



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

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UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS \$1.4 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

ORLANDO – Dec. 15, 2015 – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels composed of 38 volunteer-reviewers to award \$1,400,000 in operating support grants to 39 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions.

“The Board is pleased to approve the recommendations from the competitive review process and to make these awards to such worthy cultural organizations,” stated Jean Grono-Nowry, Chair, United Arts Board of Directors. “Congratulations to our region’s cultural leaders who consistently deliver the highest quality programming in art, theatre, dance, music, science and history to our residents and visitors alike.”

Recognizing the need of most nonprofit institutions for operating support, United Arts’ tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on Operating Budget size: Small (\$25,000 - \$249,999), Midsize (\$250,000 - \$749,999) and Large (\$750,000 and over). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer-reviewers which include 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 events year round produced by the groups they are reviewing. Combined, they volunteered more than 1,500 hours to the review and awards process.

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%). 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 can take into account the history of prior funding for each applicant organization, while greatest consideration is given to the objective ranking system based on the panel’s review. The panels are also focused on funding fairness and equity within budget categories.

“Each panel was well prepared and engaged in thorough and robust conversations about applicant organizations,” said Kate Wilson, Chair of United Arts Standards and Allocations Committee. “I am pleased that the volunteer-reviewers rewarded the organizations with the highest rankings with increased funding based on an objective ranking system.”

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The Operating Support grant deadline was at the end of August 2015; final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in November and approved by the United Arts Board on December 9. Grants cover cultural programs from January 1 through December 31, 2016. 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* and *power2give.org*; match dollars provided by United Arts' Trustees and corporate donors; and contracts for services supporting educational programming.

2016 Operating Support Grants – Program Descriptions

Requests for Calendar Year 2016 funding

LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Art & History Museums-Maitland (FY16 Award \$39,130) offers immersive museum experiences. Its 1937 artist colony is a National Historic Landmark with engagement through artist residencies, art instruction and exhibitions. Historical museums feature hands-on history & a site on the National Register.

Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (FY16 Award \$59,300) 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 (FY16 Award \$58,000) 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) (FY16 Award \$19,830) provides leadership for the development of a vibrant arts and cultural district in downtown Orlando. DAD serves the community by supporting cultural venues, public art projects and providing arts engagement programs.

Enzian (FY16 Award \$36,330) is a community cinema that screens hundreds of films combined with a unique dining experience all year long. Special programs include seminars, guest artists, education programs, and film festivals for minority and underserved audiences.

Garden Theatre (FY16 Award \$25,000) is a professional performing arts venue that hosts an innovative mix of theatrical productions, concerts, dance, movies and educational programs based on artistic excellence with regional, national and international impact.

Mad Cow Theatre (FY16 Award \$18,540) —the only professional theatre company in downtown Orlando—celebrates its 19th year, producing ten plays and musicals, the Orlando Cabaret Festival, the Science Play Festival, Teatro Espanol, and educational and community events.

Orange County Regional History Center (FY16 Award \$25,000), located in downtown Orlando, displays the Historical Society of Central Florida's collection of historical artifacts in 4 floors of permanent exhibits that describe the region's 12,000-year history.

Orlando Ballet (FY16 Award \$176,100) is one of the premiere ballet companies in the southeast and the only residential, professional dance company in Central Florida. Orlando Ballet presents cutting-edge works by today's choreographers as well as the beloved classics.

Orlando Museum of Art (FY16 Award \$148,800) 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 (FY16 Award \$195,500) is the resident professional symphony in Central Florida. The OPO performs symphonic music with world-renowned guest artists while also providing strong educational outreach programs to the community.

Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY16 Award \$98,640), Florida's only professional theatre producing exclusively Theatre for Young Audiences, produces a season of 10+ plays/musicals/concerts, 3 fully staged youth performances, and camps, classes, and engagement programs.

