



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR RELEASE, DECEMBER 18, 2018

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## **UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS \$1.495 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS**

**ORLANDO – Dec. 18, 2018** – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels composed of 39 volunteer reviewers to award \$1,495,000 in operating support grants to 35 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions. The grant pool was \$15,000 more than prior year.

“It is critical to the mission of United Arts to provide this essential support for cultural organizations,” stated Kate Wilson, Chair of United Arts Board of Directors. “These funds are unrestricted and support the organizations’ programs throughout the year.”

Operating support is essential funding for nonprofits, which helps “keep the lights on” by funding a portion of their entire season of operations and programming, allowing them to offer free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences for the public. As organizations grow, the need for this funding increases; this year, the available grant pool fulfilled only 40.6% of total requests. These grants are supported by gifts to United Arts’ *Arts for ALL* Fund.

The value of these grants is clear: last year, United Arts’ Operating Support Grants helped 37 arts organizations mount 4,559 exhibitions and productions, provide arts access and arts education to 961,816 students, offer 1,595,746 free tickets, and attract 2,830,409 visits. These grants support 359 full-time and 526 part-time staff positions, as well as 13,625 artists.

United Arts’ tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on Operating Budget size: Small (\$25,000 - \$249,999), Midsize (\$250,000 - \$899,999) and Large (\$900,000 and over). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer reviewers, which include artistic discipline experts, nonprofit experts, corporate and foundation funders, community leaders who attend the arts frequently and United Arts board members. Panelists conduct in-depth site visits and attend cultural events year-round produced by the groups they are reviewing. Combined, they volunteer more than 1,400 hours annually to this process.

The grant review process is highly competitive and based on a 100-point evaluation system covering Artistic or Historic/Scientific Merit (40%), Management & Fiscal Responsibility (35%), and Outreach & Education (25%). As in recent years, a particular focus of the grant review is diversity. United Arts has provided extensive education for cultural groups in how to engage the diverse community of Central Florida through programming, target marketing and inclusion in decision-making. Many grantee organizations have made significant outreach to diverse audiences in the past few years, and are expanding the diversity of their boards of directors and advisory councils.

Detailed reports for each applicant organization were presented at the full panel meetings and included a financial analysis by a CPA. Total scores are used to rank applicant organizations within their budget category. For their final award recommendations, panelists take into account the history of prior funding for each applicant organization, budget size and the score ranking based on the panel's review.

"Since its inception in 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$150 million in the growth and development of Central Florida nonprofit cultural groups," said President & CEO Flora Maria Garcia. "This highly competitive grant process ensures that Central Florida residents are receiving intriguing, inclusive, and creative programming from cultural institutions."

The Operating Support grant deadline was at the end of August 2018; final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in late October and November and approved by the United Arts Board on December 12. Grants cover cultural programs from January 1 through December 31, 2019. The Operating Support Grant program is one of more than six United Arts funding programs, including designated giving secured through the collaborative *Campaign for the Arts*; match dollars provided by United Arts' Trustees and corporate donors; and contracts for services supporting educational programming.

## **2019 Operating Support Grants – Grantee Descriptions**

### *Awards for Calendar Year 2019 activities*

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#### **LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS**

The **Art & History Museums - Maitland (FY19 Award \$42,500)** offers immersive art & history experiences throughout its five museums. A&H's largest museum is the Maitland Art Center, a 1937 artist colony & National Historic Landmark. A&H programs include artist residencies, exhibitions, and hands-on learning in unparalleled architectural environments.

The **Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (FY19 Award \$61,200)** presents a full season of choral and orchestral concerts, the annual three-week Bach Festival, the Visiting Artists Series, the Insights & Sounds Series, outreach concerts, and educational programs for all ages to celebrate the legacy of J.S. Bach.

**Central Florida Community Arts (FY19 Award \$21,500)** is made up of performance-based program areas (Choir, Orchestra, Children & Youth Arts Programs, and Theater) and the curriculum-based School of the Arts (the Academy, Arts & Wellness initiatives, Arts in Action programs for senior citizens and Outreach Programs).

**Crealdé School of Art (FY19 Award \$61,700)** offers 125 visual art classes and workshops for all ages taught by over 50 professional artists; scholarships and free classes to those in need; programs for emerging artists; and multidisciplinary exhibitions and educational events that celebrate diversity.

The **Downtown Arts District (FY19 Award \$22,700)** leads, stimulates, and guides the development of a vibrant and innovative arts district in downtown Orlando by managing cultural facilities, providing arts engagement programs, executing public art projects, and supporting local emerging and established artists.

**Enzian (FY19 Award \$48,600)** is Central Florida's only full-time alternative cinema, offering mostly independent and foreign films, and is home of Eden Bar and the Florida Film Festival. A member-supported, nonprofit arts organization, Enzian exists to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film.

As a professional performing arts center, the **Garden Theatre (FY19 Award \$27,100)** produces culturally-diverse and unique programming that includes innovative live theater, concerts, dance, movies and impactful education outreach programs benefiting youth in underserved areas.

