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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

CMAB/McKnight Individual Artist Awards Go to Nine Local Artists

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

The IAA program awards outstanding artists in the region who have demonstrated prominent artistic achievement.

The \$5,000 Established Artist Award is designed for artists with a history of exhibition, performances, publications, or other notable contributions to their local arts community through personal creative output. The \$3,000 Emerging Artist Awards recognize and encourage outstanding artists in various stages of their careers.

Established Artist Award recipients:

Douglas Wood, Sartell and Mary Bruno, St. Joseph

Emerging Artist Award recipients:

JD Jorgenson, St. Joseph; Stephen Zapf, Sauk Rapids; David Paul Lange O.S.B., Collegetown; Dan Mondloch, St. Cloud; Glenn Quist, Elk River; Andrea Fedele, St. Cloud; Kao Lee Thao, St. Cloud.

To view samples of the artist's work online, visit the Central Minnesota Arts Board website at www.centralmnartsboard.org.

Artists are invited to apply for this award opportunity once each year in February.

A panel of six professional artists reviews and scores each application individually. Applications receiving the highest average score are recommended for the awards. CMAB Directors accepted the panel recommendations at their March 13, 2013 board meeting.

The following 2013 Artist Panel members volunteered over 29 hours in evaluating and scoring applications:

Doris Stengel, retired English teacher; past president, Heartland Poets Group, League of Minnesota Poets and National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS); Student ; Published "Small Town Lines" by Finishing Line Press, Georgetown, KY., 2011 and individual poems in magazines and other publications; chosen as 'featured artist' for Brainerd Crossings Alliance CURRENTS publication.

Charlene Sul, CMAB Board of Director, Bachelor of Science, College of Notre Dame, Human Service Administration; Masters of Arts, San Jose State University, Mexican-American Studies; Juris Doctor in progress, Taft School of Law; Sul & Associates, LLC, Sr. Partner; St. Cloud State University, Instructor; Art Director – Hands Across the World, St. Cloud, MN; Facilitator - Quilt Circle at the American Indian Health Center, San Jose, CA.

Jeff Carmack, Arts & Cultural Heritage Producer at KVSC Radio since 2009; produced over 70 half-hour stories highlighting the arts, culture, and history of central Minnesota; teacher of writing and various arts and humanities courses at the Minnesota School of Business; consistent writer and performer in the Veranda Variety Hour; MFA in Creative Writing Poetry, Naropa University, Boulder, CO, '99; BS in Psychology, University of Iowa '97.

Paul Imholte, Composer and string musician; performs folk music throughout the Midwest; released eight CDs of original and traditional music; member of two performing groups, Ring of Kerry and The Tarveys; 2012 CMAB/McKnight recipient

Peter Veljkovich, CMAB Board of Director, Bachelor of Science, New York State University; Denver, Co. area realtor, retired; Littleton Fine Arts Committee, past member; South Suburban Arts Committee, member; Fine Arts Photographer and Disc Jockey

Ryan Schepp, Owner of Cream City Tattoo, St. Cloud, full-time working artist, 14 years - tattoo medium, digital art, acrylic, acrylic ink, oil, graphite, and other various mediums; multi-faceted entertainer in the art of magic, sideshow, juggling, unicycling, and other performance art.

The CMAB has served Region 7W for over thirty years as one of eleven Regional Art Councils designated by the Minnesota State Arts Board to promote and enhance the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Region 7W. The CMAB serves the four counties of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties.

For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grant opportunities and services go to www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.