



# PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:**

Flora Maria Garcia  
President & CEO  
407-628-0333 x225

[FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc)

## ***UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT FROM THE DARDEN FOUNDATION***

ORLANDO, FL – December 12, 2016 — United Arts of Central Florida was recently awarded a \$250,000 Arts and Cultural Community Support Grant — a \$50,000 increase from last year — from the Darden Foundation, the charitable giving entity sponsored by Darden Restaurants. United Arts is organized and operated exclusively for cultural and educational purposes to further programs in the arts, science and history in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Funding from the Darden Foundation supports United Arts’ goal of supporting an array of thriving and diverse Central Florida-based nonprofit cultural organizations to enrich the lives of residents and visitors.

“Darden Restaurants, and the Darden Foundation, strives to have an enduring and positive influence on the communities we serve,” said Stephanie Ghertner, director of the Darden Foundation. “In keeping with that focus, we’re pleased to extend this grant to United Arts to support the tremendous work they do throughout Central Florida.”

“We are very grateful for another substantial donation from the Darden Foundation,” said Jean Grono-Nowry, Chair of the United Arts Board of Directors. “Darden continues to generously support United Arts and we are fortunate to have such an exceptional partner. Their strong dedication to the arts is a reflection of their commitment to enriching our Central Florida community.”

Outlined below are specific campaigns, programs and initiatives that — with the Darden Foundation’s support, coupled with United Arts’ expertise, oversight, and management — will continue to enhance the total arts and cultural community in Central Florida:

**Operating Support Grants** fund large, midsize and small cultural institutions over \$25,000 in operating budget. Operating funds are critical to the support of cultural groups since they are unrestricted and can cover the costs of keeping the doors open as well as funding artistic and other key personnel. This allows them to offer free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences for the public.

**Mini-Grants** are small grants of up to \$2,500 that are available to nonprofit organizations with operating budgets less than \$25,000 or larger organizations that produce one event per year, such as a fair or festival.

**Arts Education Event Website**, [UAArtsEd.com](http://UAArtsEd.com) provides a singular digital resource where public, private

and home school educators and administrators can learn about arts education programs.

**Events Website**, [OrlandoAtPlay.com](http://OrlandoAtPlay.com) serves Central Florida and showcases arts and cultural events and experiences throughout the seven-county region.

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**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](http://www.UnitedArts.cc) or by calling 407-628-0333. Please email [FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc) for comments or inquiries.

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