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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At its April meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$183,327 in support of thirty-four 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 \$7,000 with a 30% match requirement for any one project or combined projects totaling no more than \$7,000 in any one grant round. Funding for these 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**, \$7,000, to engage the Central Minnesota community in the study, appreciation and history of glass arts during a live glass demonstration by Foci Minnesota Center For Glass Arts during the Benton County Fair in Sauk Rapids, MN August 1-6, 2016.
2. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$4,806, for the "Great Romantics" concert May 14, 2016 that will present music from the 19th century Romantic Period of classical music as well as a post-concert reception that will feature the Ukulele Club of Wright County at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
3. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000, to produce The Addams Family Broadway Musical Comedy that will include performers, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN July 22-30, 2016.
4. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$5,705, for Folk in Distant Lands music education program for school age orchestral musicians that will conclude with a public concert November 12, 2016 at St. Cloud State University, in St. Cloud, MN.
5. **City of Big Lake**, \$3,500, to support hiring local musicians to provide entertainment during the Big Lake Farmer's Market held every Wednesday from June through September of 2016 in Big Lake, MN.
6. **Cokato Historical Society**, \$2,400, for the traveling exhibit "Trains That Passed In The Night: Railroad Photography of O. Winston Link May 30 – September 3, 2016 at the Cokato Museum in Cokato, MN.
7. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$1,564, for a day-long piano festival and competition for 65 pre-college students from local school districts that will feature renowned composer Dennis Alexander and include competition, collaborative duet and repertoire workshops November 12, 2016 at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.
8. **Dassel-Cokato Community Education**, \$7,000, for "Fiddler on the Roof", a musical production that will involve cast, musicians, production crew and volunteers from the community July 22 – October 31, 2016 at the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center in Cokato, MN.
9. **Downtown St. Cloud Art Crawl Collaborative**, \$7,000, for The Sizzling Summer Art Crawl that will feature over 45 visual artists exhibiting in downtown venues, 25 artists' booths and over 40 musicians and street performers August 12, 2016 on St. Germain Street in downtown St. Cloud, MN.
10. **Foley High School**, \$5,367, for a Commercial Art Partnership with artist/designer Robert McCoy and 176 high school students from Becker, Foley, St. Cloud Tech, St. Cloud Apollo and Sauk Rapids high schools where participants will paint murals, signage, and branding imagery to improve the aesthetics and function of the Promise Neighborhood building in St. Cloud, MN.

11. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, to provide two week-long summer theatre camps for youth in the Bel Clare Estates and La Cruz communities June 6 – August 26, 2016 in St. Cloud, MN.
12. **Helping Hands Outreach**, \$6,008, to provide arts programming for older adults and adults with disabilities June 28 – August 21, 2016 through two community concerts that will feature Folk Artist Paul Imholte and German Ethnic Band Kristofer Keltgen and the Riverbend Dutchmen along with attendance to the Paramount Theater Senior Matinee Series: The Sisters of Swing and Comedian Jeff Allen.
13. **Lake George Neighborhood Association**, \$4,896, for an artist-made coloring book project that will highlight features and changes in the neighborhood over a 100-year period from 1917 to 2017. The coloring book project will begin June 6, 2016 with collaboration and support from city government officials, artists in the community, residents, businesses, and religious, educational, and community organizations and will be completed in March 2017.
14. **Land of Lakes Choirboys of Minnesota**, \$7,000, for two Summer Music Camps held August 1-14, 2016 for boys ages 8 – 14 with one camp open to boys in the community interested a week-long exploration of music and the other camp offered to current enrollees of the Land of Lakes Choirboys.
15. **Legacy Foundation of Big Lake**, \$7,000, for Music in the Park Summer Concert Series held Thursday evenings beginning June 2 through August 25, 2016 at Lakeside Park in Big Lake, MN.
16. **Millstream Arts Festival**, \$7,000, for an outdoor, juried arts festival presenting visual artists and musicians in a family-friendly festival environment September 25, 2016 in downtown St. Joseph, MN.
17. **Mississippi Strings Camp**, \$6,000, to support string education through summer orchestra instruction for students to develop their musical, technical, and ensemble skills June 13-17, 2016 at Apollo High School in St. Cloud, MN.
