



PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.37 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

ORLANDO – Dec. 10, 2013 – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels composed of 42 volunteer-reviewers to award \$1,370,231 in operating support grants to 43 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions.

The Operating Support Grant program is one of more than six United Arts funding programs, including designated giving secured through the collaborative *Campaign for the Arts* and *power2give.org*; match dollars provided by United Arts' Trustee; and corporate donors and contracts for services including educational programming. Ninety percent of today's award is committed to Central Florida's cornerstone cultural institutions. These include, in part, Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, Orlando Ballet, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orlando Repertory Theatre, Orlando Science Center and Orlando Shakespeare Theater.

"The Board is extremely pleased to approve the recommendation of our grant review panels and to make these awards to such worthy cultural organizations," stated Linda Landman Gonzalez, Chairwoman, United Arts Board of Directors. "Congratulations to the many Central Florida cultural leaders who work so hard to provide the best in art, theatre, dance, music, science and history."

This year's awards are the first following implementation of a new grant review process recommended by a Grants Task Force convened by United Arts during the summer and fall of 2012. Composed of representatives from cultural organizations, other area funders, Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council members and United Arts board members, the Task Force studied prior best practices and recommended key adjustments.

Recognizing the need of most nonprofit institutions for operating support, the new tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on Operating Budgets: Small (\$25,000 - \$250,000), Midsize (\$250,000 - \$600,000) and Large (more than \$600,000). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer-reviewers. The new process also adjusts the timing of grant awards, aligning the awards process and total amount awarded with United Arts' receipt of government funding in October.

The volunteer-reviewers featured artistic discipline experts, nonprofit experts, corporate and foundation funders, community leaders who attend the arts frequently and United Arts board members. Combined, they volunteered more than 1,500 hours to the review and awards process. A public call for recommendations of qualified panelists was issued by United Arts in December 2012 and applicant

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groups were also asked to identify potential panelists. Overall, full panels were designed to represent a range and balance of artistic disciplines as well as a broad knowledge about the programming of applicant groups, and they were approved by United Arts' Executive Committee and Board of Directors in June 2013.

Each volunteer-reviewer was assigned two to three applicant organizations for in-depth study, including site visits. These required meetings with staff and board leadership and provided an opportunity to tour a facility and view performances, exhibits and other programming. It also provided opportunities for staff and leadership teams to address panelist questions beyond the formal application. Detailed reports for each applicant organization were presented at the full panel meetings and included a financial analysis by a CPA.

"I am grateful to all 42 reviewers who volunteered their time, attention and expertise to ensure a thorough and professional process," remarked Roseann Harrington, Chairwoman of the Large Budgets Grants Panel.

The new process also established a 100-point evaluation system covering Artistic Merit (40%), Management & Fiscal Responsibility (35%), and Service to the Community (25%). Total scores were then used to rank applicant organizations within their budget category. For their final award recommendations, panelists were given a four-year history of prior funding for each applicant organization, but in large part, gave greatest consideration to the objective ranking system. The panels also focused on funding fairness and equity within budget categories.

"Each panel was well prepared and engaged in thorough and robust conversations about applicant organizations," said Marty Hartley, Chairwoman of United Arts Standards and Allocations Committee. "I am pleased that the volunteer-reviewers rewarded the organizations with the highest rankings with increased funding based on an objective ranking system."

The application period for FY14 closed on August 29. Final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in November. Grants cover cultural activity from January 1 through December 31, 2014 and award allocations will begin once signed grant contracts are returned to the offices of United Arts of Central Florida.

About United Arts of Central Florida

United Arts is a collaboration of individuals, businesses, governments and school districts, foundations, arts and cultural organizations and artists. Its mission is to unite, strengthen and inspire the Central Florida community through the arts and culture.

United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 50 local arts, sciences and history organizations. It raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services.

Now entering its 25th year of service to the Central Florida community, United Arts has invested more than \$126 million in local organizations and education since its founding in 1989.

More information is available at www.UnitedArts.cc or by calling 407-628-0333.

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See list of grant recipients attached on the following pages

2014 Operating Support Grants – Program Descriptions

Requests for Calendar Year 2014 funding

LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Orlando Ballet (FY14 Award \$187,800) is a professional resident company performing full-length classical and contemporary repertoire. The Orlando Ballet School offers the finest professional ballet training to students of all ages, as well as community outreach programs.

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (FY14 Award \$180,200) provides symphonic music, opera, chamber music, exciting pops concerts, unique collaborations, and educational outreach.

