



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE MARCH 19, 2019**

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## ***UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS & DIVERSE PROGRAMMING GRANTS***

**ORLANDO – March 19, 2019** – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its February cycle of Mini-Grants and Diverse Programming Grants. These grants, available to cultural organizations, have three deadlines per year, a short application and a one-month turnaround from submission to grant decision. Seven organizations were awarded Mini-Grants totaling \$9,300 and three organizations were awarded Diverse Programming Grants totaling \$14,000.

### **Mini-Grants**

United Arts reaches out to grassroots and multicultural organizations through its Mini-Grants program. Nearly 3/4 of grantees receive their first grant from United Arts through this program, and 52% of funding goes to culturally diverse organizations.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

**Central Florida Vocal Arts (CFVA)**– Awarded \$1,300 for *Opera on Eola*. Opera on Eola is a free opera festival that presents traditional opera arias and scenes in an all new way to connect to modern audiences who may otherwise feel alienated by the classical music genre. The event will feature performances from some of the finest local opera singers and symphonic instrumentalists including CFVA's all female chorus and an original concert portion paired with original art installations from Axiom Gallery.

**DulceArt Works** – Awarded \$1,000 for *The Theatre Institute of DulceArt*. The Theatre Institute of DulceArt (TTI) is a residency company of teaching artists and performers. These classes provide a forum for creative and emotional expression, while developing students' concentration, discipline, teamwork, confidence and public-speaking ability. Classes are led by local theatrical artist Adrian Gutierrez along with guest performers and teaching artists. TTI targets children and young adults in the under-served areas of Orlando.

**Emotions Dance** – Awarded \$1,500 for *Blur*, a professional performance that examines social media, pop culture, and asks the question, "Are we really connected"? Through contemporary, ballet, and jazz dance, the main character weaves through her world of cell phones, twitter, reality shows, and technology in an attempt to connect to those around her. A social commentary about our dependence on our devices, *Blur* encourages audiences to put down their devices and really connect with one another.

**Goldsboro West Side Community Historical Association** – Awarded \$1,700 for *The Green Book of Goldsboro and Central Florida*. This exhibit includes auditory and visual exhibitions online. This book will serve as a guide, a modern version of the original Green Book, not just listing destinations that accept black travelers, this book will list monuments that shed light on the rich history of the black experience, allowing for future generations to never forget their past, and in the process, create a better future for everyone.

**Orlando Symphony Orchestra** – Awarded \$1,300 for *A Celebration of Iberian Music and Dance*. *A Celebration of Iberian Music and Dance / Una Celebración de la Música y Danza Ibérica* is a collaborative event that will feature the Orlando Symphony Orchestra and soloists of the celebrated Flamenco del Sol ballet company. Seminole State College's Center for the Fine and Performing Arts will host the event.

**Orlando Urban Film Festival (OUFF)** – Awarded \$1,500 for *A Movie and Music Showcase*. OUFF will present 2019's Official Selections, a Special Feature Film Director, Love Short Films Screenings, followed by the 2019 OUFF Awards. Featured film screening from Showtime, *10,000 Black Men Named George*, starring Mario Van Peebles, Andre Braugher and Charles S. Dutton, about the legacy of Pullman Porters. A series of panel discussions with film producer, directors, actors and musicians will be held.

**Women in the Arts** – Awarded \$1,000 for "*Celebrating the Genius of Women*" exhibition and awards. Women in the Arts presents the 8th annual "Celebrating the Genius of Women." This juried annual competition is organized in partnership with the Orlando Public Library, celebrating Women's History Month and exhibiting the work of the competition finalists at the library main branch. The awards event recognizes and honors the finalists as well as non-local US and international artists. The exhibition will take place at the Orlando Public Library.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2019. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at [www.UnitedArts.cc/grants](http://www.UnitedArts.cc/grants).

### **Diverse Programming Grants**

Diverse Programming Grants incentivize cultural organizations to create programming that will appeal to a wide range of audiences, particularly racially and ethnically diverse communities in Central Florida. This funding is provided by a \$60,000 grant from Duke Energy, awarded to United Arts to continue diversity and inclusion outreach initiatives. Grantees must engage in target marketing to diverse communities to drive attendance to the funded event and future involvement with the organization's cultural programming. The goal is to increase awareness and participation of diverse communities in Central Florida's arts and culture.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

**Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts)** – awarded \$4,000 for *Fiddler on the Roof*. CFCArts Theatre will include *Fiddler on the Roof* in their 5th season in a small black box theater setting, thereby taking an interesting spin on the classic tale, which is typically produced in a larger theatrical setting. CFCArts plans to partner with the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida to respectfully portray all facets of the Jewish community and culture and also host a talk-back event following the performances to discuss the evolution of tradition in American culture.

**Friends of the Mennello Museum of American Art** – awarded \$5,000 for *Immersion into Compounded Time: Paintings of Firelei Báez*. This exhibition will explore Firelei Báez’s investigations on the visibility and the construction of complex cultural identities within the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora and how these notions are perceived in a global world. Related programming will be held throughout the exhibition. The programming includes: a talk, tour and workshop by the artist; spoken word night for young adults; and four Free Family Fundays that include kid-friendly gallery tours and related art projects. Regular programming, including bilingual Toddler Tuesdays, workshops and Movies at the Mennello, will relate to the exhibit.

**Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC)** – awarded \$5,000 for *Orlando Gay Chorus Outreach and Healing Project*. The Orlando Gay Chorus Outreach and Healing Project will provide outreach and healing for racially/ethnically diverse segments of the population not currently attending the chorus' programs, including those communities directly impacted by the Pulse tragedy. OGC will direct the organization’s outreach, marketing and programming to be culturally sensitive and engage individuals who represent these communities.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Diverse Programming Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2019. The maximum grant award is \$5,000 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at [www.UnitedArts.cc/grants](http://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 organizations and provides management, administrative and advisory services. Since 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$150 million in Central Florida’s arts and culture.

More information is available at [www.UnitedArts.cc](http://www.UnitedArts.cc) or by calling 407.628.0333. Please email [FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc) for comments or inquiries.

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