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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 \$151,270 in support of twenty-nine 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. **Benton County Agricultural Society**, \$4,035, Heritage Arts and Culture Education presentation and demonstration by Foci Glass Blowers of Minnesota August 3 – 9, 2015 during the Benton County Fair in Sauk Rapids, MN.
2. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$2,348, A Toast to Twenty Years Concert revisiting favorite themes and music with specially composed by previous conductor, Michael Halstenson May 9, 2015 at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
3. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$8,000, for the production of the Broadway musical "Oliver" with actors, artists, technicians & volunteers from Buffalo & the surrounding area. Six performances will be held July 17-19, 23-25, 2015 at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center.
4. **CentraCare Health Foundation**, \$4,200, to enhance the Recovery Plus Artist In Residency Program with fourteen professional artists representing 12 different mediums. All contracted artists live and work in the St. Cloud Area and are chosen for their empathy for the unique needs of persons who suffer with addiction/mental health conditions and for their community contribution through work and volunteer involvement.
5. **Central MN Youth Orchestra**, \$6,000, 2015 Fall Semester "Russian Classics" educational program for grade school age students to develop musicianship and perform an orchestral concert. Held August 18 through November 28, 2015. A free public concert will be performed at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN November 21, 2015.
6. **Chamber Music Society of St Cloud**, \$6,000, Aeolus Quartet concert & community outreach, September 17-19, 2015 with several outreach activities in area schools and the community for people of all ages and levels of musical sophistication. The formal concert will be held at the Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN

7. **City of Sartell**, \$6,000, Music in the Park series of four free outdoor community concerts that feature musicians from the region beginning July 15, 2015 through September 1, 2015 at Pinecone Central Park in Sartell.
8. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$2,347, Dennis Alexander Piano Festival and Competition for 55 precollege students from local school districts. The Festival will feature composer Dennis Alexander, competition, repertoire workshops, and group workshop November 21, 2015 at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in St. Joseph, MN.
9. **Command Performance Choir**, \$6,287, Tales of Cinderella and Friends Event composed of music, story telling, calligraphy, painting and audience interaction with artists on May 16, 2015 at Salk Middle School in Elk River, MN.
10. **Downtown St Cloud Art Crawl**, \$6,000, 2015 Sizzling Summer Art Crawl that will feature over 50 visual artists exhibiting their work for sale at downtown venues with over 40 musicians and street performers entertaining along West St. Germain Street in Downtown St. Cloud, MN August 14, 2015.
11. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$6,000, ArtSoup 2015 community art and music festival held in downtown Elk River on Saturday, June 27, 2015 that will offer a variety of demos, food, fine art vendors, music, and interactive activities for all ages.
12. **Great Northern Theatre Company**, \$6,000, for the production of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" that will provide the opportunity for 60 adult and 22 youth artists from the community to participate July 30 through August 7, 2015 at Glanville Smith Auditorium, Rocori High School, Cold Spring, MN.
13. **Lake Sylvia Flute Institute**, \$6,000, to provide eight days of music and art activities for 80 musicians and family members including lessons, ensembles, flute and recorder choirs, art classes and outdoor activities June 14 – 21, 2015 at Camp Chi Rho in Annandale, MN.
14. **Land Of Lakes Choir Boys**, \$7,300, for a Summer Music Day Camp open to boys ages 8-14 in the community interested a week-long exploration of music held at Elk River Lutheran Church and a Resident Camp for current enrollees focused on Music and Art Exploration and Team Building Exercises held at Timber Bay in Onamia. Camps will take place July 27 through August 16, 2015.
15. **Legacy Foundation of Big Lake**, \$5,365, Music in the Park Summer Concert Series held Thursday evenings starting June 4, 2015 through August 27, 2015 at Lakeside Park in Big Lake, MN.
16. **Millstream Arts Festival**, \$5,000, outdoor, juried arts festival presenting visual artists and musicians in a family-friendly festival environment September 27, 2015 on Main Street in St. Joseph, MN.
17. **Mississippi Strings Camp**, \$6,000, to promote the continuation of string education in the summer, open to students ages 8-18 ranging from beginner to advanced with the goal of developing skills and inspiring students to continue playing, held June 15-19, 2015 at Technical High School in St Cloud, MN.
18. **Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society**, \$5,500, 2015 Music in the Gardens series of 6 free music concerts held Sunday afternoons beginning June 14, 2015 though August 23, 2015 and includes music for Art Faire in the Gardens on July 16, 2015 and Evening in the Gardens on August 18, 2015. All Concerts are held in Munsinger Gardens in St. Cloud, MN.

19. **North Ballet Youth Company**, \$2,515, Cultural Dance Performance to bring classical ballet and a combination of multiple styles, stories, and histories of dance of many different cultures through guest performers to the community July 30, 2015 through August 27, 2015 in Otsego, MN.
20. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$3,000, Statewide Juried Art Exhibit for artists to compete in a professional and emerging or student category hosted in Gallery Saint Germain, the Paramount Lobbies and Studio C September 14, 2015 through October 19, 2015 and showcased at the annual Gala.
21. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$3,000, to offer a free concert by the Minnesota Sinfonia that includes conductor, Jay Fishman educating the public about the composer, the work, regional or personal events that inspired or shaped the work on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN
22. **St. Cloud State University**, \$3,000, The School of the Arts Creative Arts Series to bring director Godfrey Reggio to show His latest film "Visitors" followed by an audience question and answer on February 9, 2016. Godfrey will offer a master class February 10, 2016. Both events will be free and open to the public.
23. **St. Cloud State University**, \$3,000, to support sponsorship of the 42nd Annual Lemonade Concert performed by St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra June 25, 2015 at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN.
24. **Sherburne County Jail/Advisory Task Force on the Woman & Juvenile Female Offender**, \$8,000, Women's Writing Program at Sherburne County Jail where participants to use creative writing for reflection, understanding and healing that result in professionally published chapbooks that will be catalogued in the Great River Regional Library system and Elk River Branch collections. The workshop, taught by artists Diego Vazquez, Jr. and Marcie R. Rendon, are held in four quarterly sessions June 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016 and offered to women with short average sentences at the Sherburne County Jail.
25. **SOAR Regional Arts**, \$8,000, for the production of High School Musical co-produced by SOAR Regional Arts Teen Advisory Group (TAG) at Saint Michael High School Performing Arts Center on August 6th-9th, 2015. The production will consists of only school age students 13-18 years of age and offers teens the opportunity to be mentored by professional production staff.
26. **St Cloud Municipal Band**, \$6,000, to offer free concerts on Memorial Day in Briggs Lake, MN, a 4th of July Concert at Hester Park and a Barden Park Series in St. Cloud, MN.
27. **St. Cloud Film Festival**, \$8,000, celebrates local & independent films in a combination of features and shorts during 8 shows November 12-19, 2015 at Pioneer Place Theatre in St. Cloud, MN, with a Kids Stop-Motion Workshop for 1st through 12th grade students where participants will have their work shown at the festival and are eligible for a Most Promising Young Artist award.
28. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$6,000, to perform a concert that features music of the Beatles with soloist Billy Scherer with a preview of the 2015-2016 Season on September 19, 2015, at 7:00 pm in Ritsche Auditorium at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN.
29. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$3,224, for Lemon Twist Fine Art Historic Home Tour to display 2-D and 3-D works of fine art from 20 artists in 3-5 historic homes in the south side university neighborhood June 25, 2015 in conjunction with the Lemonade Art Fair.

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.