

PRESS RELEASE

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CELEBRATING A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT UNITED ARTS' ANNUAL MEETING

ORLANDO, Fla. — July 3, 2018 — During the **annual board of directors meeting** on June 27, United Arts of Central Florida recounted accomplishments, highlighted the current state of arts and culture in Central Florida, and honored key supporters of the arts.

The meeting at Art & History Museums - Maitland commenced with a year-in-review by President & CEO **Flora Maria Garcia** noting that United Arts' 2018 *Collaborative Campaign for the Arts* surpassed its goal, generating **\$2.074 million** in support of Central Florida arts and culture organizations. Since its creation in 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$149 million to cultural nonprofits in Central Florida.

Garcia noted that as a result of United Arts' grants to more than 60 cultural groups, the agency makes possible: 5,429 exhibitions and performances, provides arts access and arts education to 972,050 students; offered more than 1.6 million free tickets; generated more than 2.9 million cultural experiences and supported 378 full-time and 551 part-time staff positions, as well as 15,355 artists.

Through arts-education partnerships, United Arts' support makes possible: over 910,000 student cultural experiences each year including: ALL 3rd, 4th & 5th graders in Orange County and all 5th graders in Osceola County attend the Young People's Concerts with Orlando Philharmonic; all 2nd graders in Orange County are introduced to ballet by the Orlando Ballet and all 8th graders attend live theatrical performances by Orlando Repertory Theatre at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Additionally, with the agency's continual efforts to ensure that art and culture is reflective of the diverse Central Florida community, United Arts has established and maintained a number of initiatives that encourage diversity and inclusion within funded cultural groups. Flora Maria Garcia focused on the recent creation of diversity task forces, which have helped establish best practices for reaching diverse audiences and have also been a driving force behind board and staff diversity. Furthermore, with support from Duke Energy, United Arts also emphasized programming that reaches and appeals to diverse audiences with projects such as Central Florida Vocal Arts *Zarzuela Highlights Concert*.

The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation presented United Arts with a two-year program support grant of \$45,000.

The board approved new officers to the Executive Committee including returning member Linda Landman Gonzalez from the Orlando Magic. The board also approved six new board members, who will serve three-year terms: Jodie Hardman, Bank of America; Malika Harrison, Orlando Magic; Linda Landman Gonzalez, Orlando Magic; Mercedes F. McCall, CenterState Bank; Joyce Odongo, Bank of Ozarks; and Gail Rayos, Wragg & Casas Strategic Communications.

The second annual **Jerry Hilbrich Arts Leadership Award** honored Harvey L. Massey, an active community leader who has dedicated more than 30 years to arts and culture in Central Florida. This honor is accompanied by a \$5,000 gift for the arts and cultural nonprofit of Harvey L. Massey's choice – Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra.

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 \$149 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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