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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Project Grants to area organizations

At the April 13, 2017 meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$131,885 in support of twenty 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. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$5,528, "From Old World to New World" concert featuring music composed over widely differing geographies and time May 13, 2017 at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
2. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000, "Marry Poppins" Broadway musical that will include performers of all ages, artists, technicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities in July of 2017 at Buffalo High School's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, MN.
3. **Centre Area Concert Association**, \$7,000, concert series that will include the New Christy Minstrels October 2017, Mainstreet Souvenirs November 2017 in Sauk Centre, MN and WindSync March 2018 in Melrose, MN. Mini-concerts will be held in conjunction at nursing homes, assisted living facilities or senior centers in Melrose and Sauk Centre, MN.
4. **Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud**, \$7,000, Carpe Diem String Quartet concert on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud with outreach programs held in the community prior to the concert.
5. **Downtown St. Cloud Art Crawl Collaborative**, \$7,000, the Sizzling Summer Art Crawl featuring artist exhibits, musicians, demonstrating artists, and street performers downtown St. Cloud, St. Germain St., 5th, 6th, and 7th Avenues August 11, 2017.
6. **Elk River Community Theatre**, \$7,000, Disney's Beauty and the Beast musical utilizing a cast, crew, and staff of approximately 75 people of all ages held July 21 through July 30, 2017 at Zabee Theater in Elk River, MN and Zimmerman High School Theater in Zimmerman, MN.
7. **Fred Yiran Legacy Project**, \$5,985, Fred Yiran African Arts Day to celebrate African arts and culture through the story of the late artist Fred Yiran with activities that will include African drumming, storytelling, bead making, painting held at Lake George on Sunday, June 25, from 12-4pm as a culmination of Granite City Days community celebrations.
8. **Helping Hands Outreach**, \$3,902, Senior Adult Access to Arts Program that supports arts access for older adults, adults with disabilities, care givers and rural residents of Stearns County and includes hosting local concerts and coordinating an outing to the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
9. **Millstream Arts Festival**, \$7,000, Millstream Arts Festival is an outdoor, juried arts festival presenting visual artists and musicians in a family-friendly festival environment held September 24, 2017 in St. Joseph, MN.
10. **Mississippi Strings Camp**, \$7,000, Mississippi Strings Camp supports education through summer orchestra instruction for young string players to develop and add to their musical, technical, and ensemble skills held June 12, 2017 at Technical Senior High School in St. Cloud, MN.

11. **Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society**, \$7,000, Music in the Gardens series of free chamber music concerts presented on Sunday afternoons, May – September 2017 at Munsinger Gardens in St. Cloud, MN.
12. **Paramount Center For The Arts**, \$4,970, “Through My Eyes” statewide juried exhibition to show and share Minnesota artist works, held September – October 2017 at the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, MN.
13. **Sinclair Lewis Foundation**, \$6,500, 28th Annual Sinclair Lewis Writers Conference to provide support, instruction, inspiration and mentoring to writers of a variety of age and experience levels held Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Sauk Centre High School Auditorium in Sauk Centre, MN.
14. **St. Cloud State University**, \$7,000, Lemonade Concert and Art Fair to bring performance and visual art experiences through a day long exhibition concluding in an outdoor concert by the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra on June 22, 2017 at St. Cloud State University campus in St. Cloud, MN.
15. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, 2017-18 Season Preview concert featuring guitar virtuoso and St. Cloud native Jesse Langen performing Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" with the orchestra September 22, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Cloud State University, Ritsche Auditorium in St. Cloud, MN.
16. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$7,000, “Boys on Broadway” annual musical theatrical performance that engages boys in exploring artistic elements beyond singing, such as choreography, staging, and acting under the guidance of theater professionals held October 13-15, 2017 at St. John’s University, Stephen B. Humphrey Theater in Collegeville, MN.
17. **The Yes Network**, \$7,000, Neighborhood Enrichment Program to introduce high quality art experiences in three neighborhoods utilizing the 4 Cs -- Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking. College Student Activity Leaders will direct sixteen two-hour sessions of meaningful art experiences in each of the three neighborhoods June – August 2017.
18. **United Cerebral Palsy**, \$7,000, Arts + Connect summer art camps held May – September 2017 for youth and adults with disabilities that offer clients the opportunity to be creative and experience working with clay, drawing and oil pastels taught by artist Melissa Gohman at Crafts Direct Waite Park, MN.
19. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$7,000, 3rd Annual Lemon Twist Walking Tour that consists of 5 short-term artist residencies in historic homes with pop-up mini makerspaces to bridge the Lemonade Art Fair, the St. Cloud State University campus, and the surrounding neighborhood, June 22, 2017 in St. Cloud, MN.
20. **Youth Theatre Workshop**, \$7,000, three Winnie the Pooh Kids Musical Summer Camps at the Elk River High School Little Theatre in June 2017, the Becker Community Center in July, 2017 and the Monticello Community Center in August, 2017 for kindergarten through 8th grade that includes theatre games, group voice lessons, basic choreography instruction, theatre centered craft projects and regular rehearsal concluding with a performance for family and friends

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.