

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:**

Flora Maria Garcia  
President & CEO  
407.628.0333, extension 225  
[FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc](mailto:FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc)

## ***UNITED ARTS WELCOMES NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, MANAGER OF GRANTS AND ARTS EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER***

**ORLANDO – March 27, 2019** – United Arts of Central Florida is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Rodriguez Neuman as development director; Rafael Torres as manager of grants and arts education; and Arika Richardson as development manager.

“I am proud to say that the future of United Arts is even brighter with Elizabeth, Rafael and Arika joining our team,” said Flora Maria Garcia, president & CEO of United Arts. “We are so lucky to have found people who are passionate about the arts, are extremely qualified, and have committed their careers to seeing the arts flourish.”

**Elizabeth Rodriguez Neuman** – Elizabeth recently relocated to Orlando with her family from Charlotte, NC, where she worked for seven years in the development department of the MINT Museum, a major cultural organization in Charlotte and a nationally recognized museum. She has more than 10 years of results-driven experience in creative marketing, project management, metrics development, relationship-based sales and client service.

The development director leads all fundraising efforts of United Arts including planned, annual and deferred giving and approaches to individuals, foundations and corporations. The director provides vision for the overall promotion of the organization in order to construct and market an appropriate image, develop ties with the community and achieve membership/participation goals.

**Rafael Torres** – Rafael brings more than 10 years of experience in program administration for philanthropic initiatives in education and underserved communities. Rafael grew up in Orlando, lived in New York City, and recently returned to Orlando. His professional history includes working as a grants manager at the Schott Foundation; providing operational support with grant requests, expense reporting, and contracts at the Arcus Foundation; and collaborating with NYC’s Department of Education to partner with schools on attendance improvement and drop-out prevention programs at United Way of NYC.

The manager of grants and arts education at United Arts is directly responsible for all aspects of the organization’s grant programs and arts education contracts. This position manages three grant programs (Operating Support Grants, Mini Grants and Diversity Grants) to more than 60 nonprofit arts and culture organizations and oversees arts education services throughout four counties.

**Arika Richardson** – Arika has participated in five United Arts *Collaborative Campaigns for the Arts* while working for the Orlando Science Center and Orlando Shakes. She has developed campaign timelines, written solicitations, managed donor relations, data entry, and also serves on the steering committee of United Arts’ Emerging Arts Leaders program.

As development manager, she is responsible for assisting in fundraising, including but not limited to direct mail campaigns, electronic campaigns, proposal writing, sponsorship solicitation and management, and presenting the case for the arts to groups of all sizes and at fundraising events.

**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.

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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