

## Dear Cultural Supporter:

As United Arts continues to emphasize the importance of the arts in education, I wanted to share with you a program that United Arts initiated with Evans High School, in partnership with the Orange County School District, Valencia College and the University of Central Florida, entitled, “Career Pathways in Arts and Entertainment.”

The idea was born two years ago when Evans Principal Jenny Gibson expressed a desire to infuse the arts into her school and asked for our ideas. Evans, a UCF Community School, already had a terrific physical infrastructure with art and music studios, relevant electronic equipment, a 600-seat, fully equipped theater, and a TV studio. United Arts had just completed research into the Creative Industries in Central Florida and discovered that the three major theme parks employ more than 11,000 creatives. Add to this the number of “back-of-house” technicians employed in the convention and hospitality industries that create the complex, multimedia convention presentations. These jobs are focused on facilitating the creation of the behind-the-scenes work that makes the “magic” of entertainment happen. Many of these jobs are high paying and there are currently not enough trained personnel to fill them. I was told by the IATSE union representative that for every one artist and performer, there are nine “behind-the-scenes” jobs that make productions possible.

What better way to engage the Evans High School students than to create clear career pathways to prepare them for job opportunities in the vast Central Florida arts and entertainment industries? JP Morgan Chase generously funded the proposed program as a “workforce development project” with a two-year planning and implementation grant for \$150,000 per year for two years. This program teaches students courses that prepare them for specific jobs focused on “back-of-house” technical



**Flora Maria Garcia**

professions, such as lighting design, sound design and digital media. Valencia College, which has a strong arts and entertainment program geared toward job placement, stepped in and worked with Evans staff and faculty to design the curriculum, identify teacher skill sets needed and assist in training teachers. United Arts coordinated the partners, and led the arts community and for-profit employers in the industry in designing hands-on internships for the students. Evans High School applied to the Orange County Public Schools District to become

the first “Arts and Entertainment Magnet School” in Central Florida (and quite possibly the nation). Evans students will be able to receive either a Vocational Certificate, a two-year degree from Valencia or a four-year degree from UCF in their area of interest and level of complexity of the career they wish to pursue.

Through Debbie Fahmie, a United Arts board member who serves as the Fine and Performing Arts Resource Specialist in the Osceola District Schools, we were able to propose replicating the Evans project to Melba Luciano, the Osceola Superintendent, who jumped at the opportunity. It turns out that Osceola was building a STEM High School, opening in 2018, and the Superintendent felt that this program was a perfect addition to turn the STEM High School into a STEAM High School!

We at United Arts are thrilled to be part of a life-changing, career-forming opportunity for students in Central Florida through the arts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Flora Maria Garcia".

Flora Maria Garcia  
President & CEO  
United Arts of Central Florida

# Arts Principal Awards

United Arts of Central Florida hosted more than 250 arts, education and community leaders at the 10th Annual Principals Appreciation Breakfast on Feb. 11. This annual event celebrates the achievements of Orange County Public Schools' principals in supporting and promoting arts education and arts participation in their schools.

The three Arts Principal Award winners — Kathy Petersen of Waterford Elementary, Dr. Chris Camacho of Westridge Middle and Margaret Nampon of Lake Nona High — were chosen by a panel of arts education professionals, business representatives and Orange County Public Schools officials for their support of stellar arts education programs in their schools.

The winning principals, who were nominated by their arts teachers, each received a \$1,000 cash award for their school's arts program, \$500 worth of art supplies contributed by Crayola, tickets to performances provided by the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and a *United ArtsCard*, a buy-one-ticket-get-one-FREE

and discount card to arts performances and exhibits throughout Central Florida, good for one year. The cash awards were supported by premier sponsors Wells Fargo and Brighthouse Networks Business Solutions, and the breakfast space donated by Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The event also featured a performance by the Ocoee High School Jazz Knights.

This annual award recognizes that principals are key leaders in arts education.

"From budgeting and hiring decisions, to scheduling arts activities within the school day and personal involvement and encouragement, principals play an essential role in ensuring that all children have access to arts education," says Flora Maria Garcia, president and CEO of United Arts of Central Florida. "Their support gives students the creative skills they need to succeed in school and in life."

The 10th Annual Principals Appreciation Breakfast was presented by United Arts of Central Florida and funded through Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs.

## Partners in Arts and Culture

United Arts of Central Florida (UACF) is pleased to announce a partnership with Lake Nona and Nemours Children's Hospital, which will bring additional art and cultural experiences to the Lake Nona community with Nemours Children's Hospital as a venue for these experiences.

"Our ultimate goal is to serve the community. We are excited about the opportunity to work with Lake Nona and Nemours Children's Hospital to present Central Florida's arts and cultural offerings to Lake Nona residents," says Flora Maria Garcia, UACF president and CEO.

"The arts inspire joy and healing! We hope this terrific collaboration is the first step of a wonderful collaboration," says Dr. Richard Sandler, a UACF board member and a physician at Nemours Children's Hospital, who helped to conceive the idea of expanding art experiences in the Lake Nona area.

The first Lake Nona experience was a showing of the *Wizard of Oz* at Nemours

Children's Hospital. Seventy-five parents and their children attended. Throughout the auditorium there were wide-eyed gasps at the thrill of seeing the wonders of Oz for the first time.

The second area event was held on March 6 at Crescent Park, where 85 people attended a "Journey through Jazz" concert with Danny Jordan and his group. The weather was perfect for the smooth vibrations of the instruments and a few participants stood up and swayed along.

"Culture and the arts are often great indicators of the vitality of a community, and Lake Nona offers an 11-square-mile canvas of opportunity," says Jessi Blakley, APR, director of Communications, Tavistock Development Co. "From the digital experience of The Beacon and Code Wall in our new Town Center to Tom Fruin's Glass House in our Laureate Park Village Center, and now with the United Arts partnership, Lake Nona aims to inspire the creativity within us all."

### Upcoming at Lake Nona

#### Dates for Enzian Film Series

Held at the Nemours Children's Hospital Auditorium

**Sunday, May 22**

*Finding Nemo*

**Sunday, August 28**

*Charlotte's Web*

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

*Home Alone*

#### Dates for Lake Nona Art Experiences

**Sunday, June 5**

Danny Jordan Five Piece Jazz Band  
Crescent Park in Lake Nona  
8374 Upper Perse Circle

**Sunday, Sept. 11**

Performing Arts of Maitland  
Baroque Chamber Orchestra  
Crescent Park in Lake Nona  
8374 Upper Perse Circle

**Sunday, Dec. 4**

Central Florida Community Choir  
Lake Nona Town Centre

For more information, call Erica Henri at 407.628.0333.