

Dear Cultural Supporters:

I am thrilled to announce that the **2019 Collaborative Campaign for the Arts** raised more than **\$2.2 million** for local arts, science and history organizations. This year's campaign, which ended April 30, surpassed its goal by more than \$198,000, making this the 10th consecutive year to exceed the fundraising goals. During this intensive three-month campaign, United Arts of Central Florida partnered with 15 of the area's largest arts, science and history organizations to collectively raise funds for arts and culture in Central Florida.

Through the campaign donations from board members and other individuals, corporations, foundations and workplace giving, it was evident that local arts and culture organizations are not only supported but appreciated within the Central Florida region. Donors who earmarked their contributions for one or more of these cultural partners saw their gifts matched by 15 percent by United Arts. Additionally, gifts to United Arts — *Arts for ALL* Fund support more than 60 local nonprofits, including the campaign partners, through an annual competitive grant process.

I want to recognize the efforts, not only of the 15 cornerstone cultural institutions and their development staffs but also for the diligent, professionalism of the United Arts staff, led by our new Development Director Elizabeth Rodriguez Newman and Development Manager Arika Richardson. This was their first UA campaign, and they did an amazing job, both in coordination and donor activation. Further, there are many other UA staff who support the campaign effort to ensure accurate and timely reporting, acknowledgments and successful marketing efforts. The success of the campaign is a huge team effort, also bolstered by the engagement of the United Arts Board members, who contribute actively both financially and by promoting the campaign through their personal networks.



Flora Maria Garcia

I am deeply grateful for every single donor who contributed to the campaign. These funds will make a significant impact in our local community. I am constantly in awe of the progressive and rich experiences that our arts and cultural organizations present. It is because of the continued support of donors that the cultural community can flourish. So, once again, many thanks to all donors who made this campaign a success.

Lastly, in other important arts funding news, the Florida State Legislature recommended \$21,250,028 (from \$2.65 million last year) to the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs for the 2019-20 state budget for three

of the four DCA matching-grant categories covering general support, project support and facilities (the Endowment category was not funded). Kudos to all arts advocates and to the Central Florida Legislative Delegation who actively supported the arts funding increase; in particular, Rep. Anna V. Eskamani and Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, who held an advocacy "town meeting" and were highly proactive during the session on increasing arts funding. Through these collective efforts, the increased budget allocation brings Florida from 48th place back up to 20th in the nation in state arts funding. The funding legislation must still be signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in order to become effective.

Here's hoping the FY20 fiscal year will be as fruitful as FY19.

Sincerely,

Flora Maria Garcia
 President & CEO
 United Arts of Central Florida

I am constantly in awe of the progressive and rich experiences that our arts and cultural organizations present.
