

PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS AT ANNUAL MEETING

ORLANDO – JUNE 29, 2017 – Sharing success stories, honoring key supporters and making surprise announcements took center stage at United Arts of Central Florida’s **annual board of directors meeting** on June 28.

The meeting at Enzian in Maitland opened with board Chair **Jean Grono-Nowry** recognizing United Arts’ diversity initiatives and funding partnerships with Dr. Phillips Charities, JPMorgan Chase Foundation and Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. President & CEO **Flora Maria Garcia** followed with her year-in-review report, noting that United Arts’ 2017 collaborative *Campaign for the Arts* surpassed its goal, generating **\$2.088 million** in support of Central Florida arts and culture organizations. Since its creation in 1989, United Arts has awarded more than **\$145 million** to cultural nonprofits.

Garcia also reported on successful arts-education initiatives supported by United Arts. In Orange County, these include **Evans High School’s** Career Pathways to Creative Sector Jobs program, funded by JPMorgan Chase Foundation, and countywide **eighth-grade field trips** to Orlando Repertory Theatre performances at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, funded by Walt Disney World Resort. Osceola County initiatives include the pre-K-12 **Arts Enrichment Program**, funded by Dr. Phillips Charities, and bringing Career Pathways to the **Boggy Creek STEAM high school** opening in 2018, funded by JPMorgan Chase Foundation. United Arts continues emphasizing programming that reaches diverse audiences, Garcia said, with projects such as Garden Theatre’s telenovela-inspired *Destiny of Desire* production.

Surprise announcements included grants recently awarded for next year’s programs:

- \$100,000 from **Dr. Phillips Charities**, funding Osceola County’s Arts Enrichment Program for the 2017-18 school year, with an additional \$100,000 match from Osceola Arts, Osceola County Commissioners, the School District of Osceola County and Tupperware Brands
- \$35,000 from **Wells Fargo** to support overall arts-education initiatives
- \$25,000 from **Bank of America** to support United Arts programs

“United Arts continues each year to broaden its reach to new audiences, expand arts education initiatives and support innovative programming throughout Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties,” Garcia said.

In other business, the board approved four new officers to the Executive Committee -- Chair **Kate Wilson**, Wells Fargo; Vice Chair **Stephanie Ghertner**, Darden Foundation; Chair of Standards & Allocations **Mark Jones**, Orlando Health; and Vice Chair, Standards & Allocations **Brandon Lynch**,

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed. The board also approved six new members, who will serve three-year terms: **Suresh Gupta**, Park Square Homes; **Samí Haiman-Marrero**, Urbander Marketing Firm; **Malika Harrison**, Orlando Magic; **Byron Knibbs**, OUC, The Reliable One; **Maria Ruiz Margenot**, Wyndham Vacation Ownership; and **The Honorable Belvin Perry Jr.**, Morgan & Morgan.

Outgoing Chair **Grono-Nowry** recognized community leaders who have made a difference in Central Florida's arts and culture landscape. Outgoing United Arts board members **Linda Landman Gonzalez** of Orlando Magic and **Tony Jenkins** of Florida Blue received special recognition for their many years of service, which included chairing United Arts for two terms each. **Gerald "Jerry" Hilbrich**, past chair of Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, received the inaugural **Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award**, an honor accompanied by a \$5,000 gift for the arts and cultural nonprofit of Hilbrich's choice -- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra.

"Jerry's contributions of time, treasure and talent to the arts are so significant that we not only make him the first recipient of this annual award, but we have named the award after him," Grono-Nowry says. Grono-Nowry herself was honored for her longtime service on the United Arts board.

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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