



PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.4 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

ORLANDO – Dec. 9, 2014 – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels composed of 42 volunteer-reviewers to award \$1,423,821 in operating support grants to 43 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions. This is an increase of \$53,590 over the prior year and provided the panel with more funding to award in each budget category. Eighty-five percent of this year’s award is committed to Central Florida’s cornerstone large budget cultural institutions.

“The Board is extremely pleased to approve the recommendation of United Arts’ competitive review process and to make these awards to such worthy cultural organizations,” stated Linda Landman Gonzalez, Chairwoman, United Arts Board of Directors. “Congratulations to our region’s cultural leaders who consistently deliver the highest quality programming in art, theatre, dance, music, science and history to our residents and visitors alike.”

Recognizing the need of most nonprofit institutions for operating support, United Arts’ tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on Operating Budget size: Small (\$25,000 - \$249,999), Midsize (\$250,000 - \$749,999) and Large (\$750,000 and over). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer-reviewers which include artistic discipline experts, nonprofit experts, corporate and foundation funders, community leaders who attend the arts frequently and United Arts board members. Panelists conduct in-depth site visits and attend events year round produced by the groups they are reviewing. Combined, they volunteered more than 1,500 hours to the review and awards process.

The grant review process is highly competitive and based on a 100-point evaluation system covering Artistic Merit (40%), Management & Fiscal Responsibility (35%) and Service to the Community (25%). Detailed reports for each applicant organization were presented at the full panel meetings and included a financial analysis by a CPA. Total scores are used to rank applicant organizations within their budget category. For their final award recommendations, panelists can take into account the history of prior funding for each applicant organization, but in large part, greatest consideration is given to the objective ranking system based on the panel’s review. The panels are 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 Martha Anderson Hartley, Chair 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.”

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A portion of the grant pool had been set aside by the Executive Committee for technical assistance for Large Budget groups focused on individual fundraising. Qualifying groups will receive a grant of \$1,500 to cover half the cost of the six-month fundraising series developed by the Rollins Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership Center. Technical assistance grants totaling \$12,000 were awarded to the following groups: Enzian, Garden Theatre, Mad Cow Theatre Company, Orlando Ballet, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orlando Repertory Theatre and Orlando Science Center.

The Operating Support grant deadline was at the end of August 2014; final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in November and approved by the United Arts Board on December 4. Grants cover cultural programs from January 1 through December 31, 2015. 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' Trustees and corporate donors; and contracts for services supporting educational programming.

2015 Operating Support Grants – Program Descriptions

Calendar Year 2015 funding

LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Orlando Ballet (FY15 Award \$188,822 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) is a fully residential professional ballet company and dance school. The Ballet employs a full-time company of national and international dancers performing an annual season of full-length classical ballets and repertoire programs.

The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (FY15 Award \$186,861 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) performs symphonic music for over 150,000 individuals annually plus chamber music, opera, pops concerts, innovative collaborations with other local arts organizations, educational outreach and community engagement.

The Orlando Museum of Art (FY15 Award \$162,856 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance), 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 (FY15 Award \$156,127 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) will present 350+ cultural/educational programs in 2015. Guests will explore changing hands-on exhibits, NatGeo 2D/3D and giant screen films, live shows, field trips, labs, camps, classes, skywatches, Otronicon & Maker Faire.

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF (OST) (FY15 Award \$143,020) provides five major program areas for the community: Signature Series, Children's Series, PlayFest, Educational Programming and Community Outreach.

Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY15 Award \$90,000 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance), Orlando's only full time professional theatre for young audiences, produces a summer theatre celebration, 10 productions of plays/musicals/concerts, 3 fully staged youth shows, and camps, classes, and outreach programs.

The Bach Festival Society (FY15 Award \$57,996) presents the finest classical music performances, showcasing the acclaimed Bach Choir and Orchestra and world-renowned guest artists, along with a diverse slate of outreach programs for youth and adult audiences.

Crealdé School of Art (FY15 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 (A&H) (FY15 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 five museums.

Enzian (FY15 Award \$35,000 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) 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.

Garden Theatre (FY15 Award \$25,000 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) is a professional performing arts venue that hosts an eclectic mix of theatrical productions, concerts, dance, movies, educational outreach, and an international micro-budget film festival all focused on artistic excellence.

