the feedback and comments received from commissioners during the recent focus group meetings. The feedback is divided into sections similar to the structure of the focus group meetings. As a reminder, the meetings were the last step in developing an overall, high-level framework for the commission.

### **Operations:**

Commissioners indicated that they are pleased to have their focus being guided by the recommendations, citing the opportunities for better communication within CMEAA itself and collaboration with SOM offices/agencies and the other EC's

Questions that commissioners had mostly revolved around how the operations of the committees, the funding for projects undertaken jointly by the EC's, and data/metrics collection. These are all great examples of the issues the commission must hash out by the December Meeting

### **Community Engagement:**

Commissioners again cited a desire to work collaboratively with the other ethnic commissions. Several times commissioners expressed how the Calendar would support our efforts but there needed to be some discussion on if it will be internal or external facing and what would be on the calendar.

There was a suggestion of a Newsletter to be distributed as well as beginning the work on recognizing other MEA backgrounds besides Arab and Chaldean, such as the North African and other West Asian communities. It was also suggested that besides a cultural focus there should be a prosperity/business focus.

## **Legislative Advocacy:**

Commissioners were keen to support in advocating for the CMEAA to be established via statute. There was concern about supporting legislation that might be deemed controversial/political and the commission advocating/lobbying on behalf of one organization. Concern overall about CMEAA becoming a lobbying group.

## **General Feedback:**

- Pull commissions together for social gathering – maybe October 7<sup>th</sup> –
- Another idea is to plan a couple of the meetings for the 3 commissions to have meetings on the same days and in the same locations to be able to have their separate meetings and then come together for the convening of the 3 commissions-
- CMEAA should consider having a conversation about its geographic inclusion (does it include West Asia)?



## **Strategic Expansion of Arab-American Cultural Programming to Mid-Michigan through partnership with Alma College**

**Introduction:** Alma College's mission is to prepare graduates who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully, and live responsibly as stewards of the world they bequeath to future generations. Asserting strongly that diversity and intercultural competence are essential components to the world they leave the next generation, Alma College sees an opportunity to strategically develop a new partnership with the Dearborn community. If done in the way we propose here, Alma College resources could combine with some of the cultural development resources Southeastern Michigan offers to bring important cultural programming to the mid-Michigan region.

**Problem Statement:** In the contentious, politicized climate in which we find ourselves in 2022, ideological gaps that are based on inaccurate stereotypes and misconceptions too often divide communities, especially in rural areas where fewer members of a particular identity may reside. Nothing grants an individual access to a different culture quite like language studies do. A new Arabic language program at Alma College is uniquely positioned to thoughtfully address gaps in knowledge by introducing students to the rich and diverse facets of Arab American experiences.

**Investment Commitment by Alma College (\$23,000):** Over the last several years, Alma College recruited to the mid-Michigan region and has successfully retained the expertise of Dr. Khansaa El Alami Canning, an Arab American originally from Morocco who is tri-lingual (English, Arabic, French) and who earned a Master's degree in Intercultural studies from the University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah (Morocco) and her Ph.D. in French and Francophone cultures and Comparative Literatures from the University of Bordeaux (France). Dr. Canning is qualified to instruct both French and Arabic languages at the college level.

**Investment Opportunity for CMEAA (\$10,000):** In line with eight of the eleven charges in section III.A of the Executive Order 2015-6, we propose the CMEAA strongly consider investing \$10,000 to compliment the amount already committed by Alma College above in order to successfully launch a new Arabic language program at Alma College. A proven method for overcoming discrimination against Middle-Eastern Americans is increased education, so what follows is a strategic approach that embeds two events, a concert and a lecture, as part of a larger, annual cultural-exchange program that would leverage the Dearborn community's resources in coordination with Alma College resources in order to maximize impact.

Line-item breakdowns of the investment commitments and opportunities are on the following page.



# ALMA COLLEGE

## Budgetary Commitment by Alma College (\$23,000)

**\$16,000:** Subject matter expertise (Arabic) of faculty member for instruction of 4-credit, 14-week language course

**\$4,000:** Alma College's Center for College and Community Engagement will host a Middle-Eastern American Culture lecture/talk in April 2023 during Arab American Month to promote and recognize the history, accomplishments, and contributions of Michigan's Middle-Eastern American community. Room reservation (\$400); Catering/food (\$500); Honorarium/ia (\$2000); Student facilitators and greeters (\$600); Misc. (\$500).

**\$3,000:** Annual budget for Muslim Association and interfaith programming (\$1,500) and Arabic Club programming (\$1,500), which includes opportunities for students to enhance their Arabic language skills and cultural competence and other activities to promote the Arabic culture.

