

# Dear Cultural Supporter:

Over the last two years, United Arts has focused on engaging and encouraging our local cultural sector to consider broadening their outreach into more diverse and underserved communities, reach a wider audience and increase the potential to attract new subscribers and donors. Duke Energy has been a strong partner to United Arts; first by supporting a series of workshops focused on “marketing to diverse communities” and then by forming a pool of funding dedicated to supporting cultural groups that wish to create programming that appeals to diverse audiences. I wanted to share with you some results of the exciting and unique new programming that the Duke Energy funding has made possible, through United Arts.

In dance news, now through May 2017 the **Orlando Ballet** is providing “*Proyecto Somos Orlando*” at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee and at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando, a series of community engagement programs with the goal of developing deep, long-term connections with the Central Florida Latino population.

In the Spring the **Albin Polasek Museum** presented an exhibition featuring the work of Frantz Zephirin, one of the leading contemporary artists working in Haiti today. Associated programming explored Haiti through a Haitian Mardi Gras event and a presentation on Haitian culture through the lens of art history.

**Snap! Orlando**, presented *Posing Beauty in African American Culture*, in January; a photography and video exhibition that explored the ways in which African and African-American beauty has been represented in historical and contemporary contexts through photography, film, fashion and other forms of popular culture.



**Flora Maria Garcia**

One of the most fun offerings was the **Garden Theatre's** production of *Destiny of Desire* in March. The Southeastern U.S. Regional Premiere of an award-winning telenovela-style comedy with a Latino cast and an acclaimed New York Latina director. Garden Theatre was the *first* theater awarded licensing after the play's world premiere in Washington D.C.

This May through July, the **Mount Dora Center for the Arts** will showcase a photography exhibition of Gordon Park's work documenting segregation in the South.

During May through September, **Crealdé School of Art** will expand its reach to Winter Park's African-American community, many of whom are unaware that their own community is represented through photographs, oral histories and public art at the Hannibal Square Heritage Center. The 10th anniversary exhibition opens May 12.

An original musical experience will be created by **Central Florida Community Arts** whose orchestra and youth vocal ambassadors will present the concert “*Sound Bytes*” on May 20 at Oak Ridge High School. This concert will infuse the music of cutting-edge video games and Asian culture, including performances in Mandarin and Japanese.

I am so pleased with these organizations' thoughtfulness and creative initiatives, and hope to see much more diverse programming in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Flora Maria Garcia". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Flora Maria Garcia  
President & CEO  
United Arts of Central Florida