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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board Awards Artist Career Development Grants

At the November meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$23,456 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:

Sandy Bot-Miller, Stearns County, \$3,000 to support the creation and framing of a large body of work for an exhibit scheduled for September-October 2016 at Great River Arts Main Gallery, Little Falls, MN.

Sue Davies Polzine, Wright County, \$2,820 for the purchase of a cargo trailer to transport art display panels, newly purchased large canvases and large-scale artwork to exhibitions.

Jill Dubbeldee Kuhn, Stearns County, \$2,933 for art supplies, framing, and digitally printed photographs of a recent series "Radiate" that will be part of a solo exhibition entitled "Layers" held in the spring of 2016 at the Gorecki Gallery in the Benedicta Arts Center, St. Joseph, MN.

Michele Feriancek, Stearns County, \$3,000 to supplement the cost of the purchase of a display tent and panels for participation in Minnesota area art festivals.

Peter Johnson, Stearns County, \$3,000 to record an album of original jazz music as an homage to the beauty of nature in places throughout the U.S. through travels from California to Minnesota.

Donna Rice, Wright County, \$2,992 to purchase the supplies and equipment needed to implement techniques learned during a recent glass foundry apprenticeship.

Tim Schreder, Sherburne County, \$3,000 to purchase a welding machine, tools and materials to create original 3D artworks made of metals.

Laura Tollefson, Stearns County, \$2,711 to purchase "The Flex" Knock Down Adjustable Leg Pro Panels to be used with an undercover canopy for a full professional booth display for participation in art festivals.

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.