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

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

At the December 13, 2018 meeting, the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$144,416 in support of twenty-four regional arts projects. Criteria used in evaluating applications include: artistic quality & merit, demonstrated need, outcomes & evaluation and ability to complete the proposal.

Organizations may apply for up to \$7,000 with a 25% match requirement for any one project or combined projects in a 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. **Athena Music and Leadership Camp**, \$7000, a five-day intensive music camp for 30-100 middle and high school female musicians at St. Cloud State University July 2019. Students will participate in master classes and attend performances with professional musicians and educators.
2. **Benton County Agricultural Society**, \$7,000, for demonstrations by Foci MN Center for Glass Arts of Minneapolis to engage Central Minnesota in the study and appreciation of glass arts while expanding the potential of the medium at the Heritage Square during Benton County Fair July 28 through August 3, 2019.
3. **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN**, \$7,000, to support the Youth Arts Initiative 2019 Spring Showcase: Paisley Pride: Celebrating Individuality. The showcase will include Dance, Fashion Design, Digital Music & Video, a Visual Arts exhibit and reception presented at the Paramount Center for the Arts on May 15, 2019.
4. **Buffalo Community Orchestra**, \$7,000, "Rhapsody!" concerts performing rhapsody themed music that concludes with Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue", featuring guest pianist Matt Harikian on March 2, 2019 at Buffalo Performing Arts Center and March 10, 2019 at Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center.
5. **Buffalo Community Theater**, \$7,000, for the performance of "Seussical, Jr" that will include youth, artists, technicians and volunteers from surrounding communities at Discovery Auditorium February 15-17 and 22-24, 2019 in Buffalo, MN.
6. **Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra**, \$7,000, History in the Making: Heroism- performance of music inspired by heroism from composers Sibelius, John Williams and Beethoven including a solo performance and master class by professional violinist Colin McGuire in May 2019.
7. **City of Holdingford**, \$2,284, Exploring our Heritage through Folk Arts focused on visual folk arts, culinary folk arts and performance folk arts through a partnership with the Holdingford Area Historical Society, Holdingford Chamber of Commerce, Helping Hands Outreach and Holdingford Area Schools in Spring 2019.
8. **City of Monticello**, \$7,000, Music on the Mississippi outdoor concert series May - August 2019 at West Bridge Park in Monticello, MN.
9. **College of Saint Benedict**, \$7,000, We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. showcasing repertoire from across African American music highlighting songs that unified a generation of civil rights activists in collaboration with CSB Choir and community members with recordings of Dr. King's speeches interwoven between songs Friday, February 15, 2019 in CSB Escher Auditorium, St. Joseph, MN.
10. **Delano Community Band**, \$1,924, for three concerts performed during 2019 community events free of charge beginning in Spring with the dedication of the new Delano Performing Arts Center, Delano 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival and during Delano's Old Fashioned Christmas holiday event.
11. **Fred Yiran Legacy Project**, \$7,000, in support of Fred Yiran African Arts Day 2019 which includes dance, children's African art contest, drumming, storytelling, bead making and professional teacher workshops as part of 2019 Granite City Days held in June at Lake George in St. Cloud, MN.

12. **General Federated Women's Club of Delano**, \$3,935, 2019 Concerts in the Park series that consists of six concerts Wednesday evenings during July and August 2019 at Delano Central Park in Delano, MN.
13. **Great Northern Theatre Company**, \$7,000, "The Spitfire Grill" as a dinner theater February 22, 23, 24, 28 and March 1, 2, & 3, 2019 at the Great Blue Heron in Cold Spring, MN.
14. **Great River Chorale**, \$7,000, Love's Dance collaborative concert featuring an eclectic combination of performers including Great River Chorale, the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet and dancers from the Minnesota Dance Ensemble April 28, 2018 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN.
15. **Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$7,000, for the teen production of "The Giver" January 11-20, 2019 at Helgeson Learning Lab Theatre in Waite Park, MN.
16. **herARTS in Action**, \$6,156, for an Artists in Mentorship project aimed at providing a mentor to assist artists of color in building their portfolios, confidence and networks to exhibit and sell their artwork.
17. **Independent Music Collaboration**, \$7,000, for the 2019 Common Roots Festival that features over 300 musicians August 22-24, 2019, in multiple venues in downtown St. Cloud, Minnesota.
18. **Minnesota Center Chorale**, \$4,117, for the presentation of "Home", a concert in partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSSMN) to raise awareness about efforts to help the homeless and refugees Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN.
19. **Minnesota Dance Ensemble**, \$7,000, for the full-length theatrical dance production of "A Real Boy" Inspired by the novel "The Adventures of Pinocchio" April 26, 2019 at the Paramount Center for the Arts in St. Cloud, MN.
20. **Sherburne County Jail**, \$7,000, Women's Writing Program, to provide professional instruction in creative writing to incarcerated women in collaboration between the Sherburne County Jail, the Great River Regional Library system and its Elk River branch and COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts) at Sherburne County Jail during 2019 in Elk River, MN.
21. **St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra**, \$7,000, "Generations" – The SCSU Sesquicentennial Celebration featuring composers and compositions that have unleashed creativity to make a lasting impact on our world presented by the SCSU Concert Choir, Great River Chorale and the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra Saturday, February 23, 2019 at St. Cloud State University, Ritsche Auditorium in St. Cloud, MN.
22. **The St. John's Boys' Choir**, \$7,000, Songs for Schools series of activities held January-April 2019 to engage local schoolchildren Grades 3-9 in high quality choral experiences through free concerts at ten area schools, "KidSing" and "Men in The Middle collaborative festivals that include workshops with professional artists.
23. **Wirth Center for Performing Arts**, \$3,500, to offer Discounted Lessons in an effort to increase access for low-income families January – June 2019 at Wirth Center for Performing Arts in St. Cloud, MN.
24. **Wirth Center for Performing Arts**, \$3,500 for the 2019 Spring Gala, an ensemble concert with 200+ performers of students of all ages that include Classical ballet, large piano duets, groups of violins, guitars, voice and more Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Sauk Rapids-Rice High School in Sauk Rapids, 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 working with community partners to increase access to the unique cultural assets of Minnesota.

Visit [aroundthecloud](http://aroundthecloud.org) for a full listing of these arts events and Everything Arts in Central Minnesota.

For more information on CMAB Programs and Services visit [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org) or call 320-968-4290, toll free at 1-866-345-7140.