

Dear Cultural Supporters:

While we continue to expand support for arts education initiatives making possible more than 140,000 student experiences each year in visual and performing arts, science and history, this September we started taking a closer look at programs that support our older residents.

Thanks to a new funding partner — **Bioclinica Research** (previously Compass Research), a local research facility dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by memory loss — we focused funding on arts programs that assist the senior population to express themselves through the arts.

The programs selected by Bioclinica Research included the “We Push, We Pull” clay class designed by **Osceola Arts**, which has partnered with the Osceola Council on Aging to deliver arts programming to older adult learners living in the Kissimmee, St. Cloud and Poinciana communities. The clay class uses various clay building techniques where students will be challenged to think creatively, enhance their dexterity, feel the accomplishment of creating art, and form friendships in a fun and welcoming environment.

Central Florida Community Arts’ The Musical Minds Choir consists of adults experiencing the early stages of memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. The care partners who accompany the choir members are welcome to sing with the choir or relax and enjoy the music. The choir provides members with an opportunity to meet others who are also living with similar memory-loss conditions, all while having some fun and exercising the brain. Research findings suggest that making music or simply listening to music



Flora Maria Garcia

can be a great way to stimulate the brain and help promote brain health.

Lastly, CityArts Factory — an art exhibition space managed by the **Downtown Arts District** in Orlando — hosted afternoon tea with seniors, which included an art talk facilitated by local artists.

These three wonderful programs are just the tip of the iceberg, when it comes to cultural groups offering programs for seniors. Given the success and remarkable responses by older adults to these initial programs, we will be seeking more funding partners to expand support for arts programming that engages seniors in meaningful ways, so please contact me if your company wishes

to align with programs that offer seniors connections with cultural experiences.

In the meantime, we are getting ready for the start of the “Early Bird” phase of the 2018 collaborative *Campaign for the Arts* with a kickoff Donors Party at the very artsy Grand Bohemian Hotel in downtown Orlando on Feb. 1, 2018, so please mark your calendars and join us for the fun! As always, I am so appreciative that our donor community has been so generous with its contributions to United Arts and the more than 70 groups we are now able to include in our funding.

Sincerely,

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
United Arts of Central Florida

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