## CMEAA Investment Opportunity (\$10,000) including descriptions of impact areas

**\$4,000:** Alma College hosts the National Arab Orchestra (NAO) for a Fall 2023 concert. NAO is known the world over for outstanding quality concerts and its innovative approach to performances. They undertake a wide range of musical projects with community partners. While they work regularly with a range of venues and festivals, they are always excited to hear from new community partners they can work with to bring the NAO's performances to new and un-reached audiences such as those that exist in mid-Michigan.

**\$2,000 (\$1,000/trip):** Two experiential-learning trips to the Dearborn community, with tours guided by Arab American National Museum staff members that would begin and end at the museum. Students will explore a number of different nationalities through the variety of foods at more than a dozen Arab-American food establishments along the Michigan Avenue corridor, including the popular Dearborn Fresh grocery store located just north of AANM. Program expenses include \$128 admissions for 15 students and one professor; \$600 for the Michigan Avenue tours; and \$272 for travel expenses (van rental and gas).

**\$4,000:** Support program's participants as they collaborate on producing new digital texts, videos, and electronic content for an innovative, modern curriculum that does not perpetuate Western stereotypes of Arab culture. Funding also supports faculty/student travel and registration costs to present these best practices at a regional/national conference such as the Middle East Studies Association's annual meeting (\$1,500). Support one student's immersion for four weeks in an Arabic-speaking country in May 2023 as part of their Alma Venture (\$2,500). Upon returning, student can present experiences to CMEAA.



### **Potential Impact on the State of Michigan and the CMEAA's charge:**

Perhaps Nelson Mandela said it best: “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” In its most basic form, this program will kickstart a student’s ability to talk, respectfully greet, and interact with native Arabic speakers by immersing in the culture to practice language skills. The approach will continue to foster learning that promotes intercultural understanding and critical thinking, and positions human beings to get to know one another as fellow human beings. In addition to having limited exposure to real Arabic culture, Westerners are presented with one-dimensional negative stereotypes of Arabic-speaking people through the news media, Hollywood films, and other sources. This is especially common in rural areas such as the region in which Alma College is located. Through this program, students will gain deeper insights into the cultural, political, and religious values that motivate people in those cultures. As students of Arabic, they will be poised to engage with social justice issues and gain a deeper understanding of intercultural communication, both locally and globally. “Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going,” said Rita Mae Brown (writer and activist). By the time students complete the program, they will be able to:

- Recognize and describe the cultural forces (history, social values, economic practices, and politics) that shape the professional practices in Arabic culture
- Examine the validity of one’s own behaviors and norms in the world by contrasting and comparing them with those of the Arabic culture
- Perceive and value diversity and reinterpret the place of the self as an identity culturally situated in the global context



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Dearborn Orchestral  
Society is a  
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organization

# "Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes.

# "A magic beyond all we do here!" — Albus Dumbledore

July 28, 2022

Office of Global Michigan  
Middle Eastern American Affairs Commission  
3026 W. Grand Blvd, Suite 2-750  
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Chair Suzanne Sukkar and Commission:

The Dearborn Symphony is seeking financial support in the amount of \$10,000 for our **Annual Children's Concert** slated for spring 2023 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. As the 4<sup>th</sup> largest school district in Michigan, two performances are required to accommodate all of Dearborn's fourth graders.

This year will be our 19<sup>th</sup> annual concert for ALL 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the city of Dearborn. This means that we have provided the opportunity for over 32,000 students to experience live orchestral music in a professional setting. Their experience of listening quietly, conducting along, viewing the instruments and shouting composer's names all add up to a fun and enriching experience. Our hope is that many will look back on this concert as their introduction to classical music.

The Children's Concert has been a rousing success. It is a *"...tremendous educational and cultural opportunity for our young people and helps schools fulfill the National standards and Michigan benchmarks for music education"* - Lisa Meyer, Music Resource Teacher.

City entities such as the school district and the mayor's office have traditionally donated services that will help accomplish this event but the financial burden on our organization is unsustainable without grants. The cost to pay our musician's alone is over \$10,000.

With an estimated 85% of Dearborn's students of Arab descent, we recognize the importance of including Arab American Culture in our programming. One of the ways we achieve this is by performing "Gidi wa Hamar" - a traditional Arab children's song orchestrated by Dearborn's Jim Walters. The children's eyes light up when they hear the familiar tune and their smiles light the room. Please enjoy the attached video of this past year's concert.

Your approval of this grant request will help defray the costs and ensure the continuance of this important cultural and educational program. On behalf of the Dearborn Symphony Board, and the students of Dearborn, we thank you, in advance, for any financial help you can give us. Please send contributions to: **Dearborn Symphony, P.O. Box 2063, Dearborn, MI 48123.**

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me (info below). You are also welcome to contact school liaison, Lisa Meyer (313) 827-3117 or by email at [meyerl@dearbornschools.org](mailto:meyerl@dearbornschools.org).

With kindest regards.

Wendy E. Baggett, Executive Director  
Sandra C. Butler, President  
Dearborn Symphony Orchestra  
313.574.5734 cell; 313.565.2424 office