The **Orange County Regional History Center (FY19 Award \$27,200)**, located in downtown Orlando, displays the Historical Society of Central Florida's collection of historical artifacts on four floors of permanent exhibits that tell the stories of the region's 12,000-year history.

**Orlando Ballet (FY19 Award \$177,700)** is the only resident professional ballet company presenting a full season of performances, award winning dance instruction as one of only five schools to be accredited by American Ballet Theatre® (ABT) also serving more than 60,000 students each year through Community Enrichment programs.

**Orlando Fringe (FY19 Award \$26,900)** is an internationally valued arts organization that produces the longest running Fringe Festival in the United States, offering free and low-cost activities by local, national and international artists to audiences of all ages, backgrounds and means.

The **Orlando Museum of Art (FY19 Award \$115,400)** is a center for cultural engagement that seeks to inspire creativity, passion and intellectual curiosity by presenting compelling visual art exhibitions, exciting community events, and innovative and inspiring education and outreach programs for the public to experience.

The **Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (FY19 Award \$199,400)** is Central Florida's premier professional music organization, providing 250+ inspiring performances and engaging educational programs each year. The 2018-2019 season includes 20 unique concerts exploring the themes of community and culture.

**Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY19 Award \$121,000)** creates experiences that enlighten, entertain and enrich the lives of family and young audiences through professional productions, an award-winning Youth Academy, a bevy of community engagement programs, and a partnership with UCF hosting a Masters of Fine Arts program.

**Orlando Science Center (FY19 Award \$176,700)** is a nonprofit informal education museum whose mission is to Inspire Science Learning for Life. The Science Center provides iconic STEM learning experiences through hands-on exhibits, programming and outreach.

**Orlando Shakes** in partnership with UCF (**FY19 Award \$160,700**) produces classic, contemporary and children's plays through its Signature Series and Children's Series productions, in addition to innovative programming in new play development, arts education and community outreach.

## **MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS**

The **Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY19 Award \$16,400)** preserves a 200+ piece collection of works by world-renowned Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek and offers tours of his home, studio and sculpture gardens. It is also home to the historic 1885 Capen House and hosts the annual Winter Park Paint Out.

**Bay Street Players (FY19 Award \$9,000)** has been providing quality live theater entertainment and education in Lake County since 1975. The Young People's Theatre, one of the first in the state of Florida, has been operating continuously for more than 40 years.

Innovative and powerful ballet productions, educational programs and international partnerships are the keystones of the **Central Florida Ballet (FY19 Award \$23,300)** with glowing recognition from The White House, U.S. House of Representatives, ABC News, CNN Headline News, USA Today, and the Wall Street Journal.

**Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras (FY19 Award \$15,300)** exists to encourage children and young adults, through the performance of music, to become passionate leaders, thinkers and contributors in their community. Annually, more than 300 students of diverse backgrounds travel from nine counties to participate in FSYO programs.

The **Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida (FY19 Award \$30,300)** is dedicated to combating all forms of bigotry and prejudice with the goal of creating a moral and just community. The 2019 season includes exhibits, films, lectures and Holocaust commemorations open to all members of the community.

The **Mennello Museum of American Art (FY19 Award \$10,200)** celebrates a season of diverse American art. The dynamic 2019 season includes sculpture, painting, drawing and installation with five exceptional exhibits. Exhibiting artists are or have responded to the environment, race and popular culture.

**MicheLee Puppets (FY19 Award \$10,800)**, Florida's only educational puppetry arts organization and nationally awarded by Puppeteers of America, delivers original, issue-based plays, videos and workshops in schools and public venues throughout Florida.

**Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY19 Award \$14,000)** is a community-based organization committed to bringing arts alive in our diverse community by mounting exhibits of high-quality, original art, providing educational art classes for adults and children, and hosting the nationally recognized Mount Dora Arts Festival.

**Opera Orlando (FY19 Award \$7,600)** is redefining the operatic experience with theatrical works of high artistic quality in the Central Florida area. The Opera creatively fuses various genres and mediums to engage the community with innovative productions and educational programs, making opera accessible to everyone.

The **Osceola County Historical Society (FY19 Award \$4,300)** preserves and shares Osceola County history with the community's residents and visitors. It offers educational and social programs to foster appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage and operates archives, a museum and an 1800s pioneer village.

The **Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center (FY19 Award \$4,500)** is a historic theater in Sanford that affordably provides quality entertainment to all of Central Florida. The organization aims to preserve its incredible history, foster regional talent, deepen appreciation for the performing arts and be an economic driver for Seminole County.

The **Winter Garden Heritage Foundation (FY19 Award \$7,300)** is the driving force behind the preservation of the rich heritage of West Orange County, fostering an understanding of the social, cultural, economic, and environmental transformations that have shaped the area.

## **SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS**

The **Asian Cultural Association (FY19 Award \$5,000)** breaks down ethnic barriers and joins together audiences of all backgrounds through the presentation of various art forms from the Indian subcontinent, including visual art exhibits, exotic music concerts, dance demonstrations and film screenings/festivals.

