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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the September meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$77,616 in support of thirteen 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. **St. Cloud Arts Commission**, \$6,000, for the research and development of a public art project that would connect Lake George to Downtown St. Cloud through the 10th Avenue Viaduct and MN Highway 23.
2. **Great River Educational Theatre**, \$8,000, the musical "Peter Pan", January 9-18, 2015 at Escher Auditorium, College of Saint Benedict
3. **The Center for Service Learning and Social Change**, \$6,000, to engage spoken word artist Julia Dinsmore to hold a series of workshops with area youth empowering participants to give voice to issues of homelessness, hunger and diversity through Spoken Word Poetry
4. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$8,000, for performances and residencies with Black Violin that work primarily with incarcerated youth from Prairie Lakes Youth Detention Facility and Veterans from the St. Cloud VA March 26-28, 2015.
5. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$8,000, for a series of nine Artist Exhibits for approximately 260 artists and a Student Exhibit for 90 artists from 16 schools beginning October 2014 through September 2015.
6. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$5,765, for the 15th Annual Essential Art Exhibition and Celebration for artists from throughout the state of Minnesota to exhibit high quality artwork in 2D and 3D. The exhibition will run from January 5th - February 15th, 2015, with an art reception and community celebration on January 9th, from 6-8pm at the Paramount Theatre Lobby Gallery, in St. Cloud.
7. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$6,000, "Moments of Inspiration" Concert conducted by Dr. Clinton Smith on October 25, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University.
8. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$6,000, six performances of Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery "And Then There Were None" with actors, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo & the surrounding area on October 31 through November 2 and November 7 through 9, 2014 at the Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo.

9. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$2,695, “ A Choral Community” concert that features a variety of Central Minnesota community and church choirs October 26, 2014 at Ritsche Auditorium on the campus of St. Cloud State University.
10. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$6,000, to host a ceramic workshop with Nationally acclaimed ceramic artists Kathy King and Julia Galloway June 15-19, 2015 at the Paramount Visual Arts Center. Participants of from workshop will exhibit their final pieces during August 2015 Art Crawl.
11. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$3,870, “A Civil War Portrait” featuring folk music from the Civil War era with a special guests Cristina Seaborn and Paul Imholte that will include a pre-concert presentation at St. Cloud’s Calvary Community Church on Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 3:00pm
12. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$5,286, “Nature Takes a Bow” concert in collaboration with the Art Guild of Buffalo to provide an evening of nature themed classic music accompanied on a large screen by nature-themed paintings and photographs at 7:30 p.m. On October 25, 2015 at the Performing Arts Center, Buffalo High School, Buffalo MN
13. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$6,000, The Schubert Ensemble Concerts and Residency. On February 14, 2015 a formal concert will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 7: 30 p.m. with a free family concert held at the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 1:00 p.m. The residency will provide elementary through high school students with an introduction to and instruction about classical and contemporary chamber music, specifically string quartets.

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.