

Madalyn Letellier

From: Ida Kao [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:19 PM
To: All City Council; Mayor; Mayor
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: Request for Transparency in Search for SAC Executive Director

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Dear Mayor Wilson and City Council,

I have lived in Somerville for three years and reside at [REDACTED] Winter Hill. During my past two years, I've regularly attended Porchfest and ArtBeat. I value the role SAC plays in turning Somerville as *the* place in not just Greater Boston, but all of New England, for grassroots creative expression.

I read the recent letter from SAC urging a nationwide search for the next Executive Director with board involvement, and I strongly support that approach. While leadership changes are part of governance, the abrupt departure of Greg Jenkins after 25 years is concerning. To me, the sudden elimination of his position feels significant and unsettling. There is considerable upheaval nationally, with the Trump administration threatening funding cuts and dismantling diversity programs in the arts, so maintaining transparency and stability at the local level is especially important in maintaining faith in government.

It is essential that the next leader be selected through a transparent, competitive process. A nationwide search conducted in collaboration with SAC would demonstrate a commitment to good governance. The perception of a predetermined appointment, whether accurate or not, risks undermining public trust in both the new administration and in SAC. I urge you to partner with the SAC Board to ensure a thoughtful and transparent hiring process that reflects the importance of this role to the entire community.

Thank you for your service to the City and for considering the concerns of residents who care deeply about the arts.

Sincerely,
Ida Kao