

PRESS RELEASE

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BIOCLINICA RESEARCH FUNDS SENIOR ARTS PROGRAMMING

ORLANDO – SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 – United Arts of Central Florida has received \$6,900 in new funds from **Bioclinica Research** for arts programs dedicated to enriching the lives of Central Florida’s senior population.

The three arts programs supported by **Bioclinica Research** include a clay class called “We Push, We Pull” from **Osceola Arts**, the Musical Minds Choir from **Central Florida Community Arts**, and a tea for seniors hosted by the **Downtown Arts District** at the CityArts Factory.

“Bioclinica Research is a local research facility dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by memory loss and we look to partner with local organizations that help the senior population express themselves through the arts,” said the Bioclinica Research Network COO Sean Stanton. “Through our community efforts, we identified that United Arts of Central Florida has the same mission as Bioclinica; to continue enriching the lives of our senior citizens.”

Osceola Arts has partnered with the Osceola Council on Aging to deliver arts programs to older adult learners living in the Kissimmee, St. Cloud, and Poinciana communities. The clay class offered by Osceola Arts will use 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. The classes began on Friday, September 1, are offered in eight sessions, and will include a conversation-based gallery tour, scheduled art exhibits at Osceola Arts, and a 90-minute on-site and interactive art-making experience provided by a teaching artist. The clay class has been received in the local community with such enthusiasm that “We Push, We Pull” is completely booked weeks in advance.

The Musical Minds Choir from Central Florida Community Arts will serve adults experiencing the early stages of memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer’s disease. The choir members are asked to be accompanied by their care partners, who are welcome to sing with the choir or relax and enjoy the music. Being a member of the Musical Minds Choir will provide seniors with an opportunity to meet others who are also living with memory loss, while having some fun and exercising the brain. Research findings suggest that being part of making music or simply listening to music can be a great way to stimulate the brain and help promote brain health. Rehearsals will commence this fall on Wednesday,

September 13 and will take place in the mornings from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If interested in participating with the Musical Minds Choir please contact Terry Lulofs at musicalminds@cfcarts.com.

The third program will be an afternoon tea at the CityArts Factory, an art exhibition space managed by the Downtown Arts District in Orlando. There will be an art talk facilitated by several resident artists, a guided tour of the gallery, and a time for participants to enjoy light fare and a variety of teas. Space is limited. Date is tentative for early October. If interested in this program please contact the CityArts Factory at 407.648.7060.

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](#).

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