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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 \$116,619 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 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 Orchestra**, \$5,710, "Hats Off to Musical Theater" concert with selections from classic operas, operettas and musicals that will include a collaboration with vocal performers for songs from the award winning show "Camelot" March 7, 2015 at the Performing Arts Center, Buffalo High School, Buffalo MN
2. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$6,000, "The Nerd" by Larry Shue, with actors, artists, technicians & volunteers from Buffalo & the surrounding area February 6-15, 2015 at the Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo, MN.
3. **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud**, \$2,989, Picturing Writing residency with artists Lee Ann Goerss and Marsha Watkins for multi-age students in the Building Futures after-school program at Bel Clare Estates using the arts to enhance expressive, reading and writing skills. The students' will complete art and writings for each of the seasons with final art and written work placed in book and personalized with a cover.
4. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$8,000, Cuarteto Latinoamericano Concert and Outreach March 19-22, 2015 featuring Latin American music. Outreach activities include performing at local schools, a workshop for adult amateur musicians, advanced high school and college music students with the formal chamber concert held Saturday March 21, 2015 followed by an artists reception at Calvary Community Church, St Cloud, MN.
5. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$6,000, "Kiss the Fish" presented by Indian Ink Theater Company January 30-31, 2015 at Gorecki Family Theater, College of Saint Benedict St. Joseph, MN with outreach activities that will engage college students and youth from the Central MN Boys and Girls Clubs.
6. **Command Performance Choirs**, \$6,000, Doll and Teddy Bear Tea Concert Series beginning March 14, 2015 at St. Benedict's in Monticello, MN with a second concert held at Guardian Angels in Elk River, MN on March 21, 2015.
7. **Community Legacies**, \$6,000, Community Mural depicting Sauk Centre's history located on the corner of Main Street and Sinclair Lewis Avenue, downtown Sauk Centre. The community will be invited to contribute in the painting of the project. The mural is scheduled to begin June 2015 and to be complete August 2015.
8. **Delano Middle School Bands**, \$2,000, The Jazz Festival with professional clinicians for middle school students in surrounding schools that will conclude with a concert March 12, 2015 at the Delano Middle School in Delano, MN.
9. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$6,000, Arts In Harmony 2015 international juried exhibition held at the Sherburne County Government Center in February 3 through March 26, 2015 with a public reception February 8, 2015.

10. **General Federated Women's Club of Delano**, \$2,175, a series of six "Concerts in the Park" at Central Park in Delano on Wednesday evenings during July and August 2015 that feature a variety of performers.
11. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$6,000, "Babe, The Sheep Pig", live onstage at St. John's University, Stephen B. Humphrey Theater in St. Joseph February 26 through March 8, 2015.
12. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$8,000, "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" featuring a blend of traditional choral and bluegrass music with special guest artists Monroe Crossing Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the Paramount Theater, St. Cloud, MN.
13. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$6,000, "Kaleidoscope," a modern dance production on April 24, 2015 at the Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN.
14. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$8,000, "Rhythmic Circus: Feet Don't Fail Me Now" performance and Beatboxing 101 workshop on Sunday, November 1st, 2015 at the Paramount Theater, St. Cloud, MN.
15. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$8,000, "1954 in America" concert featuring music written and premiered in 1954 that includes collaboration with the Great River Chorale for "Tender Land Suite" on May 2, 2015, at 7:30 pm at St. Cloud State University, Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud, MN.
16. **United Arts of Central MN**, \$6,000, "Architects as Artists" Exhibit and Lecture Presentation to feature works of art in different media created by Minnesota architects at the Paramount Gallery and Gallery St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN June 12 through June 30, 2015.
17. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$4,634, "35th Annual High School Art Exhibition" that will feature the works of students throughout Central Minnesota High Schools March 26 through April 18, 2015 at the Paramount Theatre lobby and Studio C in St. Cloud, MN.
18. **WACOSA**, \$6,000, Arts for Adults with Disabilities art courses that will help participants with fine motor movement, self-expression, self-esteem, provide a therapeutic outlet and build work skills for possible future employment conducted by artists David DeBlicke, Carol Weiler and Dan Mondloch February 2 through May 29, 2015.
19. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$7,975, "School of Rock" summer camp open to 6th-12th grade students who want to learn the art of performing live music on stage July 28 through August 6, 2015.
20. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$5,136, "Transcendence: Collaborative Concert and Dance" in a performance that will combine choral music and choreographed movement and will include individuals with median mobility and mobility differences February 22, 2015 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church 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. The CMAB works 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.