The Orange County Regional History Center (FY15 Award \$25,000) is a 67,000 square foot museum dedicated to preserving Central Florida history through exhibits, programs, and research. Its mission is to honor the past, explore the present, to shape the future.

The Downtown Arts District (FY15 Award \$18,599) 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.

Mad Cow Theatre (FY15 Award \$18,540 + \$1,500 Technical Assistance) – the only professional theatre company in downtown Orlando – celebrates its 18th season, with 10 plays and musicals, the 13th annual Orlando Cabaret Festival, the Science Play Festival, and many educational and community events.

The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (FY15 Award \$5,000) is an organization whose multidisciplinary programs focus on heritage, education, and the cultural arts as a means to community revitalization.

MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida (FY15 Award \$19,000) provides thought-provoking exhibits, quality films, speakers and ongoing community education. It uses the lessons of the Holocaust as a means to challenge bigotry in all its forms.

The Mennello Museum of American Art (FY15 Award \$14,500) 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.

The Orlando Fringe (FY15 Award \$14,000) has a mission to provide an accessible, affordable outlet that draws diverse elements of the community together and inspires creative excellence through the arts. It is the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY15 Award \$13,000) hosts the 1949 home and artist's studio of acclaimed sculptor, Albin Polasek, and the historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House, enriching lives through the power of inspiration in History, Nature, and Art.

Central Florida Ballet (FY15 Award \$13,000): 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.

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (FSYO) (FY15 Award \$11,000) 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.

Bay Street Players (FY15 Award \$9,000), in the past, concentrated on stage productions - musicals, comedies, dramas. Recently, the community has asked for "special events" and BSP has accommodated that request with a show or special event 39 of 52 weekends.

MicheLee Puppets (FY15 Award \$9,000) 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 1.9 million PreK-12th grade students.

The Osceola County Historical Society (FY15 Award \$9,000) 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.

The Winter Park Playhouse (FY15 Award \$9,000) 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 thousands of residents and visitors.

Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY15 Award \$4,500) serves the community by providing diverse exhibits of original art, educational art programs, classes and producing the nationally recognized Mount Dora Arts Festival.

SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Global Peace Film Festival (FY15 Award \$6,523) 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 Winter Garden Heritage Foundation (FY15 Award \$6,509) - their programs 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.

Steinway Society (FY15 Award \$6,495) 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.

Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) (FY15 Award \$6,485) was founded February 14, 1990 with 39 brave singers. Today OGC is 150+ members strong, mixed men and women, gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, and entirely committed to vocal musical excellence.

Urban Think Foundation (FY15 Award \$5,167) supports community-based programs that enrich Orlando's cultural landscape by serving as an umbrella for Page 15 and Burrow Press, whose programming includes educational programs, publishing books, writers' workshops, and more.

The Winter Park Historical Association (AKA Winter Park History Museum) (FY15 Award \$5,160) 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.

The Melon Patch Players (FY15 Award \$5,068) will present six stage plays in the 2014-2015 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.

Central Florida Community Arts (FY15 Award \$5,060) exists to enrich our community's quality of life by making the arts accessible and affordable, providing an inclusive creative platform to join an artistic family, perform for diverse audiences, and serve the community.

Leesburg Center for the Arts (FY15 Award \$4,784) exists for the purpose of promoting growth & vitality to the community by providing art education for all ages, cultural events for the community, & a central location attracting artists, musicians, appreciative audiences

Lake Eustis Museum of Art (LEMA) (FY15 Award \$4,204), Lake County's first art museum, is dedicated to the exhibition and collection of fine art and the presentation of museum-quality art education programming to enrich culture and enhance the economic development of our diverse community.

The Performing Arts of Maitland (PAM) (FY15 Award \$4,175) 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.

Florida Opera Theatre (FOT) (FY15 Award \$4,155) is a Central Florida professional opera company dedicated to producing quality opera performances. FOT is a full service opera company offering a range of performances, special events and educational opportunities.

The Asian Cultural Association (FY15 Award \$4,106) 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.

