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

**Central MN Arts Board Awards Arts Legacy Grants**

At their October meeting the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$101,532 in support of nineteen regional arts projects.

Three main criteria are used to evaluate applications: Artistic quality and merit; ability of the organization to carry out the proposal; and the need of the community.

Funding for these CMAB Grants are provided through appropriates from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the state's general fund, and its arts & cultural heritage fund created by the votes of the people of Minnesota. –

**The following grants were awarded:**

1. **Wicked Sister Dance Theatre**, \$5,000, **Dancing with Many Voices**, a collective of artistically and culturally diverse Central MN dance artists, at the Paramount Theater on January 25th, 2013, including an educational show for teens and several community outreach activities.
2. **Elk River Arts Alliance**, \$5,000, **ERAAA Exhibition Series** includes 7 monthly artist exhibitions in the ERAAA gallery for approximately 225 local artists and one student exhibition for 60 students from 20 local schools directed and coordinated by a volunteer Gallery Committee.
3. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$5,000, **"Dance Into Fall"** focused on classical music related to the world of dance held on October 20, 2012, at 7:30 pm in Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University with a presentation by the new Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Dr. Clinton Smith at 6:30 pm.
4. **St. John's University/ Fine Arts**, \$5,000, **Casebolt & Smith** performance held March 16 in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at Saint John's University (SJU). **Casebolt & Smith** will be in residence for three days prior to their public performance and will hold 7-9 residency activities.
5. **Chamber Music Society**, \$5,000, **The Jasper String Quartet** will join the Tokyo String Quartet in a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet on November 9, 2012 at the Paramount Theatre with several outreach activities in the community; visits to an elementary school, a university, and Whitney Senior Center to provide students, young and older adults with the opportunity to meet and hear this outstanding young group.
6. **GREAT Theatre**, \$5,000, **Junie B Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells** performance held at the Stephen B Humphrey Theatre at Saint John's University from December 7 – 16, 2012. This nonmusical production is based on the very popular, humorous and engaging tale of Junie B Jones that prompts conversations on behavior and consequences.

7. **Delano Area Council of Arts & Culture**, \$1,570, An **Old-Fashioned Christmas** event held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 in partnership with many local organizations providing a family friendly, intergenerational, free event featuring an art walk, music, drama, literary events, and more as
8. **Visual Arts Minnesota**, \$4,190, **13th Annual Essential Art Exhibition** will run from January 7 - February 14, 2012, with an art reception on Friday, January 11, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. The reception will feature a performance by local performing artists, as well as a presentation by juror Christopher Atkins, with an award ceremony.
9. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$5,000, **Building the Orchestra** concert at 7:30 pm on October 27, 2012 at Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center. The concert will highlight the distinct sounds of instrument groups that comprise the orchestra. Famous works for percussion, wind, brass, and strings, and then full orchestra, are featured.
10. **Paramount Arts Resource Trust**, \$5,000, **Kantorei 25th Anniversary Concert** on Saturday, December 15 at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud. 40 area singers will join the 40-voice professional choir, Kantorei, a professional group under the direction of Dr. Axel Theimer that started in St. Cloud.
11. **MN Center Chorale**, \$3,547, **"Rejoice in the Lamb"** Sunday, October 21, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud, MN joined by the Youth Chorale of Minnesota, Mixed Choir and Women's Choir, and organist Kraig Windschitl. The performance includes a work commissioned by local composer Flannery Cunningham.
12. **Command Performance Choir**, \$5,000, **Renaissance Christmas**, a Christmas Music and Art Festival Featuring Christmas music, dance, costumed characters, instrumentalists, street performing, kings, princesses, wizards, fairies, noblemen and gentle townfolk at the Boys and Girls Club of Elk River December 15, 2012.
13. **St. Cloud Downtown Alliance Foundation**, \$3,925, to conduct research and development for the **Downtown Historic Architecture Art Project** where artist Dan Mondloch will create paintings that document the historic architecture of St. Cloud's Downtown using a variety of seasonal and lighting conditions. The paintings will be installed permanently in locations that are free and open to the public
14. **St. Cloud Municipal Band**, \$4,000, **125th Anniversary Concert** held in the Fall of 2012 and Spring of 2013 at the Paramount theatre with free admission. The concert will be celebrating one of the oldest continuous community bands in Minnesota.
15. **Great River Chorale**, \$4,000, **"A Child's Christmas"** along with the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota, and Cantabile girls' December 15-December 16, 2012 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
16. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$4,000, **"Little Shop of Horrors"** at the Discovery Auditorium in Buffalo MN October 26-28 and Nov 1-3, 2012 with actors, technicians, artists, musicians and volunteers from Buffalo and surrounding communities in Central Minnesota.
17. **Youth Theatre Workshop**, \$4,000, Disney Jr. **"The Little Mermaid"** November 15-18 and November 23-25, 2012 at Elk River High School Little Theatre. The majority of the approximately 150 cast and crew are ages Pre-K through high school and adult.
18. **Permanent Public Art Project - ECFE Nature Explore Center Gateway and Plaza**, \$17,300, will serve as one of four certified nature classrooms in the State of Minnesota. The design features an artistic gateway rendering that is derived from the shape of an old school house, is crafted out of metal, and features a heron family overlooking everyone who enters the Nature Explore Center. Alongside the entrance, five metal sculpted deer will be bounding into the Center along a riverbed

**19. Permanent Public Art Project - Community Gateway Project in St. Cloud MN, \$10,000,** – To install a neighborhood gateway with artist Claire Witt using recycled steel sheeting and a mosaic mural with handmade tile medallions involving the community in the project.

The CMAB is one of eleven regional arts councils in the State of Minnesota whose purpose is to support and promote art appreciation throughout region 7W, consisting of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties. For more information about the Central MN Arts Board grant opportunities and services visit [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-345-7140.

Visit [AroundTheCloud.org](http://AroundTheCloud.org) Arts & Events Click & Go Guide to see when these arts events and more are happening in Central Minnesota.