



AJ PHOTOGRAPHY

BY FLORA MARIA GARCIA

Dear Cultural Supporter:

The Collaborative Campaign for the Arts concludes on April 30. We need your continued support to reach our most ambitious goal of \$2 million! So, please, if you've not yet made your contribution, make it now. You can easily give online by going to the United Arts website www.UnitedArts.cc—and don't forget, United Arts matches all designated gifts to cultural groups by 15 percent, making your support for the arts, through United Arts, go further!

Arts and culture are so critical to our community; your donations make the arts accessible to all Central Florida residents! In fact, our most recent data shows that more than 2.5 million residents and visitors attended cultural events hosted by organizations funded by United Arts. Furthermore, approximately 750,000 children in grades pre-K-12 participated in enrichment-based cultural events, many of which were curriculum specific. These experiences would not be possible without your continued and generous donations to United Arts. There is nothing more wonderful and fulfilling than to see a child's face light up as they experience the thrill and magic of live art events. Many of the children participating in United Arts-funded cultural experiences would not have been exposed to such opportunities otherwise. By contributing to the arts, you are directly investing in our communities and the future of our youth.

United Arts has had a terrific response from teachers and parents for the year-old arts education website, www.UAArtsEd.com, a component of www.OrlandoAtPlay.com, a comprehensive event website. The online directory of arts education programs and curriculum guides—including summer camp guides listed in this magazine—is in a user-

friendly format aimed at teachers and home-school parents, and covers activities in seven Central Florida counties.

In February we hosted, for a third time, the Orange County Principals Appreciation Breakfast in partnership with the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, which highlights the importance of the arts in schools and awards \$1,000 to three principals who support exemplary arts programs in elementary, middle and high schools. With the recent federal policy changes, made in late 2015 to include arts education into previously classified STEM curricula, we are so proud that Central Florida's own Orange County School District has an art teacher in every school! In May, for the very first time, we are thrilled to be able to sponsor a similar arts appreciation breakfast for principals in Osceola County, thanks to the generous support of Tupperware Brands Corporation—a longtime supporter of the arts and education.

None of these new initiatives that work toward making the arts accessible for all would be possible without the support of our government, corporate, and foundation partners, and especially individual donors like you. Help us continue to invest in our cultural institutions and our community by making a donation now at www.UnitedArts.cc. Any and every contribution makes all the difference! Many, many thanks to you, our wonderful donors, who help make Central Florida such a culturally rich place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

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

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
United Arts of Central Florida