Creative Sanford, Inc. (FY15 Award \$4,006) preserves history through performance and records oral histories providing a chance for diverse people to share their experiences. The stories are woven into our "Folk Life Play" and performed by community members.

The Center for Contemporary Dance (FY15 Award \$3,000): 1) Is a 13-year-old education, production & incubation center for the dance arts; 2) Annually reaches/educates 22,000+ patrons of all ages, levels, backgrounds; and 3) Produced 12 of the area's contemporary dance troupes.

The Florida Young Artists Orchestra (FY15 Award \$3,000) is a non-profit organization committed to providing a positive, enriching, and high quality orchestral experience for young musicians in Central Florida. The organization is committed to performance excellence.

Messiah Choral Society (FY15 Award \$2,103) - their presentation of Handel's Messiah will take place at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in Orlando on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. John Sinclair will lead professional soloists, orchestra, and volunteer singers.

Panelists for 2015 Operating Support Grants

Large Budget Category

Martha Anderson Hartley (Ex Officio – Chair), Shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

George Fender (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Grennan Fender Ruta & Associates LLP

Maria-Elena Augustin, Assistant Director, Center for Public & Nonprofit Mgmt, UCF

Scott Evans, Coordinator, Visual & Performing Arts, Orange County Public Schools

Linda Landman Gonzalez, Vice President of Philanthropy & Multicultural Insights, Orlando Magic

Roseann Harrington, VP, Marketing, Communications & Community Relations, OUC

Ena Heller, Bruce A. Beal Director, Cornell Fine Arts Museum

Bonnie Hubbard, Grants Manager, Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation

Terry Hummel, Visual arts columnist, Orlando Sentinel

United Arts awards grants

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Keith Lay, Composer; Full Sail University
Evelyn Martinez, Vice Chair, Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council
John Phelan, Show Director, Creative Entertainment, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S.
Melvin Rogers, Associate Dean, UCF
Dr. Suzanne Salapa, Program Director of Dance, Valencia College; Rollins College
Rob Satterlee, Area Manager, Magic Kingdom Entertainment, Walt Disney World
Eileen Smith, Director, E2i Creative Studio, UCF
Barbara Wetzler, retired nonprofit consultant
Kate Wilson, Vice President, Community Affairs Officer – Central Florida, Wells Fargo

Midsized Budget Category

Rita Lowndes (Ex Officio – Chair)
Robert Matschner (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.
Jim Bowden, Director, Human Resources, Disney
Kay Cappleman, Director, Winter Garden Heritage Foundation
Kristin Congdon, Professor Emerita (UCF), Visual Art
Dr. Marie-Jose Francois, CEO, Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention
RK Kelley, Director, Entertainment, Walt Disney World
Beth Leahey, Director of Direct Marketing, Visit Orlando
Rosemary Maher, retired from Prudential
Elizabeth Maupin, retired Orlando Sentinel theater critic
Dario Moore, Artistic Director, The Center for Contemporary Dance
Becky Roper, Immediate Past Chair, Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council
Julie Tindall, Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Orlando

Panelists for Small Budget Category

Edgar Lopez (Ex Officio – Chair), Associate, Broad and Cassel
John Webb (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Strombeck Consulting CPA's
André Anderson, President, Planning Design Group
Ellie Potts Barrett, Choreographer
Rose Thome Casterline, Visual Artist/Educator, Valencia College/Rollins College
Michelle Feinberg, former Director, A Gift for Music
Elisha Gonzalez-Bonnewitz, Executive Director, Take Stock in Children (Valencia College)
Vicki Landon, Development Director, Orlando Repertory Theatre
Anthony Major, Director of African American Studies; Director of Hurston Institute, UCF
Rick Mizell, Music Director, Disney
Jeffrey Moore, Professor of Music, Chair, UCF
Vince Santo, Drama Director, East Ridge High School, Lake County
Cid Stoll, Research & Communications Manager, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts Creative Entertainment
Arisa Kusumi Sullivan, Adjunct Professor of Voice, Rollins College
Jake White, Development Director, Orlando Museum of Art
Conny Williamson, Production Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator, The Winter Park Playhouse
Beverly Winesburgh, President, Product Marketing Group

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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 26th year of service to the Central Florida community, 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 Flora Maria Garcia, CEO, 407-628-0333, extension 225.

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