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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to thirty area organizations

At the April 12 meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$181,734 in support of thirty 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. **Albany Area Community Education**, \$7,000, to present a FREE Concert weekend for the community featuring "The Bad Habits Brass", "Okee Dokee Brothers" and "Church of Cash" May 18-19, 2018 to debut the Blattner Energy Arts Theater Grant Opening in Albany, MN.
2. **Annandale High School ISD#876**, \$6,113, Jewelry Design and Metal Casting course, tour and artist residency with local jeweler, Russ Ferrell for high school students in the 2018-2019 school year.
3. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$6,798, "Music of the Countryside" concert focused on countryside themes, music written to emulate or honor pastoral settings where the composers lived or visited. Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
4. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000, Monty Python's "Spamalot" performance that will involve artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities July 20-28, 2018 at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
5. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$5,861, History in the Making: Patriotism, utilizing composers from Finland, German, and United States of America featuring the compositions prepared by each of three ensembles in a free concert November 11, 2018 at St. Cloud State University. Students who participate in the program will also attend a performance by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.
6. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$6,600, Rolston String Quartet formal concert May 19, 2018 at Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN and several outreach programs at Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud Public Library and area schools.
7. **City of Monticello**, \$3,850, Music on the Mississippi outdoor summer concerts held Thursday evenings at West Bridge Park in Monticello, MN.

8. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$7,000, Transportation and tickets for community groups to provide an equitable experience for all students to attend Dance Theatre of Harlem performance May 4, 2018 at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN
9. **Delano Community Band**, \$1,440, for the newly formed all-volunteer group to provide two community concerts during summer and holiday events in Delano, MN.
10. **Downtown St. Cloud Art Crawl Collaborative**, \$7,000, for the August 20, 2018 Sizzling Summer Art Crawl that will feature artist exhibits, demonstrations, musicians, and performers on St. Germain Street and 5th, 6th and 7th Avenues in downtown St. Cloud, MN.
11. **Great Northern Theatre Company**, \$2,000, "Annie, the Musical" Summer 2018 production August 2-12, 2018 at Glanville Smith Auditorium, Cold Spring, MN. The production will include Children's Theater Training, Theater Day for local school age children, Pay What You Can opportunity and educational displays focused on the current status, needs and services available for children who need homes and families.
12. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, Project Discovery Access For All piloted summer camp and after school program focused on language building skills for students with a focus on building academic skills through theatre from June 2018 – May 2019 at Discovery Elementary, Waite Park, MN.
13. **HLWW Theatre Arts Boosters**, \$7,000, "Man of La Mancha" with cast, crew and pit comprised of all ages of actors from surrounding communities July 12-22, 2018 at Laker Theater in Howard Lake, MN.
14. **Legacy Foundation of Big Lake**, \$7,000, Music in the Park Summer Concert Series that will feature live music Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. June 7, 2018 through August 23, 2018 at Lakeside Park in Big Lake, MN.
15. **Millstream Arts Festival**, \$7,000, Millstream Arts Festival outdoor juried arts experience that features local visual artists, authors, dancers and musicians in a family-friendly festival environment held September 30, 2018 on Minnesota Street in St. Joseph, MN.
16. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$5,947, "Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle" concert focused on Earth and nature as a musical rendition of author Douglas Wood's famous children's book, "Old Turtle". The author will serve as the narrator during the performance on May 12, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
17. **Mississippi Strings Camp**, \$7,000, Mississippi Strings Camp to provide summer orchestra instruction for young string players focused on musical, technical and ensemble skills June 11-16, 2018 at Technical High School in St. Cloud, MN.
18. **Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society**, \$7,000, Music in the Gardens series of six free chamber music concerts presented on Sunday afternoons beginning May 15 – August 15, 2018 and Art Fair in the Gardens on July 19, 2018 in the Munsinger Gardens on the banks for the Mississippi River in St. Cloud, MN.
19. **North Jr High**, \$4,306, Lunchroom Mural project led by artist RC McCoy with North Junior High Art Teachers and students April 2018 – June 2018 at North Jr. High in St. Cloud, MN.
20. **Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$7,000, 2018 Raku Rendezvous: two-day workshop for beginner to advanced ceramic artists and enthusiasts focused on exploring the art of traditional and contemporary Raku firing process led by five regional artists October 20-21, 2018 at Paramount Visual Arts Center in St. Cloud, MN.

21. **Paynesville Area Community Theater**, \$7,000, Summer Musical 2018, "Sister Act", that will include performers, musicians and production personnel from the community July 13-15, 2018 at the Paynesville Area High School Performing Arts Auditorium.
22. **Quiet Oaks Hospice House**, \$7,000, Heart Held Hands project provides a gift of hand portraiture captured by Photographer Kathy Umbarger to families served over the next year at Quiet Oaks Hospice House in St. Cloud, MN.
23. **Sinclair Lewis Foundation**, \$6,700, 29th Annual Sinclair Lewis Writers Conference offering all writers a chance to hone their craft and to form networks on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at the Sauk Centre High School in Sauk Centre, MN.
24. **St. Cloud State University**, \$7,000, 2018 Lemonade Concert and Art Fair featuring more than 200 art vendors and 10,000 participants from around the region June 21, 2018 at St. Cloud State University campus, St. Cloud, MN.
25. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$4,751, Classics for Kids concert program designed to introduce the symphony orchestra and its constituent instruments to 1,400 fourth-grade students April 27, 2018 from three area school districts in St. Cloud, Sartell and Sauk Rapids.
26. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$7,000, "Boys on Broadway" annual musical theatrical performance that engages boys in exploring the artistic elements of choreography, staging and acting October 2018 at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN.
27. **Talahi Community School**, \$2,253, Discovering All About Your Classmates one-week residency with artist Heidi Jeub who will work with kindergarten children to provide a new perspective on classmates, foster understanding, respect and build a sense of community by painting the many unique qualities of their classmates, May 2018 at Talahi Community School in St. Cloud.
28. **The Yes Network**, \$7,000, Neighborhood Enrichment Program to expand the second year to offer more quality arts activities for children ages 6-16 during each week beginning June 11 – August 6, 2018 in six neighborhoods located in Waite Park and St. Cloud, MN.
29. **#unitecloud**, \$7,000, When Home Won't Let You Stay: Encountering Refugee Stories will bring James Bowey's traveling photography exhibit to St. Cloud beginning on World Refugee Day June 20, 2018 where multiple venues will each display up to five works through July, 2018. The full exhibit, including an artist talk, will be featured in August 2018 at the Paramount Center for Arts Theatre Lobby in St. Cloud. MN.
30. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$6,115, to provide Discounted Music and Dance Lessons for low-income students during the Fall 2018 Semester at Wirth Center for the Performing Arts in St. Cloud, MN.

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 working with community partners to increase access to the unique cultural assets of Minnesota.

Visit [aroundthecloud](http://aroundthecloud.org) for a full listing of these arts events Everything Arts in Central Minnesota.