

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ***UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS AND ARTS ENGAGEMENT MINI-GRANTS***

ORLANDO – June 19, 2014 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its second cycle of mini-grants and of its arts engagement mini-grants of 2014. Three organizations were awarded a total of more than \$4,450 from the second cycle of mini-grants and nine organizations were awarded a total of \$20,000 for the arts engagement mini-grants.

### **Mini-Grants**

Mini-grants support small-budget, multicultural and grassroots organizations that are not specifically served by other United Arts grant programs. Launched in April 2013, the program awards can be up to \$2,500 per organization per year. This cycle's three grant recipients are:

**Caribbean American Passport Foundation** – Awarded \$1,500 for its Caribbean American Heritage Month Festival. The festival showcases the cultural diversity of Central Florida and includes music, dances, parades, and art and craft vendors.

**Desfile Puertorriqueño de Osceola** – Awarded \$1,500 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Puerto Rican Parade and festival. The parade will include bands, dance teams, artists, and cultural groups that travel from all over the United States and Puerto Rico.

**Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation** – Awarded \$1,460 for the 2014 Summer Arts Camp at ONIC. The eight week camp will incorporate three arts classes using Prodigy Cultural Arts' curriculum in the form of dance, creative expression, music production, visual art, photography and drumming.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the third cycle of mini-grants this year. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., August 1, 2014. The maximum grant award is \$2,500.

### **Arts Engagement Mini-Grants**

Arts engagement mini-grants support the expansion or creation of programs that provide alternative arts education experiences and outreach outside of K-12 schools. This is the first year United Arts has offered these grants, which were formerly distributed by Arts Learning for Life before it was absorbed by United Arts of Central Florida. The nine grant recipients are:

**A Gift for Teaching** – Awarded \$2,500 for its Across the Arts program. This three-part program will include a musical summer camp, an exploration of the impact of literature on music and a concert at the University of Central Florida.

**Art and History Museums-Maitland** – Awarded \$2,500 for its Printmaking Outreach with the BETA Center. A&H Maitland has partnered with the BETA Center to provide printmaking lessons to teens in their residential center. This partnership revives a successful BETA art program that had been cut due to funding.

**Central Florida Vocal Arts** – Awarded \$1,500 for its Summer Institute. This program will train performers ages eight to 18 in all aspects of musical theatre. Students will receive individual vocal training; dance, acting and career preparation.

**Crealdé School of Art** – Awarded \$2,500 for the After School Hands-On Visual Art Outreach Classes. Classes will teach visual communication and artistic expression skills not offered in schools, including the fundamentals of art-making and art history, with project themes that range from science and culture to self-esteem.

**Florida Alliance for Arts Education** – Awarded \$1,000 for the Arts Move Careers: 2014 Leadership Summit. The organization provides professional development and leadership training for educators, artists and arts professionals of all disciplines. This year's summit will explore the impact of the creative economy on our state and future job market.

**Mad Cow Theatre Company** – Awarded \$2,500 for its Community Workshops: Bridging Theatre and the Spanish Language. This bilingual project is designed to introduce participants to theatrical games and exercises and to give them the tools to explore and develop their expressiveness through theatre.

**MicheLee Puppets** – Awarded \$2,500 for its Creative Expression through Puppetry program. In this program, students will design and construct puppets, sets, scenery and props. The students will also learn puppet manipulation and theatre terminology and practices.

**Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra** – Awarded \$2,500 for the Notes in Your Neighborhood program. This program, with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, is a music education and cultural enrichment program for low-income, at-risk students. The program will feature visits from Philharmonic musicians and hands-on musical activities from trying different instruments to performing musical "science experiments."

**Orlando Science Center** – Awarded \$2,500 for the STEAM Workshops for Boys and Girls Clubs. Orlando Science Center will put on interactive workshops that cover topics in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Led by Orlando Science Center educators, the workshops promote critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration and cross-disciplinary thinking.

"We are proud to support these 12 programs that introduce new audiences to the arts and provide our community with diverse arts and cultural experiences," said Linda Landman Gonzalez, chairwoman of United Arts of Central Florida.

United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 50 local arts, sciences and history organizations. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.UnitedArts.cc) or by calling 407-628-0333.