

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Denise C. Bealin  
Director of Development and Donor Communications  
407-628-0333 x222  
[Denise@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:Denise@UnitedArts.cc)



## ***United Arts of Central Florida Awarded \$125,000 in Disney Grants Support***

Orlando, FL – Apr. 17, 2014 – United Arts of Central Florida announced today that it recently received \$125,000 from Walt Disney World Resort as part of the company’s 2014 Disney Grants program. United Arts will use this gift for general operating support of arts, sciences and history throughout Central Florida’s Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

“We are proud to have earned another Trustee-level gift from the Walt Disney World Resort,” said Linda Landman Gonzalez, chairwoman of United Arts of Central Florida. “Longtime supporters of this organization and of arts and culture in Central Florida, we are truly grateful for the Walt Disney World Resort’s generosity and community leadership.”

United Arts of Central Florida is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the one-stop-shop to support the arts, sciences and history in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. It serves more than 50 cultural institutions and artists by raising and distributing funds, by securing and facilitating contracts for services including vital pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade educational programming and by providing management, administrative and advisory services.

United Arts trustees provide the foundational support needed for major grant awards and support not only specific programmatic offerings, but general operations. In addition, their funds, combined with those of generous corporate donors, provide a valuable matching pool used to inspire giving through United Arts’ annual collaborative Campaign for the Arts.

During a recent ceremony at the Orlando Science Center, United Arts and fellow Central Florida nonprofits and organizations were recognized with Disney Grants support and special *Mousecar* awards. In all, 87 organizations received \$3.8 million in Disney Grants, including 17 groups that were selected based on the strength of the applications they submitted and their alignment with Disney’s philanthropic focus.

“We’re proud to support United Arts of Central Florida, which shares our dedication to our community’s children and families,” said Nancy Gidusko, director of community relations for Walt Disney World Resort. “It’s an honor to carry on our company’s 42-year commitment to supporting organizations that help make Central Florida an even better place for kids to learn, grow and thrive.”

Through the support provided by this signature giving program, Disney Grants will help Central Florida organizations build brighter futures for some 85,000 children in a variety of ways, such as securing food and shelter for families in need, empowering students to write their stories and kindling a love of music and the arts throughout Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Polk counties.

As a company with nearly 70,000 Cast Members who live and work in Central Florida, Walt Disney World Resort is committed to investing in its community. In addition to annual cash support, Walt Disney World Resort also provided more than \$33 million of in-kind donations to local organizations last year, as well as more than 308,000 volunteer hours through the efforts of Disney VoluntEARS.

###

### **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 in 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](http://www.UnitedArts.cc) or by calling 407-628-0333. Please email [Denise@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:Denise@UnitedArts.cc) for comments or inquiries.

### **About Walt Disney World Resort**

Walt Disney World Resort is a contiguous 40-square-mile, world-class entertainment and recreation center featuring four theme parks (Magic Kingdom Park, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios and Disney's Animal Kingdom Park); two water adventure parks (Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon); 35 resort hotels (26 owned and operated by Walt Disney Parks & Resorts includes seven Disney Vacation Club resort properties); 63 holes of golf on four courses; two full-service spas; Disney's Wedding Pavilion; ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex; and Downtown Disney. Walt Disney World Resort is committed to building better futures for children; last year, the company donated more than \$36.5 million in cash and in-kind support to non-profit organizations in Central Florida and Disney VoluntEARS contributed 308,000 hours to community service. Located at Lake Buena Vista, Fla., 20 miles southwest of Orlando, Walt Disney World Resort opened Oct. 1, 1971, and is open daily, year-round. For more information, visit [www.wdwnews.com/about](http://www.wdwnews.com/about).