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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Central MN Arts Board awards Arts Legacy Grants to area organizations

At their October meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$91,333 in support of sixteen regional arts projects. Three criteria are used in evaluating applications: Artistic quality and merit; ability of the organization to carry out the proposal; and the needs of the community.

Organizations may apply for up to \$6,000 with a 30% match requirement for any one project or not more than \$6,000 in any one grant round and have the option to apply for up to \$8,000 with a 50% match requirement one time in any of the three grant rounds. 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. City of Big Lake Public Works, \$8,000, Music in the Park Summer Concert Series featuring new musicians each week, held on Thursday evenings beginning June 5, 2014 – August 28, 2014 at Lakeside Park in Big Lake, MN
2. Elk River Arts Alliance, \$8,000, Exhibition Series that includes 7 monthly artist exhibitions for approximately 200 local artists and one student exhibition for 60 students from 16 local schools held at the Elk River Arts Alliance Gallery, Elk River, MN. Many of the exhibits offer free educational lectures and workshops.
3. Great River Educational Arts Theatre, \$8,000, "The Wizard of Oz" January 10 – 19, 2014 featuring 90+ local volunteer actors using Broadway sets, costumes and props at Saint Benedict's Escher Auditorium in Saint Joseph, MN.
4. Buffalo Community Orchestra, \$5,579, "Music, Mystery, & Magic Orchestra Concert" features musical stories and mystery as expressed by Wagner, Berlioz, Grieg and Offenbach with a Bravo children's performance, conductor chat & reception 7:30 p.m. on October 26, 2013 at the Buffalo Performing Arts Center, Buffalo, MN.
5. Buffalo Community Theatre, \$6,000, "Cheaper by the Dozen" a family comedy on October 18-20 and 25-27, 2013 at the Discovery School Auditorium, Buffalo, MN.
6. Chamber Music Society, \$6,000, Jasper String Quartet performance 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at Atonement Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN, a free family concert at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Cloud Public Library with lecture/demos at two area elementary schools and a college.
7. Delano Area Council for Arts and Culture, \$1,800, "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" a family friendly, intergenerational, free event that features an art-walk, music, drama, dance and literary events Saturday, December 7, 2013 in multiple locations, indoors and outdoors, throughout the downtown Delano, MN business district.

8. Elk River Community Theatre, \$6,000, "In-laws, Outlaws and Other People . " holiday-themed family comedy November 29-30 and December 6-8, 2013 at Elk River High School Little Theater, Elk River, MN.
9. Great River Chorale, \$4,045, "Gloria" will feature Great River Chorale, the Cantabile Girls' Choir Concert Choir and Choristers, varied instrumental accompaniments, poignant narrations, and sing-along carols on December 15, 2013, 3:00 pm, Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud, MN.
10. Minnesota Center Chorale, \$3,382, "When Music Sounds" in collaboration with the Bethlehem Chamber Orchestra performing a unique mixture of choir and orchestra that includes two high school senior guest vocalists, 10 local composers, and 50 high school orchestra students on October 27th at 4pm St. Cloud's Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN.
11. Pioneer Place Theatre, \$6,000, "Talking With", an eleven-monologue play featuring different women who talk about their lives with tenderness, diversity, and some unsettling subject matter while creating awareness of Women's Issues in December 2013 at Pioneer Place of Fifth, St. Cloud, MN. As part of the production, the SCSU Women's Center will assemble a round table group of experts to discuss Women's Issues in the community.
12. Sauk Rapids-Rice Hillside Adult Education, \$5,600, Hillside Arts Integration Residency where two artists work with a licensed teacher and adult learners on a weekly basis from November 2013 through May 2014 in order to integrate residency arts activities that meet graduation standards into the diploma curriculum.
13. St. Cloud Film Festival, \$6,000, St. Cloud Film Fest will show four features and 25 shorts during six events over four days in November at Pioneer Place Theatre as well as offering weekend film making competitions throughout the year and a Kids Stop-Motion Workshop for 1st through 12th grade students.
14. St. Cloud Municipal Band, \$5,012, a series of five outreach concerts performing live Christmas band music for seniors, community members, high school students and residents. Concerts will be held at Whitney Center, St. Cloud, residents of St. Benedict's Center in St. Cloud, Country Manor nursing home in Sartell, Good Shepherd nursing home in Sauk Rapids and Monticello High School.
15. St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, \$6,000, "Love and Loss", the first orchestra concert of the 2013-14 season themed The Human Spirit to be held on October 26, 2013 at 7:30 pm in Ritsche Auditorium at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN.
16. Visual Arts Minnesota, \$5,915, 14th Annual Essential Art Exhibition and Celebration bringing artists from throughout the state of Minnesota together to exhibit high quality artwork in 2D and 3D at the Paramount Theatre Lobby Gallery, in St. Cloud, Minnesota with Rural Artists Lisa Bergh and Andrew Nordin as jurors.

The CMAB is one of eleven regional arts councils in the State of Minnesota, with the mission to invest in the arts throughout Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties.

Visit 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 grant opportunities and services visit www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290, or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.