The Orlando Museum of Art (FY14 Award \$162,856), established in 1924, is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of Florida by providing excellence in the visual arts through compelling exhibitions, inspiring educational programs and innovative collaborations.

Orlando Science Center (FY14 Award \$155,100), accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, offers hands-on experiential exhibits and programs that inspire pre-K-12 students and adult lifelong learners to discover how science shapes today's & tomorrow's world.

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF (FY14 Award \$136,500) seeks funding to support its 6 major program areas: Signature Series, Harriett's New Play Series, Theater for Young Audiences (TYA), PlayFest, Educational Programming and Community Outreach.

Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY14 Award \$82,500), Orlando's only full time professional theatre for young audiences, produces a summer theatre festival, 10 productions of plays/musicals/concerts, 3 fully staged youth shows, as well as camps, classes, and outreach programs.

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra – Concert Opera Series (FY14 Award \$67,382) aims to preserve opera as an art form in the Central Florida community, to maintain jobs for orchestra musicians, singers, actors and technical/stage crew, and to nurture the community's passion for opera.

The Bach Festival Society (FY14 Award \$62,300) presents programs featuring the finest in classical music, showcasing the Bach Choir and Orchestra and world-renowned guest artists, and offers educational programs to encourage participation in music at all levels.

Crealdé School of Art (FY14 Award \$57,500) serves a diverse audience of Central Floridians and visitors with excellence in visual arts education, exhibitions and special events, outreach to underserved populations, cultural preservation, and emerging artist development.

Art & History Museums-Maitland (FY14 Award \$36,500) is a premier cultural destination. Programming includes art, history, and interdisciplinary exhibits, art instruction, artists-in-residence, hands-on history programs, lectures, outreach & more in its 5 museums.

Enzian (FY14 Award \$30,600) is a community cinema that screens hundreds of films combined with a unique dining experience all year long. Special programs include seminars, guest artists, education programs, and film festivals for minority and underserved audiences.

The Garden Theatre (FY14 Award \$20,640) requests funding for its 2013-2014 Spring Season & 2014-2015 Fall Season, including six full-length productions, a concert series, dance performances, an international film festival, and an educational outreach program.

The Orange County Regional History Center (FY14 Award \$20,200) requests general operating support to make history come alive through presenting outstanding programming and exhibits in service to the state and Central Florida residents and guests who visit our area.

The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (FY14 Award \$12,452) (P.E.C.) celebrates the cultural contributions of people of African ancestry by providing first-class programs at the ZORA!

Festival, The Hurston Museum, Heritage Trail in Eatonville, the ZORA! STEM Summer Camp for children, and the E-WE computer lab.

Mad Cow Theatre (FY14 Award \$4,352) is the only professional theatre company in downtown Orlando. Celebrating its 17th season, the 2013-14 season includes ten plays and musicals, the 11th Annual Orlando Cabaret Festival, and numerous educational and community events.

The Downtown Arts District (FY14 Award \$3,300) provides leadership for the development of a vibrant, innovative arts and cultural district in downtown Orlando. DAD serves the arts community by supporting cultural venues, public art projects, and signature events.

MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

The Holocaust Center (FY14 Award \$9,400) is dedicated to combating prejudice through educational and cultural programs. Using the lessons of the Holocaust, the Center teaches the principles of good citizenship to people of all ages, religions and backgrounds.

The Orlando Fringe's mission (FY14 Award \$9,100) is to provide an accessible, affordable outlet that draws diverse elements of the community together and inspires creative excellence through the arts. Orlando Fringe is the oldest of its kind in the United States.

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (FSYO) (FY14 Award \$7,300) remains one of Florida's oldest arts organizations. Since its inception in 1957, FSYO has grown into four full orchestras, and prides itself on being the premier youth orchestra in Central Florida.

MicheLee Puppets (FY14 Award \$6,800) empowers lives through the art of puppetry. Entertaining and educational issue-based productions address the challenges children and youth face today. Since 1985 they have reached more than 1.8 million PreK-12th grade students.

The Winter Park Playhouse (FY14 Award \$6,400), founded in 2002, is Central Florida's only professional musical theatre and is dedicated to producing year-round musicals, cabarets & educational outreach programs that entertain, uplift and inspire residents and visitors.

Central Florida Ballet (FY14 Award \$6,100): Innovative ballet productions, educational programs, and international partnerships are the keystones of this organization with glowing recognition from ABC News, CNN, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bay Street Players' 2013-2014 Season (FY14 Award \$6,000) consists of five MainStage, five Second Stage, and five youth productions. Paramount in the season are youth after-school and summer education programs, and special events which will foster community involvement.

