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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the December meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$113,996 in support of twenty regional arts projects. Three criteria are used in evaluating applications: Artistic quality and merit; ability of the organization to carry out the proposal; and the needs of the community.

Organizations may apply for up to \$6,000 with a 30% match requirement for any one project or combined projects totaling no more than \$6,000 in any one grant round. Organizations have the option to apply for up to \$8,000 with a 50% match requirement one time in any of the three grant rounds. 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. **Buffalo Community Theatre**, \$6,000, "The Dixie Swim Club" February 7 – 16, 2014 at the Buffalo Senior High School Performing Arts Theatre. This production will include actors, technicians, artists and volunteers from Buffalo, MN and surrounding communities.
2. **Chamber Music Society**, \$8,000, "Tapestry Vocal Ensemble" Concert and Residency. Vocal group, Tapestry, will be in residence in St. Cloud from March 13 to March 16 conducting workshops for 6-8th grade girls' choirs, women's and Slavic choirs, and school age students. Percussionist, Takaaki Masuko will join Tapestry on March 15 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud for a concert and staged drama based on a Tibetan folk tale.
3. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$6,000, "Arts in Harmony FY14 Juried Exhibition" for two and three-dimensional art in Minnesota with over 600 entries, 200 works accepted and over \$10,000 in awards. The exhibition will be held February 3 to March 27th at Sherburne County Government Center in Elk River, MN. An Opening reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, from 1 to 3:30PM.
4. **Great River Chorale**, \$3,087, "Salute to Freedom" a collaborative concert with the East Central Minnesota Chorale and the 34th Infantry Division Red Bull Band to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, April 27 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud. An additional outreach concert will be held at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center Chapel on May 4.
5. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$6,000, "To Kill a Mockingbird" January 31-February 9, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN featuring a culturally diverse group of community artists ages ten through senior citizen. The production is one of the community events for the National Endowment For The Arts Big Read 2014 where local high school students will read the novel and attend a daytime matinee.
6. **Land of Lakes Choirboys**, \$4,157, "A Choirboy Experience", three, one-day workshops and performances for boys and girls in rural communities with participants drawn from local schools and churches. Students will spend the day with the Land of Lakes Choirboys discovering music through rhythm, singing, playing and performing.

7. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$3,578, "Let's Go to the Movies" joined by Tech High School Jazz Ensemble to perform highlights from big screen movies on February 16, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN.
8. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$6,000, "Blind Ambition" featuring innovative choreographic works for modern dance production on March 28, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN.
9. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$8,000, "H.M.S. Pinafore", performed by New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN. An afternoon open dress rehearsal is scheduled for area teachers and students.
10. **Pinecone Central Park Association**, \$6,000, Music in Pinecone Central Park series of four free community concerts will feature musicians from the region in live outdoor concerts July through September 2014 at Central Park Boulevard, Sartell, MN.
11. **SOAR Regional Arts**, \$6,000 Beauty and the Beast Jr. for youth 5-18 years of age February 27th, 28th, March 1st and 2nd, 2014 at the Saint Michael Middle School West Auditorium, Saint Michael, MN.
12. **St. Cloud Municipal Band**, \$6,000, Summer 2014 concert series consisting of a Memorial Day Concert at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in St. Cloud; a Fourth of July Concert in conjunction with Fireworks at Hester Park; and six open-air concerts at Barden Park, St. Cloud, MN.
13. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$8,000, "Spirituality" Dr. Smith, the musicians of the orchestra and special guest performers will share the journey of the human condition in a concert on March 22, 2014, at 7:30 pm in Ritsche Auditorium at St. Cloud State University.
14. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$8,000, Veteran's Administration Partnership performances and residencies with three multidisciplinary artists: pop culture humorist/actor Pat Hazell, Griffin Theatre Company, and a cappella group, Take 6. The activities will primarily involve Veterans from the St. Cloud VA.
15. **The St. John's Boy's Choir**, \$3,927, "HymnFest 2014" featuring the Junior Varsity and Concert Choirs of The St. John's Boys' Choir and special guests the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir. A concert to celebrate the rich American tradition of hymn-singing, focused on shared human experiences interspersed with readings from classic and modern writers and musical numbers January 26, 2014 at the Abbey Church, Collegeville, MN.
16. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$5,054, "34th Annual High School Art Exhibition" Featuring young artists from high schools throughout central Minnesota for an exhibition in the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, MN March 24 to April 26, 2014. Students will be awarded cash prizes for exemplary work during a closing reception and award ceremony held April 26, 2014 The reception will include keynote speaker, Mary C. Bruno and Juror/Mentor, JD Jorgenson.
17. **Whitney Senior Center**, \$2,348, "Senior Arts Programming Initiative" offers seniors in the St. Cloud, MN area opportunities to engage in unique arts programming with five arts courses provided in 2014, consisting of jewelry making, dance, painting, drawing, and photography.
18. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$7,875, "School of Rock" for students in grades 6-12 to learn the art of being a rock musician. The camp led by professional musicians and held at Calvary Community Church July - August, 2014. The camp will culminate in a rock concert scheduled for August 7th, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN.
19. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$4,000, "Collaborative Concert" with Twin Cities artist, Jearlyn Steele. This concert will also feature a world premiere performance of a commissioned piece by former St. Cloud composer, Robert Sieving and will be held March 2, 2014 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN.

20. **Youth Theatre Workshop**, \$6,000, “Winnie the Pooh”, which incorporates four popular stories adapted by Katie Wolf will utilize a cast of 1 adult and 75-80 local youth from grades K-12 and will be held February 7-16, 2014 at the Elk River High School Historic Little Theater, Elk River, 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. We work with community partners to increase access to the unique cultural assets of Minnesota.

Visit aroundthecloud.org Arts & Events Click & Go Guide to see a full listing of these arts events and more.

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.