Orlando Science Center's (FY16 Award \$160,130) mission is to Inspire Science Learning for Life. The Science Center has provided iconic learning experiences through hands-on exhibits and larger than life demonstrations since our founding in 1955.

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF (**FY16 Award \$149,700**) produces classic, contemporary, and children's plays through its Signature Series and Children's Series, in addition to its Educational Programming, Outreach, and new play festival, PlayFest.

MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY16 Award \$11,000) hosts the 1949 home and artist's studio of acclaimed sculptor, Albin Polasek, and the historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House, enriching lives through the power of inspiration in History, Nature, and Art.

Bay Street Players (FY16 Award \$6,000) has just celebrated its 40th Anniversary of providing live stage performances in the historic State Theater. Performances run the gambit of dramas, comedies and musicals with a focus on our Young People's Theater (ages 7-17).

Central Florida Ballet (FY16 Award \$15,000): Innovative ballet productions, educational programs, and international partnerships are the keystones of this organization with glowing recognition from ABC News, CNN, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Central Florida Community Arts (FY16 Award \$12,000) is a young organization making a huge community impact with its Adult and Youth Community Orchestras, Adult and Youth Community Choirs, Musical Theater for all ages, Summer Camps, and the School of Performing Arts!

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (FY16 Award \$11,000) 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.

Holocaust Center (FY16 Award \$18,000) is dedicated to creating a more just community by combating anti-Semitism, racism and prejudice. The goal is to teach the principles of good citizenship through its extensive outreach of educational and cultural programs.

MicheLee Puppets (FY16 Award \$7,000) empowers lives through the art of puppetry. Entertaining and educational issue-based productions address the challenges children and youth face today. Since 1985 they have reached 2 million PreK-12th grade students.

Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY16 Award \$10,000) serves the community by providing diverse exhibits of original art, educational programs and classes for adults and children and it produces a nationally recognized fine arts festival.

Orlando Fringe (FY16 Award \$16,000) has a mission to provide an accessible, affordable outlet that draws diverse elements of the community together and inspires creative excellence through the arts. It is the oldest festival of its kind in the US, celebrating 25 years.

Osceola County Historical Society (FY16 Award \$6,000) 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.

The Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center's (FY16 Award \$4,000) mission is 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 in Seminole County.

The Winter Park Playhouse (FY16 Award \$9,000) is Central Florida's only professional musical theatre and is dedicated to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by producing uplifting musicals, cabarets and outreach programs.

SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Cultural Association (FY16 Award \$4,690) 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.

Florida Opera Theatre (FOT) (FY16 Award \$4,600) is a Central Florida professional opera company dedicated to producing quality opera performances. FOT is a full-service opera company offering a range of performances, special events and educational opportunities.

Global Peace Film Festival (FY16 Award \$5,670) 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.

HAPCO Music Foundation (FY16 Award \$1,770) is dedicated to raise the awareness of the importance of arts and music. Working directly to support educational arts programs in exposing youth to the arts and obtaining resources for participating in arts activities.

Lake Eustis Museum of Art (LEMA) (FY16 Award \$3,470), 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 (FY16 Award \$4,790) promotes growth and vitality to the community through arts education for all ages, cultural events and as a gathering place for artists, musicians, and appreciative audiences.

Melon Patch Players (MP) (FY16 Award \$3,470) will present 6 main stage shows in The 2015-2016 Season. Entering its 65th season, MP will work with other dynamic groups to make the arts more accessible to area residents and expand MP's outreach via enhanced marketing.

Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) (FY16 Award \$6,590) was founded February 14, 1990 with 39 brave singers. Today OGC is 150+ members strong, mixed men and women, gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender, or questioning and entirely committed to vocal musical excellence.

Performing Arts of Maitland (PAM) (FY16 Award \$4,670) is a 501(c) 3 umbrella arts org that enhances the cultural, events and offerings in the community for free. PAM sponsors six programs that bring local performing artists to the stage in the community.

