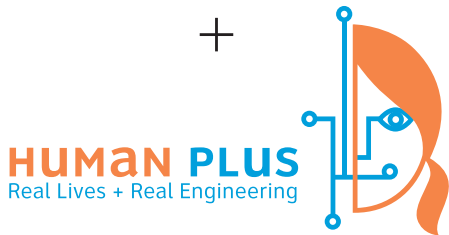




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from LETTER BOX  
**the editor**

# A Legacy to Remember

To quote Bob Dylan’s 1964 lyrics, “The times they are a-changin’.” As the 2018-2019 season begins, we can look forward to exciting news and diverse offerings that will engage our community. The Cornell Fine Arts Museum is planning for a new facility, Mennello Museum of American Art has expansion plans and the Orlando Ballet is building a new home. Our landscape is changing.

As I met with cultural organizations this year, which by the way is my favorite time of year, two common threads kept creeping into the conversation. The first was the fact that every group wanted to push boundaries and offer new ways of presenting their craft — a different angle, if you will. Orlando Shakes



PHILAN M. EBENHACK

will present *In the Heights* in a set that immerses the audience, Garden Theatre will produce all their own programming for the first time, and the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra will host their first composer in-residence, Angélica Negrón, just to name a few. The second thread, unfortunately, centered on state funding or the lack thereof. The arts are no stranger to running on less, but this funding cut was dramatic, to say the least.

Our community lost a remarkable benefactor recently, the grand dame Harriett Lake. The results of her generosity will be seen and felt for decades to come. Our cultural institutions are so much stronger due to those gifts. However, it’s imperative that our state government understands, as Harriett did, that our arts community not only makes life a lot more colorful, but also contributes to the state economy and tourist numbers. Art influences society by changing opinions and translating experiences across cultures. It’s often thought that art is a repository of a society’s collective memory. For all of us who would like our history to reflect a cultured society, please let your opinions be heard. Our cultural community doesn’t rest on its laurels, so let’s follow suit.

In that light, we would like to dedicate this cultural season to Harriett Lake and the essence of giving she so embodied. We will miss seeing her fabulous fashion and hearing her quick wit this season, but her spirit will certainly be felt. Cheers to a memorable and enjoyable new season!

Cindy Bowman LaFronz  
Editor  
*Orlando Arts Magazine*