



PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

ORLANDO – September 11, 2018 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its August cycle of Mini-Grants. Ten organizations were awarded \$24,500 in this first cycle of the year.

United Arts reaches out to grassroots and multicultural organizations through this accessible grant program. The program has three deadlines per year, a short application and a one-month turnaround from submission to grant decision. More than 70% of grantees receive their first grant from United Arts through this program, and 47% of funding goes to culturally diverse organizations.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

Asia Trend – Awarded \$1,000 for the 2018 *Asian Cultural EXPO*. The 9th Annual Asian Cultural EXPO showcases Asian culture through performances, workshops and art/craft exhibits. Local groups perform, with some offering free workshops. Cultural organizations showcase their heritages and cultures in the art/craft exhibits. The festival occurs along with the Walgreens Orlando International Dragon Boat Festival. The event and parking are free and fun for all ages.

Autism Society Of Greater Orlando – Awarded \$1,500 for *Autism Art* program. Autism Art gives adults with autism a meaningful day program that allows them to express themselves through art. The participating individuals with autism create pieces and then display them in a gallery, at art shows, etc. The pieces are available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting the artist. Autism Art is a way to improve quality of life, move toward greater opportunity of equality, and challenge structures and ideas of today's society.

The Celebration Foundation – Awarded \$1,000 for *Concert Series*. The Concert Series offers diverse music and artists who are among the best in their genre. Returning favorites include Orlando Philharmonic and Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra. New this year: Vienna Boys Choir, Bumper Jacksons, and Celebration resident and violinist Gary Lovini. The Celebration Foundation keeps tickets affordable and offers free tickets to students through the schools.

Central Florida Sounds of Freedom Band and Color Guard – Awarded \$1,000 for the production *Believe*. The 2018-2019 season is entitled From Within, a season of self-exploration and the elements which make up the core of humanity. The season includes the holiday concert, "Believe"; the Lake Eola benefit concert, "Strength, Power and Drive"; and the spring concert, "Instinct." The concert is open to the Orlando-area general public, with tickets at \$10 (children 12 and under, free).

Chance 2 Dance – Awarded \$1,000 for *Winter Wonderland Performance*. This show gives dancers with cognitive or physical disabilities the chance to perform after a semester of dance classes. These individuals typically don't get to participate in dance programs. The program and show are free to dancers and audience members. The show includes dancers from Orange, Seminole, Brevard and Volusia counties. Chance 2 Dance will track physical and cognitive factors throughout the semester to measure the program's impact.

HAPCO Music Foundation – Awarded \$2,000 for *Jazz Clinic 2019*. Students learn from professionals in group and breakout sessions at the free, 1-day HAPCO Jazz Clinic. Up to 18 local middle- and high-school jazz bands perform for a panel of 3 judges. Each band receives written and verbal critiques and a clinic session. The program provides increased visibility, insights into educational resources and information on careers in music. The bands also get to observe each other, a valuable aspect of a music education experience.

Ivanhoe Village – Awarded \$1,000 for *Art Box*. The Art Box project paints traffic control boxes in the Ivanhoe Village Main Street district, using a very visible piece of infrastructure to depict local culture and history, enhancing the aesthetic of this neighborhood and educating all who see it. The boxes are located within city right-of-way, so there is no fee to view/experience. The audience will be an estimated 11,000 viewers per day.

Messiah Choral Society – Awarded \$2,000 for the *46th Annual Performance of Handel's "Messiah."* Led by Dr. John Sinclair, a volunteer choir of 125+ local singers, a professional orchestra of 21 musicians, and 4 nationally recognized soloists offer Central Florida's longest-running free cultural arts performance to the community.

