

PRESS RELEASE



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United Arts of Central Florida Receives \$200,000 Grant From The Darden Restaurants Foundation

ORLANDO, Fla. – November 10, 2015 – United Arts of Central Florida was recently awarded a \$200,000 **Arts and Cultural Community Support Grant** from the Darden Restaurants Foundation to continue the ongoing objectives and priorities of the organization. United Arts provides support to Central Florida’s arts and cultural communities with direct funding through competitive grants, arts education contracts for services, collaborative fundraising, capacity building and technical assistance opportunities for more than 50 cultural groups as well as individual artists.

“Darden is proud to be a long-term supporter of United Arts and we’ve seen firsthand the tremendous contributions the organization has made to the cultural enrichment of Central Florida,” said Stephanie Ghertner, Director of the Darden Restaurants Foundation. “We’re pleased to provide this gift to ensure United Arts remains a valuable resource for championing the arts in our community.”

“We are extremely grateful for this generous donation from Darden Restaurants Foundation”, said Jean Grono-Nowry, Chairwoman of the United Arts Board of Directors. “They have been a leading supporter of United Arts for many years and we are very fortunate to be the beneficiary of organizations like Darden who have a strong dedication to the arts and to enriching our Central Florida community.”

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

The Operating Support Grants process includes a comprehensive evaluation that provides accountability as well as recommendations for strengthening the organizations. Cultural nonprofits can apply in one of three budget-size categories; small, medium, and large. Each organization is assessed on artistic merit, management, fiscal responsibility and service to the community by a “citizens review panel” of 12-15 individuals with expertise in these areas.

Mini-Grants, small grants of up to \$2,500, are open to nonprofit organizations with operating budgets under \$25,000. These simple grants support “community based groups,” many of which are ethnic specific.

Arts Education Event Website, UAArtsEd.com provides a singular location where public, private and home school educators and administrators can learn about arts education programs available to school-age children as well as family-friendly events and camps for children of all ages.

Events Website, OrlandoAtPlay.com serves Central Florida and showcases arts and cultural events and experiences throughout the seven-county region. The site allows users to search for events by genre, location and date. Content can also be shared via an RSS feed. Weekly newsletters go out to subscribers highlighting special offerings and discounted events for the week. The site attracts visitors from all over the world and enjoys a user demographic that spans all age ranges.

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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 through the arts, science and history.

United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 50 local arts, sciences and history organizations. It raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services.

Now in its 27th year of service to the Central Florida community and regional host of the collaborative *Campaign for the Arts*, power2give.org and OrlandoAtPlay.com, United Arts has invested more than \$136 million in local organizations and education since its founding in 1989.

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