

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
407.628.0333 x225

FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc

ARTS EDUCATION LEADERS HONOR UNITED ARTS EMPLOYEE

ORLANDO – AUGUST 11, 2017 – Grants and Arts Education Manager **Mary Giraulo** of United Arts of Central Florida has been named **community arts education professional of the year** by Florida Alliance for Arts Education, President & CEO **Flora Maria Garcia** announced today.

Giraulo received the award in recognition of her leadership and advocacy achievements related to arts education in schools. In addition to overseeing United Arts’ arts education programs, in 2016 Giraulo founded a Florida Alliance for Arts Education “**work-alike group**” of arts education managers at arts agencies throughout Florida. The group meets quarterly to discuss arts education programs and best practices for local arts agencies. Giraulo also serves on a United Arts-led team working to increase **culturally diverse arts education programming** in Central Florida schools.

“Mary is the best kind of expert – one who shares her expertise,” Garcia says. “Everyone wins, especially Florida’s schoolchildren.”

Florida Alliance for Arts Education brings together educators, artists, arts institutions, and other private and public stakeholders to ensure that the arts are part of every Florida child’s education. Giraulo accepted the award at Florida Alliance for Arts Education’s annual conference on June 23.

Scott Evans of Orange County Public Schools nominated Giraulo for the award. “United Arts and OCPS have enjoyed a **28-year partnership** focused on enhancing arts learning for our students,” says Evans, senior administrator of visual and performing arts for OCPS. “Mary contributes greatly to that success.”

An employee of United Arts since 2004, Giraulo is a magna cum laude graduate of Rollins College in vocal performance. She manages five United Arts programs that award approximately **\$1.47 million** annually to arts organizations and artists, supporting more than 70 cultural organizations through:

- **Arts and Culture Access Funding** – grants for teachers in Lake, Orange, Osceola or Seminole counties to fund programs from **UAArtsEd.com** for their classes; awarded throughout the school year until funding runs out.
- **Arts Learning Mini-Grants** – grants up to \$2,500 for Orange County arts education projects outside the school setting; three grant cycles a year.
- **Diverse Programming Grants** – grants up to \$5,000 to support programming designed for diverse audiences; three grant cycles a year.
- **Mini-Grants** – grants up to \$2,500 for cultural events; three grant cycles a year.
- **Operating Support Grants** – grants up to nine percent of an organization’s three-year average

revenue; awarded annually.

About United Arts' Arts Education Initiatives

United Arts' arts education funding provides arts access and arts education to students in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, and hosts the **principals art appreciation breakfasts** in both **Orange and Osceola counties**—and in Orange County, three “stellar” principals who support innovative, impactful arts programs in their schools.

Funding partnerships and the commitment of these school districts make the following possible:

More than **140,000** student experiences each year in visual and performing arts, science and history, including:

ALL 3rd, 4th & 5th graders in Orange County and all 5th graders in Osceola County went to the Young People's Concerts with Orlando Philharmonic

ALL 2nd graders in Orange County and all 3rd graders in Osceola County went to Intro to Ballet with Orlando Ballet

Funded by a special grant from Walt Disney World Resort through United Arts, all 8th graders attended live theater by Orlando Repertory Theatre at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

Additionally, new funding from **Dr. Phillips Charities**, Osceola County commissioners, the School District of Osceola County and Tupperware Brands infused arts programming into Osceola schools, reaching every K-12 public school in the county.

About United Arts of Central Florida

United Arts is a collaboration of individuals, businesses, governments and school districts, foundations, arts and cultural organizations, and artists. Its mission is to enrich communities by investing in arts, science and history. United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 70 local arts, science and history organizations. It raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services. Since 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$145 million in Central Florida's arts and culture.

For more information, visit <http://www.UnitedArts.cc> or call 407.628.0333. Please email FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc for comments or inquiries. You can follow United Arts of Central Florida on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and access the regional cultural events calendar at OrlandoAtPlay.com

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