



PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE MARCH 6, 2018

Contact:

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
407.628.0333 x225

FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc

UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS, ARTS LEARNING MINI-GRANTS & DIVERSE PROGRAMMING GRANTS

ORLANDO – March 6, 2018 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its February cycle of Mini-Grants, Arts Learning Mini-Grants and Diverse Programming Grants. These programs have three deadlines per year, a short application and a one-month turnaround from submission to grant decision. Seven organizations were awarded Mini-Grants totaling \$8,400; five organizations were awarded \$5,050 for the Arts Learning Mini-Grant; and three organizations received \$3,500 in Diverse Programming Grants.

Mini-Grants

United Arts reaches out to grassroots and multicultural organizations through its Mini-Grants program. Nearly 3/4 of grantees receive their first grant from United Arts through this program, and 48% of funding goes to culturally diverse organizations.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

Caribbean American Association of Lake County – Awarded \$1,000 for the *Lake Steel Orchestra*. Young people learn musical scales and to play musical pan instruments, free of cost. Funding is for the purchase of equipment, training and space rental. The Orchestra plays at several civic and community events in South Lake County during the year. Various events include the Kings Ridge Men's Club, Caribbean American Valentine's Tea Party, Downtown Clermont Farmers' Market and the Clermont Caribbean Jerk Festival.

Central Florida Watercolor Society – Awarded \$1,000 for *Exploring Light and Color*, a multi-site, hands-on opportunity for a close-up experience with the art of watercolor. CFWS will provide "Pop-Up" demonstrations in at least five unique spaces. Up to three watercolor artists will demonstrate watercolor painting, answer questions and display materials and personal artwork. CFWS will also provide a tent at up to four local art shows; tent space will include at least two working watercolor artists.

Cultural Fusion – Awarded \$1,700 for *Spirituals In Motion*, an original collaborative piece by Cultural Fusion and the Inez Patrica School of Dance. The show combines the uniquely American musical genre of the negro spiritual with the beauty of dance and a narrative component.

Emotions Dance – Awarded \$1,000 for *Twist: The Color Wheel*. The company performance will engage participants in a world of color with a TWIST of contemporary, jazz, modern and ballet styles, at the Orlando Shakespeare's Mandell Theater. There will also be workshops available to

school-aged children to immerse them in the dance world and offer them a chance to explore dance disciplines.

Goldsboro West Side Community Historical Association – Awarded \$1,700 for *Mrs. Allie Berry's Quilt Code*. This innovative exhibit at the Goldsboro Museum also includes an audio recording and exhibit on their website and a book, “Mrs. Allie Berry's Quilt Code.” The book follows the journey of enslaved Africans that were prohibited from drumming, speaking in their native languages or learning to read and write English. So, they improvised, using quilts and songs in order to communicate secret messages without arousing suspicion.

Ozilly Connections – Awarded \$1,000 for *Camp Africa Florida*. This 3-day interactive cultural event in an African Village setting is filled with music, dance, and stories of African culture and traditions. The African Village features adult classes in drum, dance, and storytelling, along with demonstrations of ancient traditional instruments, lectures on culture and traditions, children's classes, an African marketplace, and nightly drum and dance circles around the bonfire.

Women in the Arts – Awarded \$1,000 for “*Celebrating the Genius of Women*” exhibition and awards. This juried annual competition is organized in partnership with the Orlando Public Library, celebrating *Women's History Month* and exhibiting the work of the competition finalists at the library's main branch. The awards event recognizes and honors the finalists as well as non-local US and international artists. The exhibit will take place at the Orlando Public Library, March – April, 2018.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2018. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at www.UnitedArts.cc/grants.

Arts Learning Mini-Grants

United Arts expands opportunities for arts education to the wider community through its Arts Learning 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:

Chance 2 Dance – Awarded \$1,050 for *2018 Showcase Performance*. The Chance 2 Dance Showcase will have 250-500 participants, more than 99% of whom have a mental or physical disability. C2D provides a structured program to over 650 individuals ages 2-60+ weekly in 15 locations across Central Florida, and all are invited to participate in the showcase.

Child of this Culture Foundation – Awarded \$1,000 for *Urban Art Project*. This project teaches graffiti-painting basics. COTC's aim is for students to produce a fantastic piece of art work, gain self esteem and express their own creativity and story. COTC highlights street art, murals, pop surrealism and other genres from the contemporary underground movement by providing an open, safe & free paint session, urban arts apprenticeship for youth and workshops by renowned local street artists. The project will provide 1-2 hour classes once a week for 6-8 weeks.

Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida – Awarded \$1,000 for *Music Therapy and Wellness*. The class will routinely start slowly with jazz and fluid movements, then move into singing and playing instruments. Session will end with a meditation session to calm participants through soothing music and positive expressions. Parents of children with Down syndrome are

encouraged to participate and learn new ways of communicating with their loved one.

Orlando Gay Chorus – Awarded \$1,000 for *Voices United Summer Clinic*. Under James Rode, OGC’s artistic director, students will participate in a group choral experience with a Middle School Choral Clinician. A Florida All-State Preparatory Clinic will be led by the current Florida Vocal Association Chair for Middle School All-State. Students will also participate in a private vocal lesson/music theater audition clinic, receive All-State study materials, choral music and a “Voices United” t-shirt. The weeklong clinic for middle school students will culminate with a free performance open to the public.

Timucua Arts Foundation Orchestra – Awarded \$1,000 for *Summer Music Camps*. Camps will include music appreciation courses, sectionals, music history and theory classes, studio lectures, and full rehearsals. The jazz orchestra instruction will be given by Benoit Glazer. Chamber orchestra instruction will be given by members of the Alterity Chamber Orchestra. Both musically intensive summer camps will run for two weeks ending with a concert.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Arts Learning Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2018. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at www.UnitedArts.cc/grants.

Diverse Programming Grants

Diverse Programming Grants incentivize cultural organizations to create programming that will appeal to a wide range of audiences, particularly racially and ethnically diverse communities in Central Florida. This funding is provided by a \$50,000 grant from Duke Energy, awarded to United Arts to continue diversity and inclusion outreach initiatives. Grantees must engage in target marketing to diverse communities to drive attendance to the funded event and future involvement with the organization’s cultural programming. The goal is to increase awareness and participation of diverse communities in Central Florida’s arts and culture.

This cycle’s grant recipients are:

Downtown Arts District – awarded \$1,000 for *In the Artist's Studio with Derrick Adams* on April 20 at the Grand Bohemian Hotel, preceded by the Star Gallery launch on April 19 at CityArts Factory. Derrick Adams is an African-American multidisciplinary New York-based artist working in performance, video, sound and 2D and 3D realms. The Star Gallery will be dedicated to emerging artists of diverse backgrounds.

Orlando Fringe – awarded \$1,000 for *Hip Hop Night & Latin Night* on the free outdoor stage during the 27th Orlando Fringe Festival in Loch Haven Cultural Park. These concerts will focus on drawing Black/African American and Latinx/Hispanic audiences.

Orlando Museum of Art – awarded \$1,500 for *Family Day – The Enduring Seminole: History, Culture and Art* at Orlando Museum of Art on April 7. This will be a FREE, fun and educational event where families can learn about and experience Native American art and culture, with focus on Florida’s Seminole tribe. Guests will enjoy hands-on art and gallery activities, live music, story-telling and special performances including Native American drumming and dance.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Diverse Programming Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2018. The maximum grant award is \$5,000 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at www.UnitedArts.cc/grants.

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 \$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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