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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board Awards \$27,850 in Artist Career Development Grants

At the November meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$27,850 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. An applicant must rank a 3.0 or higher to be considered for funding.

The following artists were awarded:

Britt Aamodt, Sherburne County, \$1,200 to hire a professional editor and writing coach for two edits of the manuscript of the novel "All Things Truly Wicked".

Mary Cunningham, Sherburne County, \$2,950 to attend a figure and portrait painting workshop with Kevin Beilfuss, hire studio models, and produce a new body of figurative work.

JD Jorgenson, Stearns County, \$3,000 to develop a new body work using slip casting with native clays. Jorgenson will also pursue further development as a teaching artist, programming and visibility for The Wood Firing Exchange and continue to offer exhibitions at The Satellite Gallery.

Marianne Kreitlow, Wright County, \$3,000 for recording and manufacturing a new CD of folk songs. The finished product will serve as an educational tool in teaching artist work.

David Lindbom, Stearns County, \$3,000 to produce "Mission Minnesota: More Than Milk", a documentary designed to show the beauty in creating that perfect dairy delicacy, and underscore how crucial the industry is to the health and wellbeing of our entire nation.

Brady McLearen, Stearns County, \$3,000 for a solo exhibition of large-scale ceramic and mixed-media sculpture including an artist talk. The opening reception and finished work will be professionally documented.

Johnne McMahan, Stearns County, \$3,000 to design and build a cross draft wood kiln with handmade bricks and establish a professional and structured process that can be repeated for future kiln design and building.

Chuck Norwood, Stearns County, \$3,000 to upgrade camera and equipment to produce larger high quality prints.

Peter Veljkovich, Stearns County, \$2,850 to publish "Fear Walks" a collection of short stories loosely based on life incidents that share the theme of baseball.

Christopher Zlatic, Stearns County, \$2,850 to increase productivity, sustain workflow in the studio and complete a new body of paintings.

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

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