

PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS AND ARTS LEARNING MINI-GRANTS

ORLANDO – July 13, 2016 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its February cycle of Mini-Grants and of Arts Learning Mini-Grants. One organization was awarded \$500 in the third cycle of Mini-Grants and four organizations were awarded \$9,311 for the Arts Learning Mini-Grant.

Mini-Grants

United Arts reaches out to grassroots and multicultural organizations through its Mini-Grants program. The program has three deadlines per year, a short application and one-month turnaround from submission to grant decision. Seventy-one percent of grantees received their first grant from United Arts through this program, and 39% are culturally diverse organizations.

This cycle's grant recipient is:

The College Park Neighborhood Arts & Theatre Center – Awarded \$500 for its production *Lark Eden*. The play by Natalie Symons will be performed for seniors at nursing home and rehab centers in Orange County. This provides an opportunity for audiences who are shut-in and would otherwise not be able to attend a performance.

Funding for the Mini-Grant program for the period of July 1 – June 30 has been fully awarded. The next application deadline with funding available is 5:00 p.m., August 1, 2016. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year.

Arts Learning Mini-Grants

United Arts expands opportunities for arts education to the wider community through its Arts Engagement Mini-Grants program. The program has been instrumental in implementing new programs for at-risk youth, Spanish-speaking actors, senior citizens, and toddlers. United Arts supports art for all ages.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

Crealdé School of Art – Awarded \$2,500 for *Hands-On Inspiration: Visual Art Sampler*. Now entering its second year, this program enhances the quality of life of Day Break participants (adults with decreased physical, mental or social abilities) through art-making. Participants will create fine art work such as sculpting, painting, memory shadow boxes and more. At the end of the program's cycle, Crealdé will curate an exhibition of participant artwork at Day Break to share with family and friends.

Florida Humanities Council – Awarded \$2,500 for *Telling: Orlando*. In conjunction with the

nationally based Telling Project, the Florida Humanities Council will create a series of stage performances based on the stories of veterans and their family members. These oral histories will then be crafted into a script to be used for staged performances featuring veterans and family members. Each performance will include a talk-back session between the audience members and a panel of experts including scholars, mental health professionals, military officers, and veterans.

Orlando Museum of Art – Awarded \$2,300 for *Art with Purpose* in partnership with the Zebra Coalition. Art with Purpose delivers art education and art therapy to at-risk LGBT youth ages 13-24 who struggle with issues of low self-esteem, homelessness, and substance abuse. Participants will engage in visual journaling exercises exploring topics of self-identity, and will utilize various art media to illustrate their personal narratives. Participants will visit OMA 4 times for guided tours and to engage in a related studio art activity. Participant artwork will be displayed twice yearly in OMA's Dr. P. Phillips Gallery. A Zebra licensed mental health counselor attends all sessions and assists with discussions.

Urban Think Foundation – Awarded \$2,011 for two-week expansion of Page 15's Young Writers Summer Camps in Parramore. During each half day camp, students learn the elements of creative writing as they write and illustrate their very own book. This year's camp theme and writing activities will focus on cultural heritage, specifically African and Caribbean heritage. Through a new partnership with My Heritage Book, each child will explore their unique family heritage while writing their very own stories and poems.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of (newly named) Arts Learning Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., August 1, 2016. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year.

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 unite, strengthen and inspire the Central Florida community through arts and culture. United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 50 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 \$136 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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