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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 \$29,327 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.

Four criteria are used to evaluate applications: Artistic quality and merit, Professional need, Ability and Outcomes/evaluation. An applicant must receive an average score of 5.0 or higher to be considered for funding.

The following artists were awarded:

David Barthel, Benton County, \$3,000 to upgrade current Canon EOS 5D Mark II body to a Canon EOS 5D Mark IV camera body. The significant upgrade will more efficiently produce reliable images of higher quality and under more challenging lighting conditions such as sunrises, sunsets, and night photography.

Samuel Spiczka, Benton County, \$3,000 for the purchase of a Millermatic 252 welder and accessories to replace a 10-year-old ESAB 203 welder that was previously damaged.

Tiana Otto, Sherburne County, \$3,000 for the purchase of three ballet barres, two studio mirrors, and promotion marketing for her dance studio and performance company.

James Bertram, Stearns County, \$3,000 for the purchase of a digital Wacom Cintiq graphics tablet to increased productivity and efficiency of traditionally inked cartoons for publication submissions.

Ethan Calabria, Stearns County, \$3,000 to hire an audio production studio to assist in the recording, selection, and implementation of sound for both animations, voice acting, and user interface interactions for a demo of an animated game, Confluence.

Susan Dean, Stearns County, \$3,000, for registration costs to attend three Safari Club International conventions in the spring of 2017 with an upgrade of an exhibit booth and space that will increase foot traffic and to complete a Zebra mosaic explicitly for the convention.

Naomi Hart, Stearns County, \$2,906 in support of a Solo Exhibition: Beneath the Surface that requires a body of 30 pieces to be displayed at the Gallery St. Germain in St. Cloud April 2017.

Anne Meyer, Stearns County, \$2,421 for a one month residency at Miki and Toyokazu Ono's pottery and textile studio in Kunimimachi, Japan for collaborative art making and learning new techniques, plus some educational travel to nearby art museums, Okayama and Okinawa.

Marienne Kreitlow, Wright County, \$3,000 to write ten or more songs, scored for piano and multiple vocalists for the musical “Yours, Thrognog.” Through script and song, audiences will experience America at war and all that means: women entering the workplace, the soldiers’ vacillating boredom and terror, loss of loved ones, civilians doing without, and the summoning of immense courage.

Scott Miller, Wright County, \$3,000 to produce a collection of 6 videos of audio-visual concert works in collaboration with three film/video artists that will include an example of unreleased/distributed prior work and a new work for each artist.

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.