

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY FEB. 27, 2015

Contact:

Michael Cooper
Director of Development and Marketing
407-628-0333 x222
Michael@UnitedArts.cc



FLORA MARIA GARCIA RECOGNIZED BY THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF METRO ORLANDO AS ONE OF VISIÓN MAGAZINE'S 2015 25 INFLUENTIAL HISPANICS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

ORLANDO, Fla. – Feb. 27, 2015– United Arts of Central Florida’s CEO and President, Flora Maria Garcia, was recognized by The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando (HCCMO) as one of Vision Magazine’s 25 Influential Hispanics in Central Florida with an elegant reception at the National Entrepreneur Center. This year’s 25 Influential Hispanics were chosen by the editorial board of Visión Magazine based on specific criteria in a variety of categories. This year’s award recipients represent a cross section of areas in the Central Florida community, that range from healthcare to higher education and everything in between.

After delivering her welcome remarks and recognizing Harbor Community Bank and Melao Bakery as presenting sponsors, HCCMO’s President Diana Bolívar – along with HCCMO’s Chair of the Board, José Nido and Visión Magazine’s Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Cyndia Morales – presented the honorees with the 25 Influential Hispanic plaques. The plaques symbolize their leadership, accomplishments and contributions to the Central Florida community.

“I’m honored to have been selected for such a prestigious distinction by the Hispanic Chamber and pleased to be a part of such a remarkable group of Hispanic leaders in Central Florida,” said United Arts of Central Florida CEO and President, Flora Maria Garcia.

In addition to recognizing the 25 Influential Hispanics, a special recognition was also presented during the event. This recognition is given to a non-Hispanic who is an influential leader in the Hispanic Community. This individual is one who has invested significant time leading initiatives that benefit the Hispanic Community. They have invested their expertise, resources, insights and talent in the community, and through his or her actions, they have inspired others to do the same. This year’s non – Hispanic “Gem in Our Community” recognition was given to Ms. Shawn Bartelt, Vice President & General Manager of WFTV – Channel 9.

“What a wonderful opportunity to recognize the work being done in our community. We are grateful for the efforts and accomplishments of these professionals. Their persistence and impact are greatly admired and appreciated”, said Dr. Cyndia Morales, Visión Magazine’s Editor-in-Chief.

Following the Vision Magazine's tradition to highlight the outgoing HCCMO Chair in this special 25 Influential Hispanics edition, the 2014 HCCMO Chair of the Board, Dr. Giorgina Pinedo-Rolón of *Gio Communications*, was also honored with a special recognition.

"I congratulate all of the Hispanic Influencers honorees, including our past board chair, Dr. Giorgina Pinedo-Rolón. Their leadership and dedication to our Hispanic community is exemplary. It is a privilege and an honor to be working amongst such amazing professionals", said HCCMO's President Diana Bolivar.

List of Honorees

Elio Aguilar – La Prensa
George Diaz – Orlando Sentinel
Nancy Alvarez – WFTV – Channel 9
Henry Lim, Esq. – Lim & Asociaste
Flora Maria Garcia – United Arts
Hector Marcano – iHeart Radio
Lilly González – Entravision Communications
Antonio Muñiz-Olán- Muñiz & Associates
Christina Hernandez- Convocomm LLC
Dr. Andres Perez- Orlando Foot and Ankle Clinic
Maria Martinez – Rollins College
Gabriel Ruiz, Advanced IT Concepts
Iza Montalvo – La Prensa
Alex Sanchez – Telemundo Orlando
Gloria Puerto – Feed & Fortify
Vicente Sanchez – Titan
Laiz Rodrigues – Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce
Camilo Soto – PcNet/Corserva
Lisette Saint-Hilaire – iHeart Radio
Diahann Smith – Florida Dairy Farmers
Pedro Zorrilla – Ventana al Jazz
Lucelis Torres – Montessori Bilingual Academy

Couples

Eduardo Colón & Denise Torres – Melao Bakery
Ricardo & Janet Pesquera – Pesquera, Cerrud & Birmingham, P.A.
Sergio & Karla Vargas – All Star Mattress & Furniture

GEM IN OUR COMMUNITY Honoree

Shawn Bartelt – WFTV – Channel 9

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 enrich communities through the arts, sciences and history.

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 in its 26th year of service to the Central Florida community and regional host of the collaborative Campaign for the Arts, power2give.org and OrlandoAtPlay.com, United Arts has invested more than \$131 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. Please email Michael@UnitedArts.cc for comments or inquiries.

About VISIÓN MAGAZINE

Visión Magazine is an award-winning quarterly publication that focuses on Central Florida's businesses and entrepreneurs. This publication serves as a regional source of information regarding finance, business trends and relevant news to the Central Florida business community. Each issue reaches a mixed audience composed of small, medium business owners, corporations, and community leaders. This is the 4th edition of the 25 Influential Hispanics in Central Florida, which is featured in the January edition of the magazine.

About the HCCMO

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 with the mission to provide leadership and support the economic development of the Hispanic business community of Metro Orlando.

###