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

### **Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations**

At the December 14th meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$129,545 in support of twenty-three regional arts projects. Criteria used in evaluating applications include: artistic quality & merit, demonstrated need, outcomes & evaluation and ability to complete the proposal.

Organizations may apply for up to \$7,000 with a 25% match requirement for any one project or combined projects totaling no more than \$7,000 in any one grant round. Funding for these CMAB Grants is provided through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the state's general fund, and its Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund created by the Voters of Minnesota.

- 1. Becker Parks and Recreation**, \$7,000, Minnesota Wildlife Through the Seasons Mural -addition of Spring and Winter panels created by artist Dan Mondloch at the Becker Community Center that will include animals and plants native to the Oak Savanna ecosystem. A public unveiling is scheduled for June 2018 and will include a temporary exhibit of Mondloch's other artwork as well as an opportunity to meet the artist and donors who made the mural possible.
- 2. Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN**, \$7,000, I Am (talented, beautiful, competent, amazing, ME)! 2018 Youth Arts Initiative Showcase focused on heritage and social emotional competencies. Teaching artists will lead youth through courses to develop original work that encompasses their identity. The program will conclude in a Spring Showcase reception and presentation at the Paramount Center for the Arts on May 16, 2018 with a month-long visual arts exhibit in Studio C.
- 3. Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$6,753, "Bounce Back with BCO" focused on music with a mental health theme in partnership with Bounce Back community group that will include an oboe solo and guests, Bravo Strings youth group. Public performance at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center March 3, 2018.
- 4. Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000, for the musical, Madagascar Jr. that will include youth, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities at Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo February 9-11 and 16-18, 2018.
- 5. Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$7,000, Daedalus Quartet in concert on April 7, 2018 and several outreach programs in the community that include a free public performance at St. Cloud State University, a masterclass, an outreach program of coaching and performing for the St. Cloud Suzuki string students and their families and lecture-demonstration-coaching-performance programs for junior high students.
- 6. Cokato Elementary School**, \$2,025, "Singing on the Trail" week-long residency with Charlie Maguire as he inspires Cokato Elementary students to discover their part in a community trail by writing and singing their original songs May 14-18, 2018.

7. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$7,000, Jessica Lang Dance residency consisting of an undergrad Dance workshop, Public Ballet Class, LAnguage specialty workshop for non-dancers and post performance talk concluding in a performance February 2, 2018 at the Benedicta Arts Center in St. Joseph.
8. **Fred Yiran Legacy Project**, \$7,000, Fred Yiran African Arts Day 2018 a multidisciplinary one-day arts festival that celebrates African arts and culture through performances of African dance, drumming, storytelling and teacher workshops during Granite City Days in June 2018.
9. **General Federated Women's Club of Delano**, \$3,020, 2018 Concerts in the Park series consisting of six concerts that feature a variety of performers at Delano Central Park on Wednesday evenings during July and August 2018.
10. **Great Northern Theatre Company**, \$6,410, to present a Winter Musical, "Bingo, the Winning Musical" and dinner theater at the Great Blue Heron Supper Club in Cold Spring on February 9, 18, 2018 and at Granite City Bingo in St. Cloud on February 21 and 22, 2018. Two performances will include ASL interpreters.
11. **Great River Chorale**, \$7,000, Beautiful River: American Hymns, Folksongs and Spirituals, spring concert featuring fresh, contemporary arrangements of iconic American songs from different traditions and regions of the United States at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud April 29, 2018.
12. **Helping Hands Outreach**, \$3,144, Senior Adult Access to Arts Programming to provide senior adults, adults with disabilities, their caregivers and rural residents of Stearns County with the opportunity to attend diverse genre of live music. Transportation, affordability and access will all be addressed.
13. **Higher Ground Church of God in Christ**, \$674, Positive Identity Through Colorful Reflections 8-week session for youth led by artist, Marlissa Karpeh focused on ideas of healing and sense of belonging at Higher Ground Church of God in Christ in Waite Park, February – March 2018.
14. **Holdingsford Public Schools**, \$1,841, Stitching Our Neighbors' Stories, led by artist Sarah Drake for students in Holdingsford Jr. High and South Jr. High in St. Cloud, January – May 2018. Students will work on mixed-media two-dimensional art projects that both schools will collaborate on to create a project representing very different backgrounds. Four classes will meet eight times with Drake for extensive discussions to help students develop their identity through art projects as well as descriptive reviews of international artists and an artwork display in the schools with an opening reception.
15. **Independent Music Collaboration of Central MN**, \$6,850, Common Roots Festival 2018 will include over 250 local musicians performing in public spaces, restaurants, and music venues during the 3-day festival in Downtown St. Cloud August 23-25, 2018.
16. **Lake Sylvia Flute Institute**, \$7,000, The Lake Sylvia Flute and Recorder Institute camp that will include 8 days of lessons, ensembles, art classes, and outdoor activities for 50 musicians and family members at Koinonia Retreat Center in South Haven, MN June 5 – 15, 2018.
17. **Land of Lakes Choirboys of MN**, \$4,350, to host the Minnesota State Boys Choir Festival, April 7, 2018 at Zimmerman High School. This festival will showcase the new performing arts facility and bring six boy's choirs within the state of Minnesota into a rural community. The festival provides an opportunity for fellow choirboys to come together to support one another, learn from each other, to work with a nationally recognized conductor Dr. Therees Hibbard from St. Olaf Collage, to share their gift of music.
18. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$7,000, for the performance of "The Web of Regret – Escape the Expected" a tale about someone who has followed society's expectations rather than their own path to debut April 27, 2018 at Paramount Center for the Arts, St. Cloud with an additional venue yet to be determined.

- 19. Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$7,000, Artrageous: The Interactive Art and Music Experience, Sunday, April 29, 2018 at the Paramount Theater. Artrageous consists of a troupe of artists dancing and making music throughout the show with educational elements that include “Introducing art & music together with an American icon” and “An Artrageous take on a Classical masterpiece.”
- 20. Sherburne County Jail**, \$7,000, Women’s Writing Program that involves women incarcerated at Sherburne County Jail working with professional teaching artists to learn creative writing skills that will be published and placed in Great River Regional & Elk River Library collections in August 2018.
- 21. St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, "On Stage" concert performance that includes a pre-concert discussion and post concert reception with the opportunity to meet Artistic Director, Brian Dowdy, and the musicians of the orchestra Saturday, February 24, in Ritsche Auditorium at St. Cloud State University.
- 22. The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$6,978, “Focus on Schools Month” that consists of performances in ten Central MN schools January 17 & 18, 2018 and a free day-long “KidSing” workshop for youth in Grades 3- 5 held at St. Cloud State University January 20, 2018.
- 23. Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$3,500, Spring Gala 2018 ensemble concert with 200+ performers of all ages. Disciplines will include Classical ballet, large piano duets, groups of violins, guitars, voice, and more at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School May 5, 2018.

The Central Minnesota Arts Board supports collaborative and innovative arts opportunities through partnerships and financial investments in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties as one of eleven Regional Arts Councils designated by the Minnesota State Arts Board. The CMAB works with community partners to increase access to the unique cultural assets of Minnesota.

Visit <http://www.aroundthecloud.org> Everything Arts in Central MN to see a full listing of these arts events and more.

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.