



## **About Us**

What is Central Square? Central Square was constructed in 1916 as Glenwood Central High School and is a key figure in Pope County history. The school building with its 1,044-seat auditorium was dedicated in May 1937 and closed in 1991. With the construction and opening of Minnewaska Area High School two miles outside town. A group of dedicated citizens organized to re-purpose the building, especially the auditorium facilities, and renovation began. That building, which now houses Central Square Cultural and Civic Center, is a WPA-era building, with a sentimental value to many in the area and those who are native to Glenwood.

Over the years, Central Square has continued to be blessed with many supporters and has evolved into a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of art, culture, and history for the entire region. It has become an attraction and destination for the area, showcasing concerts, outdoor markets, local events, regional artists and even serves as a time capsule of history for Pope County and beyond.

Our mission is to engage the community by presenting a multitude of dynamic performances and visual arts programs. We work hard to expand public awareness and access to the arts and preserve an historical landmark building with cultural significance to our local area.

Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of programming, Central Square is a strong force for the arts in our region. We strive to provide diverse programming for all people in West Central Minnesota and play a significant role in providing arts opportunities that would otherwise not exist in our community.

Over the last 18 years, Central Square has presented an annual concert series of family-friendly entertainment, offering eight diverse shows per year. Each year we bring a well-rounded variety of performances, whether theatrical, musical, comedic, or anything in-between, keeping in mind our role as a venue for all audiences and a leader in the arts community of Glenwood and Pope County.

Four years ago, Central Square has expanded its role in the community by operating a retail art store in downtown, Glenwood MN. "The Box Office" by Central Square, is a great place to pick up tickets to our performances and see all the works of our area artists. In this location we promote and sell the artwork of over 30 regional artists in a variety of mediums. This downtown location has provided a huge exposure for Central Square while giving more opportunities to engage our community.

As a nonprofit 501c3 arts organization, education plays an essential role in who we are; as such, we offer summer arts classes for children and adults, in addition to educational programming and workshops by local artists and artisans throughout the year.

Showing strong signs of growth and community support for what we do over the years, it is clear the future of Central Square is bright. We will succeed, but now we need to take the next step and make it stronger for the next 30 to 50 years.