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**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

## **Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations**

At the December 8th meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$94,953 in support of sixteen regional arts projects. Four criteria are used in evaluating applications: artistic quality & merit, demonstrated need, outcomes & evaluation and ability to complete the proposal.

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 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. **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota**, \$5,968; The Youth Arts Initiative's fashion design program will explore Somali textile arts January – May 2017 through Kebed weaving, a fashion show with detailed information on Somali cultural dress, a field trip to the Somali Museum of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and a Somali meal. The program will conclude with a window display styled by students and artists that will showcase the progress of the program and student's finished woven pieces.
2. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000; production of the musical Honk! Jr. February 3-5 and 10-12, 2017 at Discovery Auditorium that will include youth, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo, MN and surrounding communities.
3. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$5,576; "Tell Me A Story, Friend" educational program for grade school students inspired by adventure and friendship performed by three student ensembles; April 2017 at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.
4. **General Federated Women's Club of Delano**, \$2,400; series of six "Concerts in the Park", Delano, Central Park, Wednesday evenings July through August 2017 that will feature a variety of performers appropriate for the community audience.
5. **Great River Chorale**, \$7,000; "A Mosaic of Gifts" concert with choirs from St. Cloud Apollo and Technical High Schools and Sartell High School. The gifts of Central Minnesota's diverse community are celebrated in songs about hope, unity, love, and a new commissioned piece with a Somali text; April 30, 2017, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN.
6. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000; musical production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" that will include seven public performance and two matinees for elementary through high school students March 31st-April 11, 2017, Paramount Theatre, St. Cloud, MN.
7. **Madison Elementary School**, \$6,395, Community Mural of Color designed and installed by artist Jill Dubbeldee Kuhn and volunteers January – December 2017 to add color, ownership and directional signage. The final mural design will incorporate chosen words to different hallways named after a quality the school wishes to instill in every student: Compassion, Serenity, Honor, Imagination, Hope, and Persistence with symbols specific to the various cultures attending the schools.
8. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$6,268, Hold Out Your Light: A Tribute to MLK concert with Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota to honor the work, mission, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 3 pm, Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
9. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$7,000; performance of "Carmen" with modern dance movement set to original operatic score as well as current popular hits April 28, 2017, Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, MN.

10. **Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$6,472; a series of four ceramic workshops in Spring and Summer 2017 featuring potters involved in the Minnesota Potter's St Croix Pottery Tour at the Paramount Center for the Arts followed by an exhibit and sale of student work.
11. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000 concert entitled "Bon Voyage: The Glorious Sounds of Paris" conducted by Artistic Director candidate Elliot Moore and featuring Great River Chorale on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 7:30pm, Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN.
12. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$6,866; multiple outreach activities with musician Rani Arbo and her folk band daisy mayhem to engage residents at the Veterans Affairs Health Care System hospice/dementia unit and Quiet Oaks Hospice House, St. Cloud, MN with a public performance that will feature the CSB Women's Choir on March 25, 2017, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN.
13. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$5,534, collaborative concert, HymnFest: "One" with The St. John's Boys' Choir and National Lutheran Choir presenting repertoire around the theme of unity to engage community members in communal singing February 18, 2017; St. John's University, Collegeville, MN.
14. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$7,000; 37th Annual High School Art Exhibition featuring the works and efforts of high school students in Central Minnesota that will include professional development, workshops and a juried exhibit with awards March 6-April 10, 2017, Paramount Center for the Arts, St. Cloud, MN.
15. **Wirth Center for the Performing Arts**, \$3,500; Wirth Center Spring Gala 2017 concert featuring 200+ performers of Classical ballet, large piano duets (featuring 12 players at a time), ensembles of violins, guitars, voice and more by students of all ages on a professional stage at Sauk Rapids.
16. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$3,974; Tenth Anniversary "Youth Sing Out" Concert that will feature nearly 300 singers from Youth Chorale of Central MN, the St. John's Boys' Choirs, Cantabile Girls' Choirs, and Alumni from all three choirs with guest conductors, Br. Paul Richards and Jane Oxtton, founders of SJBC and Cantabile, to commemorate the 10th anniversary concert on May 7, 2017, Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, 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](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call the office at 320-968-4290, or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.