



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 8, 2018

**Contact:**

Flora Maria Garcia

President & CEO

407.628.0333 x225

[FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc)

## ***FOLLOWING STATE BUDGET CUTS, CITY OF ORLANDO DIRECTS INCREASED FUNDING TO CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS***

ORLANDO, FL – October 8, 2018 – Since the drastic 94 percent State funding decrease to the cultural sector, the City of Orlando and Mayor Buddy Dyer have worked to find additional funding support for the City’s cultural institutions. Because of the overwhelming benefits that arts and culture provide to residents and visitors, Mayor Buddy Dyer and the Orlando City Council voted today to direct a one-time additional distribution of **\$202,141** from the City’s general fund to United Arts of Central Florida to be distributed to local arts and cultural organizations located within the Orlando city limits, which had state funding decreases.

“We in the cultural community are thrilled with Mayor Dyer’s leadership in making this significant funding contribution to the arts a reality, bridging a critical gap in state funding,” said Flora Maria Garcia, President and CEO of United Arts of Central Florida. “So many local cultural groups were hard hit by the 94% cut in funding to the Florida Council from the State Legislature that they had to eliminate or reduce outreach programs. This funding will make a difference; and we are proud that our Orlando Mayor and City Commissioners believe that the arts are a meaningful investment in serving our community.”

The \$202,141 from the general fund reflects half of the funding Orlando-based organizations lost in FY19 based on awards received in FY18. City officials recognized that with only six percent of the requested funding amount, local cultural organizations will now have to find other resources and/or reduce programming. This additional support from the City of Orlando will help bridge a critical funding gap and provide arts and cultural organizations time to seek other funding sources for the coming years as they work to reconcile the significant loss of financial resources from the state.

Orlando’s flourishing arts and cultural institutions are vital to the fabric of the local community. Access to and participation in arts, science, and the humanities teaches compassion, increases the overall well-being of citizens, expands economic growth, and celebrates the diversity of the region while simultaneously creating an atmosphere of unity.

“In Orlando, we have worked hard to incorporate the arts into everything that we do as a community and to increase arts and cultural opportunities for everyone,” explained Mayor Buddy Dyer. “The arts are an essential element of the quality of life in our city and through this investment we are able to further our committed to helping our cultural organizations thrive and grow.”

This one-time additional assistance will be disbursed to United Arts of Central Florida to be distributed to sixteen organizations. Additionally, the City of Orlando will distribute one-time assistance funding to

three organizations it supports directly.

The following 16 organizations and their funding amounts are as follows:

- Central Florida Community Arts: \$5,855
- Downtown Arts District: \$14,700
- Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra: \$7,510
- Historical Society of Central Florida: \$19,244
- International Fringe Festival of Central Florida: \$10,175
- MicheLee Puppets: \$5,444
- Opera Orlando: \$1,470
- Orlando Ballet: \$19,576
- Orlando Museum of Art: \$19,462
- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra: \$19,413
- Orlando Repertory Theatre: \$19,635
- Orlando Science Center: \$19,448
- Orlando Shakespeare Theater: \$18,899
- Timucua Arts Foundation: \$184
- United Arts of Central Florida: \$18,991
- Urban Think Foundation: \$2,135

#### **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](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc) for comments or inquiries. You can follow United Arts of Central Florida on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

###