

Dear Cultural Supporters:

Once again, the United Arts collaborative *Campaign for the Arts* exceeded its goal for the 2017 season by raising **\$2,088,344!** Together, with our 19 cornerstone partners, we continue to raise more funds than we have in past years — and hopefully, this trend will continue in future years. We at United Arts are committed to increasing the *Arts for ALL* Fund within the campaign — this fund supports UA's competitive Operating Support Grants, where the demand for increased funding continues to grow.

Recently, we received great news from Dr. Phillips Charities, which invited United Arts to submit a proposal for a *second year* of \$100,000 funding for programming that infuses the arts into Osceola County public schools. This gift is being matched by an additional \$100,000 from the School District of Osceola County, Osceola County and our good corporate friend, Tupperware Brands Corporation — which has a long-standing commitment to the arts in education. What is wonderful about this grant is that it provides high-quality cultural experiences to children from prekindergarten through grade 12. Programs include: classical music, a Juilliard strings program for pre-K children, live theater performances, literacy programs through theater, contemporary dance, exposure to visual arts experiences, and an introduction to Shakespeare — all tied to the Osceola School District's curriculum. What better way to engage children in learning than through the arts — and the evaluations resulting from the first year of the program prove it. I am so grateful to Dr. Phillips Charities and those who are matching this very generous investment in believing in the power of the arts in education.

In early May, our development staff and I were invited to meet with Gregory C. Wright, the Florida community affairs manager for Duke Energy Foundation regarding the work United Arts has been doing in diversity initiatives over the past three years. The



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meeting was organized by past and current United Arts board members from Duke Energy, Debbie Clements and Sharon Arroyo, who have been very involved in the development of ensuring the engagement of diverse communities with the arts because it ties into Duke Energy's strategic objectives. The workshops on target marketing to diverse populations, training, round-table discussions and this year's Diverse Programming Grants have had a significant impact. I am seeing some incredible, innovative, engaging programming being designed by our groups, and our community is a more inclusive one as a result of these efforts. These efforts will continue into next year, as

Duke Energy has invited us to submit another \$50,000 proposal to continue Diverse Programming Grants into 2018.

Lastly, I am so pleased that Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation prompted us to initiate a new annual award, the Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award. The award was presented at United Arts' Annual Meeting on June 28 to Jerry Hilbrich, former chair of the foundation and longtime supporter of United Arts. This new award gives us the opportunity to annually recognize a Central Florida philanthropic leader who is passionate about the arts.

The arts can only thrive through the active support of donors who continue to contribute year after year. Thank you to those who supported the collaborative *Campaign for the Arts* this year and continue to make our community a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
United Arts of Central Florida