

PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS AWARDS MINI-GRANTS FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMMING; INCLUDING TWO FIRST-TIME RECIPIENTS

ORLANDO – September 12, 2019 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its August cycle of Mini-Grants. Thirteen organizations were awarded \$16,000 in this first cycle of the fiscal year, including Central Florida Film Festival and Downtown Orlando Partnership Foundation/Avrio Foundation who are both receiving their first grant through United Arts of Central Florida.

United Arts reaches out to grassroots and multicultural organizations through this accessible grant program. The program has three deadlines per year, a short application and a one-month turnaround from submission to grant decision. More than 70% of grantees receive their first grant from United Arts through this program, and 47% of funding goes to culturally diverse organizations.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

Asia Trend – Awarded \$1,000 for the *10th Annual Asian Cultural EXPO*. The Asian Cultural EXPO will showcase the culture of Asia through performances, workshops and art/craft exhibitions. Asia Trend will invite local performing groups to perform and hold free workshops after each performance. Asian Cultural EXPO will be held together with the GWN Orlando International Dragon Boat Festival, along with 2,000 corporate and community members and 3,000 spectators.

Autism Society of Greater Orlando – Awarded \$1,500 for *Autism Art* program. Autism Art gives adults with autism a meaningful day program that allows expressing themselves through art. Individuals with autism will create pieces and display them in local art shows. The goal of this program is to give adults with autism a life purpose, speak to their deeper needs and provide a safe space where these artists can hear, be heard, be with others, and explore themselves.

Casa de Mexico – Awarded \$1,000 for *16th Annual Gala - Day of the Dead Celebration*. This cultural experience will provide special performances by Mariachi Cobre (Official Mariachi of Walt Disney World at Epcot) and the Ballet Mexico Folklórico from the city of Guadalajara. Mariachi Cobre will perform musical selections from the Disney film *Coco* and many traditional Huapango and well-known Mexican favorites. Ballet Mexico Folklórico will present their performance of "Remember" – Day of the Dead Celebration.

The Celebration Foundation – Awarded \$1,000 for *Concert Series*. Celebration Foundation's Concert Series is celebrating 18 years offering quality music. Last year, the Vienna Boys Choir performed to a sold-out audience. People who attend Celebration Foundation's concerts comment on the quality of music, intimate venue, and superb acoustics, all making the Concert Series a popular program in Central Florida.

(NEW) Central Florida Film Festival – Awarded \$1,000 for *The 14th Annual CENFLO Film Festival*. The CENFLO Film Festival is made for film makers by film makers. This weekend event will provide unique experiences for all aspects of film making from distribution of completed projects to panels for screen writers and actors. The Film Festival also spotlights student projects from the local university's film programs.

(NEW) Downtown Orlando Partnership Foundation/Avrio Foundation – Awarded \$1,000 for *2019 PlaceMaking Initiative*. At a recent event, the Avrio Foundation proposed 15 public art project ideas to guests who voted on their top seven favorites. Projects ranged from murals and window paintings to street and alleyway activations. In partnership with the Downtown Orlando Partnership, business locations have been secured and installation proposals will go before the City of Orlando Appearance Review Board in September. Once approved, installations will be made over the next several months in time for Creative City Project's Immerse and downtown holiday events.

HAPCO Music Foundation – Awarded \$1,500 for *Winter Jazz Clinic*. This event is designed to offer middle- and high-school jazz students direct, comprehensive instruction on an array of jazz concepts. The topics being covered range from improvisation and music theory to breaking into the music industry and what it takes to be a professional jazz musician. The students who attend this workshop will learn concepts that will enhance their musical database for present and future use.

Messiah Choral Society – Awarded \$1,500 for the *47th Annual Performance of Handel's "Messiah."* Under the direction of Dr. John Sinclair, the Messiah Choral Society Choir, the Bach Festival Orchestra, and four professional soloists, will present a free performance of Handel's "Messiah" and continue MCS's tradition of sharing lobby space with a local cultural arts group. This year, the collaboration partner will be the Orlando Repertory Theatre.

Orlando Health – Awarded \$2,000 for *Art While You Wait for Cancer Patients/Caregivers*. Creative art engagement will be provided for adult cancer patients/caregivers in waiting rooms to change the perception of the wait times and to decrease anxiety while they wait. A professional artist will offer participatory art-making opportunities using acrylic art materials donated by Sam Flax, on multiple surfaces throughout the hospital. Art opportunities will be expanded into hallways and exam rooms where murals are being created.

Performing Arts of Maitland – Awarded \$1,500 for the *Performing Arts Matter 2019-20 Cultural Season*. Performing Arts of Maitland brings neighbors together in performance art by providing support for the following groups: Baroque Chamber Orchestra – an 18-piece string orchestra that plays Baroque and Beyond compositions; Chamber Music Players – Area music professors demonstrate the power and creative process that professional players bring alive to the local stage; Maitland Stage Band – an 18-piece Stage Band that plays Big Band Jazz.

Playwrights' Round Table – Awarded \$1,500 for the *2019-2020 Season of New Plays and Workshops*. The 2019-20 Season will consist of four main productions. These include Native Voices, featuring local playwrights; Launch 2020, which this year will also feature the P.L.A.Y. award for young playwrights; the full-length Premiere Series; and Summer Shorts. Second Sundays workshops are held monthly at Ad Lib Theater in Winter Park. Playwrights' Round Table also collaborates with Valencia College theatre students on the 5-Minute Play Series.

Public Arts and Music – Awarded \$500 for the *Lake County Folk Festival 22*. The Lake County Folk Festival is the longest running, free folk festival in the state of Florida providing cultural and musical experiences for all ages, with 50 musicians (16 groups) performing at four different venues throughout downtown Eustis and the lake front. The public is invited to participate directly in the jams and to enter the funniest song contest.

Tavares Theater – Awarded \$1,000 for the *"The Butler Did It," a Community Theater Production*. The event is a theater presentation of *"The Butler Did It"* by Tim Kelly. Rehearsals will begin mid-September with the show opening November 1, 2019. Tavares Theater's audience consists of a wide demographic base, with a sizable portion being seniors over the age of 50. Tavares Theater has secured an agreement with Living Drama Theatre to use their space while Tavares Theater is under construction.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Mini-Grants. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., February 3, 2020. The maximum grant award is \$2,500 per organization per year. Organizations can learn more or apply at 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 groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services. Since 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$155 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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