18. **Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society**, \$6,200, for the 2016 Music in the Gardens series that consists of six free chamber music concerts presented in the Munsinger Gardens on Sundays beginning June 12 through August 28, 2016 in St. Cloud, MN.
19. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$3,268, 2016 Paramount Juried Art Exhibit that will provide Minnesota artists the opportunity to compete in a professional, emerging or student category September – October 2016 at the Paramount Theatre and Paramount Gallery St. Germain in St. Cloud, MN.
20. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$3,500, for the Houston Ballet II performance to be held Sunday, October 15, 2016 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN
21. **Paynesville Area Community Theater**, \$7,000, for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" presented with supporting roles filled by participants from the Paynesville area July, 14-17 2016 at the Paynesville Area High School Performing Arts Auditorium in Paynesville, MN.
22. **Rocori Community Education**, \$3,030, for Prairie Fire Theatre's program that will involve community youth in the performance of Cinderella August 21-17, 2016 at Rocori High School Auditorium in Cold Spring, MN.
23. **Sherburne County Jail**, \$4,900, for a Women's Writing Program where women incarcerated at the Sherburne County Jail will work with professional teaching artists June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017 to learn creative writing skills and publish their works in anthologies which will be placed in Great River Regional & Elk River Library collections.
24. **Sinclair Lewis Foundation**, \$6,700, for the 27th Annual Sinclair Lewis Writers Conference held Saturday, October 8, 2016 at the Sauk Centre High School Auditorium in Sauk Centre, MN.
25. **SOAR Regional Arts**, \$7,000, to produce Seussical The Musical June 6 – July 31, 2016 at Saint Michael Middle School in St. Michael, MN. The production, based on multiple Dr. Seuss stories, will align with the local school summer reading programs by having characters from the production attend events to read out loud to students.
26. **St. Cloud Film Festival**, \$7,000, for the St Cloud Film Fest November 5-12, 2016 to celebrate local and independent films by presenting a combination of features and shorts during 15 shows with the main event held at The Pioneer Place Theater and additional events at Marcus Parkwood Cinema in Waite Park, MN, St. Cloud State University, Red Carpet Event Center and Black Box Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
27. **St. Cloud State University**, \$7,000, to support the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Lemonade Art Fair June 23, 2016 at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN.

28. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$4,374, for "Make A Joyful Noise" 35th anniversary celebration concert June 5, 2016 at Saint John's Abbey Church in Collegeville, MN with performances by The St. John's Boys' Choir, the Junior Varsity Choir, the Concert Choir, Nova Voce, Alumni Chorus and an orchestra comprised of professional artists from the Central MN Community. Musical selections will be supported by video featurettes that will reflect on the past 35 years of music-making, as well as interviews with alumni.
29. **United Arts of Central MN**, \$4,900, for an outdoor sculpture walk June 15, 2016 – June 1, 2017 with 12 large-scale pieces that will create artful connections for pedestrians from Lake George through downtown St. Cloud to the Mississippi River.
30. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$3,041, for the Second Annual Lemon Twist Fine Art Historic Home Tour that will feature fine art in historic homes of the south side University neighborhood June 23, 2016 in conjunction with the Lemonade Art Fair and Granite City Days in St. Cloud, MN.
31. **WACOSA**, \$5,168, Adults with disabilities will collaborate with artist Dan Mondloch over six weeks to paint individual panels used to create mosaic murals to be permanently mounted in the building where they receive services.
32. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$5,000, to increase performing arts education by providing discounted music and dance lessons to qualifying families September 1, 2016 – April 7, 2017 at Wirth Center for the Performing Arts in St. Cloud, MN.
33. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$2,000, for Jam Band 101, a free class taught by three local musicians held twice a month on Monday evenings August 1, 2016 – April 10, 2017 at the Wirth Center for Performing arts. Jam Band offers students ages 7-18 the opportunity to learn a song as a rock band group, study basic rock band musical topics, and learn how to produce a live song and the chance to meet other musicians.
34. **Youth Theatre Workshop**, \$7,000, to produce Steel Magnolias where three performances will take place in a "theater in the round" style June 24-27, 2016 at the Elk River High School Little Theatre in Elk River, 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.