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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

CMAB Awards Arts Recovery Support to area organizations

At the June 10, 2021, meeting, the Central MN Arts Board (CMAB) awarded \$125,500 in Arts Recovery Support to thirteen area organizations.

The CMAB Arts Recovery Support grant provides funds up to \$10,000 for organizational recovery, rebuilding staff, reopening programming, modified remote programming or other costs related to pandemic recovery, organizational stability, and diversity, equity & inclusion efforts. Funding for this grant program is provided through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund created by the Voters of Minnesota.

The following organizations were awarded:

- 1. 510 Art Lab**, \$10,000, for part-time staff and equipment that will provide air filtration for classes.
- 2. Avon Hills Folk School**, \$10,000, for growing board membership and to support hiring a part-time, local artist digital marketer to execute a communications plan through the new website and social media.
- 3. Buffalo Community Theater**, \$5,500, to hire an Interim Marketing Director Andrea Paukert Krinke to conduct Social Media Community Management, essential relaunch activities and community engagement. Krinke will also work with the administrator and volunteer publicity committee to provide guidelines and training to continue the strategies used.
- 4. Chamber Music Society of St Cloud**, \$10,000, in support of strategic plan development and implementation that include staff costs, contracting facilitator and executive coach, Vicki Benson, board training and outside assistance in areas of accounting, technology, marketing/audience development and evaluation.
- 5. Great River Chorale**, \$10,000, to recover operational funding and produce 20th anniversary season and fund website maintenance for twelve months.
- 6. Great River Educational Arts Theatre**, \$10,000, to hire a consultant to engage the Board of Directors, artists and staff with education, tools, and resources to create a culture of equity on all levels.
- 7. herARTS in Action**, \$10,000, for a free weekly streaming book readings by 12 Black and African Minnesota authors with live Q & A in collaboration with United Way's Community. Additional funds will be used for branding and marketing, student work study and to contract a project administrator.

8. **Rose Hall Media Company DBA Lyricality**, \$10,000, to invest in core staff, connect with audiences, social media promotion and train a team of facilitator-artists to begin leading LyricaliTea circles in diverse communities throughout central Minnesota in 2022.
9. **Sinclair Lewis Foundation**, \$10,000, to create a writing curriculum to support secondary students in exploring and sharing their own ideas, perspectives and experiences using video content, interactive writing exercises, digital/printable workbooks, and an online student community.
10. **SOAR Regional Arts**, \$10,000, to support the reopening of their fall family musical providing more opportunities for the community, and to pay local artists/staff to create art and continue to provide free opportunities to the community.
11. **St. John's University - Fine Arts**, \$10,000, to support the assessment of Stephen B. Humphrey Theater's HVAC system to provide audiences an effective message of re-opening plans and safety procedures.
12. **Wirth Center for Performing Arts**, \$10,000, to contract with Propel Nonprofits to lead the board of directors and administrative team in strategic planning as well as discounted lessons for families based on Federal Poverty Guidelines.
13. **Youth Chorale of Central MN**, \$10,000, for maintaining current staff, purchasing audio visual equipment and to offer a Choir director Social and Rehearsal Camp to re-engage audiences and youth singers.

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 the website for more information www.centralmnartsboard.org or call the office at 320-968-4290 or toll free at 1-866-825-1471.

