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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Nine Area Artists Receive CMAB/McKnight Individual Artist Awards

Nine CMAB/McKnight Individual Artist Award (IAA) recipients were announced this week.

Artists are invited to apply for this award once each year in February. A panel of seven arts professionals reviewed and scored each application individually. Applications with the highest average score were recommended to the CMAB Directors for awards. At their March 10, 2016 board meeting, the CMAB Directors accepted the review panel's recommendations.

The \$5,000 Established Artist Award is designed for an artist with a history of exhibition, performances, publications, or other notable contributions to their local arts community through personal creative output. Typically one artist receives this award annually. This year, two artists tied for the Established Artist Award.

Established Artists Award recipient:

Paul Imholte, Musician – Sherburne County

Willacey Tynes, Visual Artist – Stearns County

The \$3,000 Emerging Artist Awards recognize and encourage outstanding artists in various stages of their careers. Seven artists with the highest scored applications received an award.

Emerging Artist Award recipients:

Cecil Wade, Literary/Poetry – Benton County

Megan Mitchell, Visual Artist/Ceramics – Stearns County

Tim Schreder, Visual Artist – Sherburne County

Rachel Marston, Literary Artist – Benton County

Kirstin Bratt, Literary Artist – Benton County

Charles Hanvy, Literary Artist – Stearns County

Sandy Bot-Miller, Visual Artist – Stearns County

To view samples of the winning artists' work, visit the Central Minnesota Arts Board website at

www.centralmnartsboard.org.

The 2016 Individual Artist Award Panel volunteered an average of 20 hours evaluating applications. Those volunteers included:

Al Hams, CMAB Director, BA Theater/Speech, English Literature, St. Cloud State University; US Veteran; Founder of Al's Music; author; served on the following Board of Directors, Downtown Kiwanis Club, County Stearns Theatrical Company, Minnesota Orchestra of Saint Benedict; David Swenson Foundation, and Central MN Arts Board.

Kenneth Barry, CMAB Director, Blues Musician; Victorian photographer proficient in Digital imaging,

Platinum/Palladium printing, Wet Plate Collodion process, Bromoil printing, and Cyanotype printing; BS of Science Mathematics and BS Computer Science, University of Wisconsin; Certified Nuclear Engineer, U.S. Navy; MBA Saint Mary's College of California.

Diane Paulu- former CMAB Board member and chair, 2002-2011, currently on the Board of Buffalo Community Theater and contributes to productions both on stage and backstage with design, painting and construction skills. Diane is also a member of the Buffalo Art Guild and makes a living in graphic design, aerial photography and public art, with SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Joan Eisenriech- Major in Studio Art from U of M Morris. Areas of concentration are printmaking and watercolor painting. Taught art in Heron Lake, MN from 1977-1979. Community Education and Recreation Director for Mankato Public Schools, retired 2012. Joan has previously served on review panels for the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council and the MN State Arts Board.

Sam Spizcka- FY14 CMAB/McKnight Established Artist Award Winner, a metal sculpture whose sculptures have been exhibited nationally – including at DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, the Rochester Art Center and Franconia Sculpture Park. Sam's work can be found in many public and private collections.

Larry Schug- FY14 CMAB/McKnight Established Artist Award Winner, author of seven books of poems, a 1993 Minnesota Book Award finalist, 2008 Midwest Book Award finalist. Larry has won two Central Minnesota Arts Board Individual Artist awards, a 2014 Central Minnesota Arts Board Established Artist award and a 2008 McKnight Fellowship for Writers award.

Solveig Anderson - an emerging visual artist who works primarily with textiles and re-purposed materials using a sewing machine and other methods to fuse used materials into new ones. A performing artist, seasoned in both stage and film acting, managed by several Minneapolis agencies. As an entrepreneur, Solveig is passionate about dignity in health and managed care. She is co-owner and designer for New Day HealthWear LLC, an upstart focused on upgrading patient experience thru apparel.

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.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board, visit <http://www.centralmnartsboard.org> or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.