



PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS & DIVERSE PROGRAMMING GRANTS

ORLANDO – May 23, 2019 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its May 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. Five nonprofits were awarded a total of \$15,500 to expand programming, inclusion and increase cultural diversity.

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 has been awarded to culturally diverse organizations.

Two organizations were awarded Mini-Grants totaling \$4,500. This cycle's grant recipients are:

ArtReach Orlando – Awarded \$2,500 for *Arts for Empowerment* summer camp. Arts for Empowerment will be a week-long summer camp intensive for middle school students, to provide a high-quality visual arts experience. The students will participate in a variety of activities that will invite creativity as well as empower them to explore identity, culture, voice, and justice. Arts for Empowerment will be facilitated through a partnership with the Hope Community Center, which offers lifesaving assistance for the Latinx as well as Black/African American community.

Quest, Inc. – Awarded \$2,000 for *Quest Kids Academy Music and Dance Programs*. Quest Kids Academy provides arts activities to children with developmental and learning disabilities. Dance programs are provided in partnership with Chance 2 Dance and music programs are provided in partnership with Joyful Music Therapy. The objective is to teach confidence, strengthen fine- and gross-motor skills, and to build a love for artistic expression from a young age.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., August 1, 2019. The maximum grant award for this program is \$2,500 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at 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.

Three organizations were awarded Diverse Programming Grants totaling \$11,000. This cycle's grant recipients are:

Bay Street Players – Awarded \$2,100 for *Diversity Training and Planning*. This project will provide board members and staff with a context for diversity and inclusion through interviews, self-assessment and the hiring of a consultant, from Training Resources International Partners, to develop a diversity plan for the organization. The goal is to increase and sustain diversity in its audience, board or staff that reflects the diversity of the area.

Central Florida Vocal Arts – Awarded \$4,400 for *The Mikado*. Concert presentation of *The Mikado*, in partnership with Opera del Sol and Space Coast Symphony, with modernized texts, sets of projected iconic Japanese works of art and projected Japanese supertitles. This whole production aims to be a celebration of Japanese culture via this renowned Gilbert & Sullivan operetta. Directed by Asian American director, Kit Cleto, this production will feature a 14-person cast of the finest comedic classical singers backed by a world-class 23-piece orchestra.

Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida – Awarded \$4,500 for *Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank*. The Holocaust Center is pursuing an integrated marketing strategy to increase awareness of the Center, the exhibit "Let Me Be Myself: The Life Story of Anne Frank," and performances of "Letters from Anne and Martin" in Black, Hispanic and Asian communities. The exhibit, presented in English and translated into seven additional languages, tells the story of Anne Frank in a modern way, addressing current day issues of identity, exclusion and discrimination. Two theater performances of "Letters from Anne and Martin" will show how injustices still exist and will promote constructive ideas on how to confront intolerance and discrimination today.

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 or by calling 407.628.0333. Please email FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc for comments or inquiries.

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