Steinway Society (FY16 Award \$6,790) 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.

Urban Think Foundation (FY16 Award \$7,420) supports community-based programs that enrich Orlando's literary landscape by serving as an umbrella for Page 15 and Burrow Press, whose programming includes educational programs, publishing books, writers' workshops, and more.

Winter Garden Heritage Foundation's (FY16 Award \$6,610) programs 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) (**FY16 Award \$4,460**) operates the city history museum, preserves the city archives and promotes our rich history through engaging exhibitions, lectures and diversified outreach programs.

Panelists for 2016 Operating Support Grants

Large Budget Category

Kate Wilson (Ex Officio – Chair), Vice President, Community Affairs Officer – Central Florida, Wells Fargo
Robert Matschner (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.
Daniel J. O’Keefe (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.
Maria-Elena Augustin, Assistant Director, Center for Public & Nonprofit Mgmt, UCF
Scott Evans, Coordinator, Visual & Performing Arts, Orange County Public Schools
Stephanie Ghertner, Director, Darden Foundation & Community Affairs
Dr. Charles Griffin, Composer
Linda Landman Gonzalez, Vice President of Philanthropy & Multicultural Insights, Orlando Magic
Ena Heller, Bruce A. Beal Director, Cornell Fine Arts Museum
Terry Hummel, Visual arts columnist, Orlando Sentinel
Keith Lay, Composer; Full Sail University
John Phelan, Show Director, Creative Entertainment, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S.
Dr. Suzanne Salapa, Program Director of Dance, Valencia College; Rollins College
Dr. Richard Sandler, Nemours Children's Hospital & UCF
Eileen Smith, Director, E2i Creative Studio, UCF
Tom Vazzana, Creative Director, The Disney Company
Barbara Wetzler, retired nonprofit consultant

Midsized Budget Category

Penelope Perez-Kelly (Ex Officio – Chair), Attorney, Perez-Kelly Law Firm, LLC
John Webb (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Strombeck Consulting CPA's
John Almeida, Associate Professor, UCF Music
Jim Bowden, Director, Human Resources, Disney
Kristin Congdon, Professor Emerita (UCF), Visual Art
Beth Leahey, Director of Direct Marketing, Visit Orlando
Cyndi Litz, Performing Arts Teacher, Orange County Public Schools
Jenny Logus, former Director for the Broadway Dance Centre in NYC
Elizabeth Maupin, retired Orlando Sentinel theater critic
Amy Painter, executive director, Leesburg Center for the Arts
Pennisu Richardson, Chief of Staff, Central FL Foundation
Melvin Rogers, Associate Dean, UCF
Julie Tindall, Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Orlando
Sara Van Arsdell, Former Executive Director, Orange County Regional History Center

Small Budget Category

S. Brendan Lynch (Ex Officio – Chair), Shareholder, Lowndes Drosdick
Carolyn Binder (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, LLC
Missy Barnes, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, Rollins College
Ellie Potts Barrett, Choreographer
Rose Thome Casterline, Visual Artist/Educator, Valencia College/Rollins College
Julia Gagne, Retired Valencia College; Director
Vicki Landon, Development Director, Orlando Repertory Theatre
Jeffrey Moore, Professor of Music, Chair, UCF

United Arts awards grants

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Andrew Sandall, Executive Director, The Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona Beach
Vince Santo, Drama Director, East Ridge High School, Lake County
Cid Stoll, Research & Communications Manager, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts Creative Entertainment
John Upperco, board member, Mennello Museum of American Art
Jake White, Development Director, Orlando Museum of Art
Conny Williamson, Production Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator, The Winter Park Playhouse
Beverly Winesburgh, President, Product Marketing Group

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 50 local arts, sciences and history organizations. It raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services.

Now entering its 27th year of service to the Central Florida community, 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 Flora Maria Garcia, CEO, 407-628-0333, extension 225.

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