

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DECEMBER 11, 2018



Contact:

Flora Maria Garcia

President & CEO

407.628.0333 x225

FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc

**THE DARDEN FOUNDATION AWARDS UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
A \$250,000 ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT**

ORLANDO, Fla. — December 11, 2018 — United Arts of Central Florida (United Arts) received a \$250,000 Arts and Cultural Community Support Grant from the Darden Foundation to fund the ongoing objectives of the organization and the continued growth of United Arts' initiatives.

The Darden Foundation's award allows United Arts to continue supporting more than 60 cultural groups, arts education and marketing. The Darden Foundation's funding, coupled with United Arts' expertise and management, will not only enhance the arts and cultural community in Central Florida, but enable United Arts to push forward with the exciting innovations implemented last year.

"United Arts is grateful to have received this grant and continued support from the Darden Foundation," said Flora Maria Garcia, president and CEO of United Arts. "We wouldn't be able to have such a large impact in the community without the help from companies like Darden, who not only recognize the importance of a vibrant arts community, but go a step further in taking action to support it."

This grant will help United Arts expand audiences, enrich the lives of citizens and visitors, empower students through art education programs, open doors to creative sector jobs for students, and increase the economic impact of arts and culture. In its 30th year, United Arts celebrates and further develops the accomplishments of the past while forging ahead for the future of art and culture in the region. Thanks to strong community partners like the Darden Foundation, United Arts will create new experiences that reflect the diversity of the community, increase the quality of life for Central Floridians, and will leave a lasting impact in the cultural sector for future generations.

"Darden is proud to be a long-time supporter of the arts community in Central Florida," said Stephanie Ghertner, director of the Darden Foundation. "We're pleased to provide this gift to ensure United Arts remains a valuable resource for championing this important element of our local culture."

Darden has restaurants in hundreds of communities across North America, and views giving back to those communities as an extension of its core values – and an essential part of being a good

neighbor. Since 1995, the Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$90 million in grants to nonprofit organizations like United Arts.

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 \$150 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.

###