



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS \$1.48 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

ORLANDO – Dec. 13, 2016 – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels to award \$1,480,000 in Operating Support Grants to 38 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions. The total grant pool was \$80,000 more than prior year.

“The Board is delighted that the success of our fundraising campaign has allowed us to significantly increase our grants and provide vital support for cultural organizations,” stated Jean Grono-Nowry, EVP & CFO, Massey Services, and Chair of United Arts’ Board of Directors. “We will continue to focus on increasing the grant pool to support high-quality programming in art, theater, dance, music, science and history for all of Central Florida.”

Operating support is essential funding for nonprofits, by funding a portion of their entire season of operations and programming, thus allowing them to offer free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences for the public. As organizations grow, the need for this funding increases. This year, the available grant pool, which is supported by gifts to United Arts’ *Arts for ALL* Fund, fulfilled only 45% of total requests.

The value of these grants is clear: in 2016, United Arts’ Operating Support Grants helped 39 arts organizations mount 4,222 exhibitions and productions, provide arts access and arts education to 892,211 students, offer 1,530,172 free tickets, and attract 2,700,907 visits. These grants support 283 full-time and 483 part-time staff positions, as well as 12,331 artists.

United Arts’ tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on operating budget size: Small (\$25,000 - \$249,999), Midsize (\$250,000 - \$899,999) and Large (\$900,000 and over). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer reviewers, which includes artistic discipline experts, nonprofit experts, corporate and foundation funders, community leaders who attend the arts frequently and United Arts’ board members. Panelists conduct in-depth site visits and attend cultural events year round, produced by the groups they are reviewing. Combined, they volunteer more than 1,500 hours annually to this process.

Panelist John Phelan said, “It has been a wonderful journey, experiencing the diverse, creative arts community of Central Florida. I applaud United Arts of Central Florida not just for its financial support of the arts but also for its programs and workshops that are so vital to developing fundamentally strong arts organizations and creating a sense of unity among organizations.”

The grant review process is highly competitive and based on a 100-point evaluation system covering Artistic Merit (40%), Management & Fiscal Responsibility (35%), and Service to the Community (25%). This year, the grant review included an increased emphasis on diversity, including points designated for board diversity and for target marketing to diverse communities. Panels are starting to see organizations respond and become more reflective of the community in their programming, boards and audiences. This will be a continued focus in the coming years.

Detailed reports for each applicant organization were presented at the full panel meetings and included a financial analysis by a CPA. Total scores are used to rank applicant organizations within their budget category. For their final award recommendations, panelists take into account the history of prior funding for each applicant organization, while greatest consideration is given to the score ranking based on the panel's review.

"Thanks to our dedicated panel volunteers, the panel review process provides high-quality feedback for each applicant organization," said Kate Wilson, SVP, Community Affairs Manager — Florida, Wells Fargo Government and Community Relations, and Chair of United Arts' Standards & Allocations Committee. "Every year, we see our cultural community become stronger through the process."

The Operating Support Grant deadline was at the end of August 2016; final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in November and approved by the United Arts' Board on December 7, 2016. Grants cover cultural programs from January 1 through December 31, 2017. The Operating Support Grant program is one of more than six United Arts funding programs, including designated giving secured through the collaborative *Campaign for the Arts*; match dollars provided by United Arts' Trustees and corporate donors; and contracts for services supporting educational programming.

2017 Operating Support Grants – Program Descriptions

Awards for Calendar Year 2017 activities

LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Art & History Museums—Maitland (FY17 Award \$42,356) offers immersive art & history experiences in its five museums. A&H's largest museum is the Maitland Art Center, a 1937 artist colony and National Historic Landmark. Programs include artist residencies, exhibitions, and hands-on learning events.

Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (FY17 Award \$61,370) is a historic organization that presents a full season of choral and orchestral programming, outreach performances, and youth and adult education programs that celebrate the work and legacy of J.S. Bach.

Crealdé School of Art (FY17 Award \$61,342) offers 125 visual art classes for all ages, scholarships and free classes to those in need, programs for emerging artists, and multidisciplinary exhibitions and educational events that promote cultural appreciation.

Downtown Arts District (DAD) (FY17 Award \$22,883) leads the development of a vibrant arts and cultural district in downtown Orlando. DAD serves the community by managing cultural facilities, supporting public art projects and providing arts engagement programs.

Enzian (FY17 Award \$45,164) is a community cinema that screens hundreds of films combined with a unique dining experience all year long. Special programs include seminars, guest artists, educational programs, and film festivals for minority and underserved audiences.

Garden Theatre (FY17 Award \$27,268) is a professional performing arts center with culturally-diverse and unique programming that includes innovative live theater, concerts, dance, movies and impactful education outreach programs benefitting underserved youth.

Orange County Regional History Center (FY17 Award \$27,070), located in downtown Orlando, displays the Historical Society of Central Florida's collection of historical artifacts on four floors of permanent exhibits that describe the region's 12,000-year history.

