

PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARD RECOGNIZES ARTS LEADERS

ORLANDO – JUNE 9, 2017 – United Arts has established the **Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award** with a grant from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. The annual award honors outstanding community leaders who support the arts, President & CEO **Flora Maria Garcia** announced today.

“This new award gives us the opportunity to annually recognize a community philanthropic leader who has demonstrated passionate support for arts and culture -- and for United Arts,” Garcia says.

The Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award comes with a **\$5,000 gift** that each year’s recipient will give to the arts and cultural nonprofit of his or her choice. The group selected by the honoree must be a United Arts **Operating Support Grant** recipient in the year of the award. (Current Operating Support grantees are listed below.)

Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation President **David Odahowski** says, “The foundation exists to make Central Florida a better place to live. The Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award recognizes people in the philanthropic community who share our founder’s vision.” Established in 1973 by Winter Park philanthropist Edyth Bush, the foundation has awarded some 3,500 grants totaling more than \$107 million to nonprofit organizations in Central Florida.

United Arts’ Operating Support Grants support programming by cultural nonprofits, increasing the variety of cultural experiences available to Central Florida residents and visitors. This comprehensive grant program recognizes the high value of arts and culture for our region and the established institutions that provide programming year round. Thirty-eight organizations received Operating Support Grants for 2017. Funds for Operating Support Grants come from United Arts’ *Arts for ALL* Fund.

United Arts will announce the inaugural winner of the Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award at its June 28 annual meeting at Enzian Theater.

These arts and cultural nonprofits are 2017 Operating Support Grant recipients:

- Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens
- Art & History Museums—Maitland
- Asian Cultural Association
- Bach Festival Society of Winter Park
- Bay Street Players

- Central Florida Ballet
- Central Florida Community Arts
- Crealdé School of Art
- Downtown Arts District
- Enzian
- Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra
- Garden Theatre
- Global Peace Film Festival
- Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center
- Lake Eustis Museum of Art
- Leesburg Center for the Arts
- Melon Patch Players
- Mennello Museum of American Art
- MicheLee Puppets
- Mount Dora Center for the Arts
- Opera Orlando
- Orange County Regional History Center
- Orlando Ballet
- Orlando Fringe
- Orlando Gay Chorus
- Orlando Museum of Art
- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
- Orlando Repertory Theatre
- Orlando Science Center
- Orlando Shakespeare Theater
- Osceola County Historical Society
- Performing Arts of Maitland
- Steinway Society
- Timucua Arts Foundation
- Urban Think Foundation
- Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center
- Winter Garden Heritage Foundation
- Winter Park Historical Association

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 \$141 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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