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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the April meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$111,574 in support of twenty-two 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 may 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 Theater**, \$8,000, a musical comedy "The Producers" with actors, technicians, artists and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities performed July 18-26, 2014 at the Buffalo High School PAC in Buffalo, MN.
2. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$5,800, "BCO Film Fest," will offer an evening of film and music from Chaplin's "The Immigrant," as well as "Casablanca," "Gone with the Wind," "Mary Poppins," "The Wizard of Oz," "Cinema Paradiso," and "Schindler's List" at 7:30 p.m. on May 10, 2014, in Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center.
3. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$6,000 Dover String Quartet concert & community outreach will provide elementary through high school students with an introduction to and instruction about classical and contemporary chamber music, specifically string quartets. The public concert will be held at Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud in September 2014.
4. **City of Sartell**, \$1,800, planning support for a functional public art project that utilizes metal from the former Sartell Verso Mill and the creativity and talent of local artists to create bike racks and benches that tell a story of the role of industry in Sartell's history and make art more visible.
5. **College of Saint Benedict Fine Arts Programming**, \$2,132, Dennis Alexander Piano Festival/Competition a daylong piano festival and competition for fifty elementary and high school students from local school districts with activities that include a competition, collaborative duet, and a group workshop.
6. **Dassel-Cokato Community Education**, \$5,000, LES MISERABLES a popular production that provides a wide range of opportunities for many youth and adults to be involved on the stage and behind the scenes with five public performances beginning in July 2014.
7. **Downtown St. Cloud Art Crawl Collaborative**, \$6,000, Sizzling Summer Art Crawl 2014 will feature over 50 artists exhibiting their work at downtown venues and over 35 musicians performing throughout downtown St. Cloud, Friday, August 22, 2014.

8. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$6,000, ArtSoup 2014 held in downtown Elk River on Saturday, June 28. A celebration of the arts, involving 10 other regional arts organizations, 125 artists, the downtown business community, ISD 728 Community Education, and the city's Parks and Recreation Department.
9. **Great River Education Arts Theatre**, \$6,000, Children of Eden - GREAT Summer Family Musical featuring 59 community actors and live orchestral music in six public performances at the Paramount Theatre July 10-19, 2014.
10. **Inaccurate Vernacular**, \$5,925, "PUSHY" a professional film written and produced in central Minnesota that features elder women in lead roles. The production will provide an opportunity for local actors, painters, musicians, lighting technicians, a cinematographer, and college students to participate and be educated on video production.
11. **Kimball Community Education**, 3,000, Kimball Area Summer Arts Experience, a two-week theater camp that will focus on character development, public speaking experience, stage direction, blocking and use of props, teamwork and confidence building activities. The project will conclude with a production for family, friends and community members.
12. **Millstream Arts Festival**, \$6,000, Millstream Arts Festival an outdoor juried arts festival presenting visual artists, musicians, dance, enticing foods and hands-on art activities for children held September 28, 2014 in downtown St. Joseph, MN.
13. **Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society**, \$5,000, 2014 Music in the Gardens a free presentation of six concerts Sunday afternoons beginning June 8, 2014 through August, 2014 from 3:00-4:15 pm in Munsinger Gardens on the banks of the Mississippi River.
14. **Paramount Arts Resource**, \$6,000, Ailey II, world renowned modern dance company to perform at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud on October 31, 2014.
15. **Paynesville Area Community Theater**, \$6,000, "The Sound of Music" summer musical will include local actors/singers of all ages from the Paynesville area and provide them with a first-hand experience in music performance held at the Paynesville High School Auditorium July 14 – August 11, 2014.
16. **St. Cloud Film Festival**, \$6,125, 2014 St Cloud Film Festival celebrating local & independent films by showing a mix of features & shorts during six shows over four days in November 2014. The project includes free weekend film making competitions throughout the year as well as a Kids Stop-Motion Workshop for 1st through 12th-grade students. Participants in the competitions and workshop have their work shown at the festival and are eligible for the Most Promising Young Artist award.
17. **St. Cloud State University**, \$2,000, a Glass Blowing exhibit that will involve artists from FOCI Glass Studios in St Paul, MN spending a day on the SCSU campus with a portable kiln and doing regular, ongoing, interactive displays of live glass-blowing during the 41st Annual Lemonade Concert and Arts fair on June 26, 2014.
18. **Sinclair Lewis Foundation**, \$5,300, Sinclair Lewis 2014 Writers Conference to provide support, instruction and mentoring for writers of a variety of age and experience levels and to perpetuate the memory and works of Sinclair Lewis in Sauk Centre on Saturday, October 11, 2014.
19. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$6,000, 50 Years of James Bond. The St. Cloud Symphony, conducted by Dr. Clinton Smith, is joined by Grammy Award winning guitarist Paul "Stretch" Diethelm for a concert performance featuring some of the classic James Bond songs and a preview of the works from the upcoming 2014-2015 concert season on September 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University.

20. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$4,375, Summer 2014 Pop-Up Galleries around the theme of "Selfies" at four events: June and August Art Crawls, Art Faire by George, and the Munsinger-Clemens Art Fair in the Garden. The juried exhibits will feature up to 25 artists who will be demonstrating at each of the exhibits, available to talk to patrons, and will assist kids and adults in creating their own "selfie". People attending the shows will be invited to cast a People's Choice ballot for their favorites.
21. **Whitney Senior Center**, \$3,327, Senior Arts Programming Initiative that will offer unique artistic opportunities to seniors in Central Minnesota for self-expression with a component of legacy or life-story preservation through arts courses that consist of jewelry making, dance, painting, drawing, and photography.
22. **Women's Writing Program/Advisory Task Force on the Woman and Juvenile Female Offender**, \$5,740, Women's Writing Program to develop creative writing skills suited for building self-confidence and self-esteem for women incarcerated for under one year. The six-week program, taught by two professional writers and spoken word artists, will focus on writing styles and skills, learning steps involved in the publication process, and performing before an audience. Participants will publish chapbooks containing their writings and cover art professionally produced by BookMobile, and placed in Elk River Library's collection.

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 <http://www.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.