Orlando Ballet (FY17 Award \$176,100) is the only resident ballet company in Central Florida that performs a complete season of full-length ballets, new works and non-traditional programs. The Ballet strives to appeal to traditional patrons and new audiences.

Orlando Fringe (FY17 Award \$26,164) seeks to provide an accessible, affordable outlet that draws diverse elements of the community together and inspires creative excellence through the arts. Free and ticketed experiences are available for patrons of all ages.

Orlando Museum of Art (FY17 Award \$135,162) serves as a center for cultural engagement, presents compelling art for the public to experience, and positively affects people's lives with innovative and inspiring education and outreach programs.

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (FY17 Award \$197,693) provides high-quality symphonic musical performances to Central Florida residents and visitors. The 2017-18 season will be the 25th anniversary of this illustrious organization.

Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY17 Award \$114,860), Florida's only professional theatre producing exclusively Theatre for Young Audiences, produces a season of 10+ plays/musicals/concerts; three fully staged youth performances; and camps, classes and engagement programs.

Orlando Science Center (FY17 Award \$168,386) is a nonprofit informal education museum whose mission is to Inspire Science Learning for Life. The Science Center provides iconic learning experiences through hands-on exhibits, outreach, and larger-than-life demonstrations.

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF (FY17 Award \$153,682) produces classic, contemporary, and children's plays through its Signature Series and Children's Series, in addition to educational programming, community outreach, and new play festival, PlayFest.

MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY17 Award \$15,100) features guided tours of the world-renowned Czech-American sculptor's home and studio, his exquisite works of art, and serene gardens as well as the restored 1885 Capen-Showalter House.

Bay Street Players (FY17 Award \$8,100) is starting its 42nd Season with a combination of shows to please all audiences. From *M.A.S.H.* to *Cabaret* on the Main Stage to *The Little Mermaid* and *Spamalot* in the Young People's Theater, this season will be one of BSP's most successful.

Central Florida Ballet (FY17 Award \$21,500): Innovative ballet productions, educational programs, and international partnerships are the keystones of this organization with glowing recognition from ABC News, CNN, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Central Florida Community Arts (FY17 Award \$19,900) has creative programs that include: adult & youth orchestras; adult & youth choirs; black box theater; a wide variety of youth programs; a school for performing arts; and performing arts-based health and wellness programs.

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (FY17 Award \$14,200) remains one of Florida's oldest arts organizations. Since its inception in 1957, FSYO has grown into four ensembles and prides itself on being the premier youth orchestra in Central Florida.

Mennello Museum of American Art (FY17 Award \$10,200) celebrates the diversity and value of Great American Art, presenting a dynamic 2017 season that includes sculpture, painting, photography, drawing, and installation with five exceptional exhibitions.

Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center (FY17 Award \$29,500) is dedicated to combating all forms of bigotry and prejudice with the goal of developing a moral and just community. The 2017 Season includes exhibits, films, lectures, Holocaust commemoration and community programs open to all.

MicheLee Puppets (FY17 Award \$9,700), Florida's only educational puppetry arts organization and nationally awarded by Puppeteers of America, delivers original, issue-based shows and workshops in schools and public venues throughout Florida.

Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY17 Award \$13,700) serves the community by fostering an appreciation of art and culture through diverse exhibits of original art, educational programs for adults and children and the nationally recognized Mount Dora Arts Festival.

Osceola County Historical Society (FY17 Award \$4,000) preserves and shares Osceola County history with the community's residents and visitors, offering a variety of educational and social programs to foster appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center (FY17 Award \$6,600) has a mission to preserve and operate a historic theater in order to offer quality entertainment, foster regional talent, deepen appreciation for the performing arts and be an economic driver for Seminole County.

SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Cultural Association (FY17 Award \$4,804) breaks down ethnic barriers and joins together audiences of all backgrounds through the presentation of various art forms from the Indian subcontinent, including visual art exhibits, exotic music concerts, and film.

Global Peace Film Festival (FY17 Award \$5,943) uses creative media as a catalyst to inspire positive change in communities. Not a passive experience, GPF promotes community awareness of and engagement for peace and environmental sustainability.

Lake Eustis Museum of Art (FY17 Award \$2,731), Lake County's first art museum, is dedicated to the exhibition and collection of fine art and the presentation of museum-quality art education programming to enrich culture and enhance the economic development of our diverse community.

Leesburg Center for the Arts (FY17 Award \$5,063) exists for the purpose of promoting growth and vitality to the community by providing art education for all ages, cultural events for the community, and a central location attracting artists, musicians and appreciative audiences.

Melon Patch Players (FY17 Award \$3,470) are entering their 65th season of providing live stage performances in the historic Melon Patch Theatre. Performances run the gamut of dramas, comedies and musicals, with a focus on educating youth in the theatrical arts.

Opera Orlando (FY17 Award \$4,666) produces entertaining, thought-provoking, moving theatrical works of the highest artistic quality; a company that creatively fuses various genres and mediums to engender a community excited about the arts.