Music To My Mind – Awarded \$1,000 for the *So You Want Your Name In Lights Music Summer Camp*. This arts-focused, crime-prevention camp introduces 30 at-risk teenagers to music-business basics. The 8-week program (1.5 hours/day, 4 days/week) will encourage participants to make right choices and set goals. Participants will develop discipline, self-esteem, and positive life skills. They will gain exposure to audio digital technology, receive basic music-industry insight, and participate in a finale showcase that will feature an original group song created during the camp.

Orlando Health – Awarded \$2,500 for *Creative Interaction for Regional Cancer Care Centers*. Cancer patients and their caregivers will receive 4 weekly days of free creative interaction with an Artist in Residence at each of the 4 centers. Participants can explore 14 different art mediums, including watercolors, acrylics, multimedia, collage, clay, pastels and creative writing. Sam Flax in Orlando is donating all art supplies for this project. The artists will provide this service 1 day a week for 32 weeks.

Performing Arts of Maitland – Awarded \$2,000 for the *Baroque Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Music Players 2018-2019 Concert Series*. Baroque Chamber Orchestra is an 18-piece string orchestra that plays baroque-and-beyond compositions. Chamber Music Players is a piano quartet of UCF and Stetson music professors that demonstrate the power and creative process that professional players bring alive to the local stage. Each venue allows a varying audience mix. Sunday shows at the Venue attract seniors. The Timucua and Blue Bamboo venues connect to a younger, urban audience.

Playwrights' Round Table – Awarded \$1,500 for the *2018-2019 Season of New Plays and Workshops*. The program will consist of 4 main productions, with an option for a 5th if we are selected for the Orlando International Fringe Festival: "Native Voices" (featuring local

playwrights), "Launch 2019," "Premiere Series" and "Summer Shorts." Playwrights' Round Table is also presenting the 2nd Sundays workshop monthly at Ad Lib Theater, and collaborating with Valencia College theater students on the 5-Minute Play Series. All productions serve the general public and playwrights.

Public Arts and Music – Awarded \$1,000 for the *Lake County Folk Festival 21*. This family-oriented musical event is the longest-running free folk festival in Florida. Musicians perform at 9 venues throughout the downtown and lakefront. Many of the 125 musicians (48 groups) are featured at the Florida Folk Festival and are award-winning Florida songwriters. The public is invited to workshops and jams, and to enter the funniest song contest. The children's area offers free crafts, games, contests and the playground.

Sanford Porchfest – Awarded \$1,000 for the *Sanford Porchfest 2019*. The purpose of the 2nd Annual Sanford Porchfest is to create a sense of community surrounding the arts while reinvesting in the future of the arts. The free 1-day event consists of local musicians performing on 10 porches throughout the residential historic district of downtown Sanford. It is open to the public.

Snap! Orlando – Awarded \$2,000 for *City Unseen -- A New [AR]t Experience*. "City Unseen" is a public art project that will ignite the local landscape. The project opens artistic borders by launching the city into Augmented Reality [AR] experiences -- murals coming to life, a projection mapping show, a teleport bringing the viewer into a 360-degree visit of an artist's studio. A "City Unseen" app will be available for audience members. "City Unseen" will position Orlando as a pioneer with a new vision for the fusion of art and technology in the 21st century.

Tavares Theater – Awarded \$1,000 for the *Musical Community Theater Production: "She Loves Me."* The event is a musical-theater presentation of "She Loves Me." Auditions will be in September, with rehearsals to begin in late October or early November. Ticket prices are \$13-\$16.

Timucua Arts Foundation – Awarded \$2,000 for performances by *Alterity Chamber Orchestra: "Chambers of the Mind."* Alterity's 2nd season features 6 concerts featuring several pieces chosen from the orchestra's first call for scores, which received nearly 150 submissions. Alterity includes members of Orlando Philharmonic, UCF Music Department faculty and former members of Cirque du Soleil, and is led by conductor Laszlo Marosi. Concerts are marketed to the public, with an emphasis on highlighting the diversity of the composers through partnerships with community organizations.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., February 1, 2019. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 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 \$151 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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