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**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

**Central MN Arts Board Awards Artist Career Development Grants**

At the November meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$24,285 in Artist Career Development grants. The CMAB Artist Career Development program provides funds of up to \$3,000 in support of projects, training opportunities and purchases that assist artists in making the next step in their artistic careers. Funding for this program is provided through The McKnight Foundation.

Three criteria are used to evaluate applications: Artistic quality and merit, Professional need and Ability to complete the proposal. An applicant must receive an average score of 15 points (50%) or higher to be considered for funding.

**The following artists were awarded:**

- **Amy Coppersmith**, Wright County, \$3,000, for the purchase of a travel lighting kit that consists of a Profoto OCF Octa Softbox, Air Remote TTL-N for Nikon, B1 500 Air Battery Powered 2 Light Location Kit to photograph on location in any lighting condition.
- **Coppersmith Customs**, Wright County, \$3,000, to upgrade welding tools and add a saw dust collector, air filtration and venting systems to studio spaces for wood and metalsmithing.
- **Dave Glenn Ceramics**, Stearns County, \$3,000, to purchase a Skutt/Thomas Stewart Steven Hill package wheel, a raised stool and related equipment for throwing and production of ceramic work in a new and more ergonomic manner.
- **Melissa Gohman**, Stearns County, \$3,000, to build a Soda Kiln ideal for functional and sculptural work with the flexibility to fire with both gas and wood.
- **Barb Kellogg Photography**, Stearns County, \$2,320, to purchase materials, promotional items and to compensate for time to create work for a solo exhibit "What Mental Illness Feels Like — Images & Stories" in May 2018 at Gallery St. Germain in St. Cloud, MN.
- **Donna Rice**, Wright County, \$3,000, for the purchase of a manual chain hoist to maneuver plaster molds and heavy kiln lids; 12" Lap Grinder and two sets of electroplated diamond abrasive disks to improved quality and quantity as well as supplies to create new glass sculptures for the Veronique Wantz Gallery in Minneapolis.
- **David Ruhlman**, Benton County, \$965, to purchase quality Flashe acrylic paint and gouache for a new series and a Pentax K-50 digital camera to provide galleries, exhibits and collectors with high resolution images and to document work for his website.

- **Sam Spiczka**, Benton County, \$3,000, for the purchase of a band saw and tools to continue to explore the potential of wood sculpture for a long-term advantage of diversifying a mastery level of fabricated steel sculptures.
- **Zapf Legacy Canoes**, Benton County, \$3,000, materials to create custom Stand Up Paddle Boards to provide a new avenue and expand possibilities using traditional wood strip canoe-building techniques.

The Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) strives to enhance appreciation of the essential economic and social roles the arts play in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties by providing grants and professional development services to arts and community organizations, schools, government units and individuals.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board visit [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.