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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board Awards Artist Career Development Grants

At the June meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$15,764 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 receive an average score of 3.0 or higher to be considered for funding.

The following artists were awarded:

Peter Happel Christian, Stearns County, \$3000 to support the production of a self-published photobook made in collaboration with another artist, a writer and a designer.

Sam Spiczka, Benton County, \$3,000 to purchase a used forklift to maneuver large sculptures, and aid in fabrication, loading and delivery.

David Glenn, Stearns County, \$3,000 to replace an outdated electric kiln for the efficient creation of work.

Dave Cofell, Stearns County, \$3000 for the professional recording of a CD titled "A Thousand Shades of Blue" comprised of original music.

Mike Carlson, Stearns County, \$3,000 to purchase two gas burner configurations and digital monitoring equipment to support high fire ceramic work.

Lisa Meyers McClintick, Stearns County, \$764 for a memoir workshop through The Loft Literary Center, to expand on the teaching of local literary arts classes.

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.

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.