

Dear Cultural Supporter:

I wanted to share with readers highlights of United Arts' accomplishments as presented to the cultural sector, donors and board members at United Arts' Annual Meeting last June.

Since inception in 1989, United Arts has awarded more than \$149 million to nonprofit cultural groups. Through funding and contracts for services, United Arts made possible more than 2.9 million cultural experiences to residents in Central Florida last fiscal year. United Arts once again exceeded goals set for the FY18 Collaborative Campaign for the Arts. Workplace giving increased, raising \$154,387 from 27 companies, including more than \$6,000 from contributions by the United Arts staff. As of last June, United Arts had been awarded \$580,000 in corporate and foundation grants for the 2018 fiscal year and currently we have more than \$500,000 in pending requests for the upcoming year!

Unfortunately, during last year's legislative session, the state legislators reduced funding to Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs by **94 percent**. This translated into an equal cut in funding to Central Florida cultural groups, which places Florida 48th in the nation for state arts funding. The continued severe cuts in arts funding speak to the critical importance of United Arts' role in leading advocacy efforts. Last spring, United Arts collaborated with other arts leaders to present an Orange County Mayoral Candidates Forum at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts with close to 250 attendees.

Through education funding partnerships, United Arts facilitates more than 972,000 student cultural experiences annually that include not only in-school cultural experiences, but also attendances at the Orlando Philharmonic Young People's Concerts, the Orlando Ballet and an Orlando Repertory Theatre



Flora Maria Garcia

production at the Dr. Phillips Center.

As a result of United Arts' FY18 grants programs, more than 60 cultural organizations presented 5,439 exhibitions and productions; provided arts education experiences to 972,264 students; distributed more than 1.6 million free tickets; generated more than 2.9 million cultural experiences; and supported 378 full-time and 553 part-time staff positions and 15,521 artists. New initiatives to expand arts audiences, engage communities and strengthen arts leadership included the formation of an African-American Task Force and an Hispanic Task Force of between 25-30 leaders whose purpose is to engage diverse commu-

nities with the cultural sector. We formed a millennial "ArtVenture" group to engage professional young adults with the arts; and we established an Emerging Arts Leaders program to mentor and offer best practices and career development to rising cultural leaders who are just entering careers in arts administration.

Many thanks to those of you who contribute to United Arts. It is because of your abiding support that United Arts can continue to enrich communities with art and culture in Central Florida. In summary, the Annual Meeting is more than just a collection of accomplishments — above all else it is a celebration of the seamless collaboration among donors, cultural organizations, volunteers and staff.

Sincerely,

Flora Maria Garcia
 President & CEO
 United Arts of Central Florida

*It is because of your abiding support
 that United Arts can continue to enrich communities
 with art and culture in Central Florida.*