**Creative City Project (FY19 Award \$5,000)** is shaping the global perception of Central Florida as a hub for creativity and innovation, connecting residents and visitors to compelling art experiences weekly. Their annual performing and installation arts event, IMMERSE, is growing into a global destination arts experience.

**Global Peace Film Festival (FY19 Award \$5,500)** celebrates film and the arts, using creative media as a catalyst to inspire positive change in communities. GPFF encourages awareness of and engagement for peace and environmental sustainability locally and worldwide.

**Leesburg Center for the Arts (FY19 Award \$5,300)** strives to inspire the community, enhance the quality of life and promote growth and vitality to the community by providing art education for all ages, cultural events for the community, and provides a sense of place for creatives, artists and appreciative audiences.

**Orlando Gay Chorus (FY19 Award \$8,500)** inspires individuals, the community and the world through excellence in musical entertainment. Celebrating 28 years, Orlando Gay Chorus uses music to bring the community together and make the world a better place.

**Steinway Society of Central Florida (FY19 Award \$8,200)** provides keyboards, refurbished pianos, and free piano lessons to economically and culturally disadvantaged children. The Society also sponsors concerts, recitals, workshops and master classes for the general public, as well as for students in a school setting.

**Urban Think Foundation (FY19 Award \$10,400)**, the parent organization for Page 15 and Burrow Press, provides community-based programs that enrich Orlando's literary landscape such as youth writing, youth tutoring programs, literary publishing, writers' workshops and more.

**Winter Park History Museum (FY19 Award \$3,800)** brings the city's rich history to life through immersive exhibitions that engage diverse audiences, an annual Speakers Series, artifact preservation, children's programs such as Penelope, Princess of the Peacocks and Be My Neighbor Day, a collaboration with WUCF TV.

## **Panelists for 2019 Operating Support Grants**

### **Large Budget Category**

S. Brendan Lynch (Ex Officio – Chair), Shareholder, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

Robert Matschner (Ex Officio – Finance), Shareholder, Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.

Art Bunday, retired from The Disney Company

Byron Clercx, Professor of Visual Art, University of Central Florida (UCF)

Debbie Fahmie, retired Fine & Performing Arts Resource Specialist, The School District of Osceola County

Malika Harrison, Director of Social Responsibility, Orlando Magic  
Maria Ruiz-Hays, SVP-Sales Development, Recruiting & Training, Wyndham Vacation Ownership  
Dr. Stacey Johnson, President, Valencia College, East & Winter Park Campuses  
Byron Knibbs, VP, Emerging Technologies, Orlando Utilities Commission  
Cheryl Boza, Manager, Community Relations, Walt Disney World Corporate Citizenship  
Hope McMath, Founder and Director of Yellow House  
Gerard Mitchell, Owner, The Social, The Beacham, Foundation Presents  
Gail Rayos, Manager Central Florida, Wragg & Casas Strategic Communications  
Rich Taylor, Rich Imagination Creative + Consulting  
Julie Tindall, Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Orlando  
Edward Toro, Producciones Zona O

**Midsized Budget Category**

Dr. Richard Sandler (Ex Officio – Chair), Nemours Children's Hospital & UCF  
John Webb (Ex Officio – Finance), CPA, Strombeck Consulting CPA's  
Scott Evans, Senior Administrator, Visual & Performing Arts, Orange County Public Schools  
Luis Martinez-Fernandez, Professor of History, UCF  
Julia Gagne, retired chair of theater department, Valencia College; Director  
Ha'Ani Hogan, Development Manager, Downtown Arts District  
Danielle Hollander, Chief Marketing Officer, Visit Orlando  
Melba Luciano, retired superintendent, Osceola County Public Schools  
Farnaz Namin-Hedayati, Ph.D., Doctor of Corporate Psychology, Center for Work Life  
Diane O'Dell, VP, Community Relations, Universal Orlando Resort  
Amy Painter, former executive director, Leesburg Center for the Arts  
Valerie Read, Director, Universal Orlando Foundation  
Lisette St. Hilaire, Senior Account Manager, iHeartMedia  
Myles Thoroughgood, Choreographer

**Small Budget Category**

Penelope Perez-Kelly (Ex Officio – Chair), Attorney, Fisher Rushmer, P.A.  
Wilson Lopez (Ex Officio – Finance), Managing Director, RiskPoint Consulting Group  
Cynthia Cardona, Executive Director, Winter Garden Heritage Foundation  
Stuart Doyle, Operational Excellence Communications Manager, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Chelsea Hilend, Marketing, Annie Russell Theatre  
Sisaundra Lewis, Artistic Director, Grove 2 Glam Media; professional vocalist  
Henry Maldonado, President, Enzian  
Susan Mitchell, former grants & marketing, Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida  
Ken Naigus, strategic planner, Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour  
Sarah Overton, Director, A Gift for Music  
Diana Portillo, Theater Operations Manager, Sak Comedy Lab  
Tiffany Sanders, SVP Marketing, JHT  
Heide Evans Waldron, Executive Director, Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras  
Rizwan Zaman, MD Back Office

### **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.

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