Orlando Gay Chorus (FY17 Award \$7,111) inspires individuals, the community and the world through excellence in musical entertainment. Celebrating 26 years, Orlando Gay Chorus uses music to bring our community together and make the world a better place.

Performing Arts of Maitland (FY17 Award \$4,670) became a City of Maitland Cultural Partner and 501(C)3 in 2006. Its focus is to bring the local community together, offer volunteer opportunities, and educate/inspire the public through the performing arts.

Steinway Society (FY17 Award \$7,063) provides keyboards, refurbished pianos, and free piano lessons for economically and culturally disadvantaged children. The Society also sponsors concerts, recitals, workshops and master classes for the benefit of the general public.

Timucua Arts Foundation (FY17 Award \$2,601) presents and inspires great music and art through weekly free concerts at its “white house” venue, music composition lessons in its “Works with Sounds” program, and fosters three constituent presenting organizations.

Urban Think Foundation (FY17 Award \$8,535), the parent organization for Page 15 and Burrow Press, provides community-based programs that enrich Orlando’s literary landscape such as youth writing and tutoring programs, literary publishing, writers’ workshops, and more.

Winter Garden Heritage Foundation (FY17 Award \$6,883) has programs that foster appreciation of the social, cultural, economic, and ecological changes that have shaped West Orange County, providing experiences that enhance community life and stimulate economic development.

Winter Park Historical Association (DBA Winter Park History Museum) (FY17 Award \$4,460) operates the city history museum, preserves city archives and promotes the city's rich history through engaging exhibitions, lectures and diversified outreach programs.

Panelists for 2017 Operating Support Grants

Large Budget Category

Kate Wilson (Ex Officio – Chair), SVP, Community Affairs Manager – Florida, Wells Fargo

Daniel J. O’Keefe (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.

Scott Evans, Coordinator, Visual & Performing Arts, Orange County Public Schools

Stephanie Ghertner, Director, Darden Restaurants Foundation & Community Affairs

Dr. Charles Griffin, Composer

Anita Henri, Area Development Director, United Negro College Fund

Dianne Hopstetter, Fundraising Consultant, The Garnett Group

Dr. Stacey Johnson, President, Valencia College, East & Winter Park Campuses

Mark Jones, Senior Vice President, Orlando Health; President, Orlando Regional Medical Center

Melba Luciano, former Superintendent, Osceola County Public Schools

Jim MacPhee, Senior Vice President, Walt Disney World Parks

Hope McMath, former Director, The Cummer Museum of Art

Gerard Mitchell, Owner, The Social, The Beacham Foundation Presents

Diane O’Dell, VP, Community Relations, Universal Orlando Resort

John Phelan, Show Director, Creative Entertainment, Walt Disney World

Gail Rayos, Manager, Central Florida, Wragg & Casas

Dr. Richard Sandler, Nemours Children's Hospital & UCF

Tom Vazzana, Creative Director, Walt Disney World

Midsized Budget Category

Penelope Perez-Kelly (Ex Officio – Chair), Attorney, Fisher Rushmer, P.A.

John Webb (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Strombeck Consulting CPA's

John Almeida, Associate Professor, UCF Music

Andrea Cox, Executive Director, Art & History Museums – Maitland
Biff Godfrey, Attorney, Godfrey Legal; former board, Orlando Shakespeare Theater
Ha’Ani Hogan, Development Manager, Downtown Arts District
Jenny Logus, former Director for the Broadway Dance Centre in NYC
Amy Painter, Executive Director, Leesburg Center for the Arts
Pennisu Richardson, Chief of Staff, Lake Nona Institute
Laiz Rodriguez, President, Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce
Lisette St. Hilaire, Senior Account Manager, iHeartMedia
Sara Van Arsdel, Former Executive Director, Orange County Regional History Center
Dorcas Williams, Marketing Strategy Manager, Walt Disney World Resort

Small Budget Category

S. Brendan Lynch (Ex Officio – Chair), Shareholder, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.
Carolyn Binder (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, LLC
Ellie Potts Barrett, Choreographer
Marilyn Cortes-Lovato, Visual Arts Director, Osceola Arts
Andrea DeLoach, Attorney, DeLoach Consulting
Julia Gagne, retired Chair of Theater Department, Valencia College; Director
Hollie Mahadeo, former General Manager, Enzian
Susan Mitchell, former grants & marketing, Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center
Andrew Sandall, Executive Director, The Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona Beach
John Upperco, board member, Mennello Museum of American Art
Joshua Vickery, Executive Director, Central Florida Community Arts
Heide Evans Waldron, Executive Director, Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra
Conny Williamson, Production Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator, The Winter Park Playhouse
Jonathan Yubi, Founder & Publisher, Artborne Magazine

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 60 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.

More information is available at www.UnitedArts.cc or by calling 407-628-0333. Please email FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc for comments or inquiries.

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