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY14 Award \$5,800) is a nationally designated historic home and artist studio, once home to acclaimed sculptor & teacher Albin Polasek. The mission is to enrich lives through the power of inspiration in its story, setting & art.

The Mennello Museum of American Art (FY14 Award \$3,000) celebrates the richly diverse body of work by both trained and self-taught American artists through its dynamic permanent collection, rotating traveling exhibitions and interactive arts programming for all ages.

Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY14 Award \$2,500) builds relationships with the public and arts community to make art available to all, with diverse educational programs, classes and exhibits. It produces the Annual Mount Dora Arts Festival and quarterly Arts Strolls.

SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Steinway Society (FY14 Award \$5,587) provides keyboards, refurbished pianos, and free piano lessons for economically and culturally disadvantaged children. The Society also sponsors concerts, recitals, workshops and master classes for the benefit of the general public.

The Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) (FY14 Award \$5,560) was founded February 14, 1990 with 39 singers. Today OGC is over 150 members strong, mixed men and women, gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning, and fully committed to vocal musical excellence.

The Winter Garden Heritage Foundation's programs (**FY14 Award \$5,134**) foster appreciation of the social, cultural, economic, and ecological changes that have shaped West Orange County, providing experiences that enhance community life and stimulate economic development.

Urban Think! Foundation (FY14 Award \$5,103) supports community-based programs that enrich Orlando's cultural landscape by serving as an umbrella for Page 15, Urban ReThink and Burrow Press whose programming includes education projects, writers' workshops, and more.

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) (FY14 Award \$5,060) exists to build community by making the arts accessible and affordable for all and provide an inclusive and creative platform where individuals can connect by joining an artistic family, perform for diverse audiences, and serve the community.

Pinocchio's Marionette Theater (FY14 Award \$5,014) is one of the few full-time string puppet theaters in the USA. Re-telling children's fairy tales at an affordable price, Pinocchio's combines high performance standards with uplifting cultural values for families.

Messiah Choral Society's (FY14 Award \$5,011) presentation of Handel's Messiah will take place at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre in Orlando on Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 3:00 PM. John Sinclair will lead professional soloists, orchestra, and 150 volunteer singers.

The Melon Patch Players (FY14 Award \$4,939) will present 6 stage plays in the 2013-2014 Season. The Patch will continue to collaborate with other local groups to make the arts more accessible to all area residents, and to expand their outreach via enhanced marketing.

The Performing Arts of Maitland (PAM) (FY14 Award \$4,929) is a 501(c)3 public charity which enhances the cultural experience, events and offerings in the City. Participants, patrons and cultural events include and extend to surrounding communities and counties.

HAPCO Music Foundation (FY14 Award \$4,836) is dedicated to raise the awareness of the importance of arts and music. Working directly to support educational arts programs in exposing youth to the arts and obtaining resources for participating in arts activities.

The Winter Park Historical Association (AKA Winter Park History Museum) (FY14 Award \$4,802) operates the only local history museum that is free and open to the public, preserves and promotes the rich history of Winter Park and offers lectures and outreach programs.

Global Peace Film Festival (FY14 Award \$4,753) is a multi-day, multi-venue film festival & arts event. Workshops, community screenings, special guests and filmmakers enhance the audience experience. A K-12 Peace Art exhibit involves schools throughout the OCPS system.

The Asian Cultural Association (FY14 Award \$4,736) thrills audiences with wondrous films, beautiful visual art exhibits, concerts featuring the exotic sounds of the harmonium, tabla and sitar and programs teaching children the art and culture of the Indian subcontinent.

Lake Eustis Museum of Art (FY14 Award \$4,724) is Lake County, Florida's only museum dedicated entirely to visual art, and is dedicated to the exhibition and collection of fine art and art education programming to enrich culture and enhance economic development.

The Osceola County Historical Society (FY14 Award \$4,672) collects and preserves the county's history, and provides educational, research, and community outreach opportunities to foster an understanding and enjoyment of the area's cultural and natural heritage.

Creative Sanford (FY14 Award \$4,389) records oral histories to preserve our local heritage and provides a chance for diverse people to share their experiences. The stories are woven into our "Folk Life Play" and performed annually by community members.

The Florida Young Artists Orchestra (FYAO) (FY14 Award \$4,200) is a nonprofit organization committed to providing a positive, enriching and high quality orchestral experience for young musicians ages 6-22 from throughout Central Florida.

The Leesburg Center for the Arts (FY14 Award \$4,200) exists for the purpose of promoting growth and vitality to the community by providing art education for all ages, cultural events for the community, and a central location attracting artists, musicians and audiences.