

PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED ARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AWARDS \$2.288 MILLION IN OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

ORLANDO – Dec. 18, 2019 – The Board of United Arts of Central Florida approved the recommendations of three grant panels composed of 42 volunteer reviewers to award \$2,288,000 in operating support grants to 34 Central Florida nonprofit cultural institutions. The grant pool was \$793,000 more than the prior year thanks to additional funding from Orange County Government.

“It is critical to the mission of United Arts to provide this essential support for our cultural organizations,” stated Brendan Lynch, chair of United Arts Board of Directors. “We are thankful to Orange County for providing the increased funding for these grants and giving United Arts the opportunity to enhance its support for all its funded groups.”

Operating support is essential funding for nonprofits, which helps “keep the lights on” by funding a portion of their entire season of operations and programming, allowing nonprofits to offer free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences for the public. As organizations and our communities grow, the need for this funding increases. This year, the available grant pool fulfilled only 58.5% of total requests, even with additional funding from Orange County. Funding for operating support grants comes from Orange County Government, other United Arts Trustees and gifts to United Arts’ *Arts for ALL* Fund.

“As chair of the Large Budget Panel, I’m pleased to see this year’s increased funding from Orange County,” stated Diane O’Dell, VP, Community & Diversity Relations, Universal Orlando. “This additional funding will help support the valuable work arts and cultural organizations do to enrich our community.”

The value of these grants is clear: last year, United Arts’ Operating Support Grants helped 35 arts organizations mount 4,074 exhibitions and productions, provided arts access and arts education to 1,034,125 students, offered 1,647,827 free tickets, and attracted 2,841,318 visits. These grants support 375 full-time and 580 part-time staff positions, as well as 10,973 artists.

United Arts’ tiered Operating Support Grant program is based on operating budget size: Small (\$75,000 - \$299,999), Midsize (\$300,000 - \$899,999) and Large (\$900,000 and over). Each tier had a dedicated panel of knowledgeable volunteer reviewers, which included artistic discipline experts, nonprofit experts, corporate and foundation funders, community leaders who attend the arts frequently and United Arts board members. Panelists conducted in-depth site visits and attended cultural events produced by the groups they are reviewing. Combined, they volunteered more than 1,400 hours to this annual process.

The grant review process is highly competitive and based on a 100-point evaluation system covering Artistic or Historic/Scientific Merit (40%), Management & Fiscal Responsibility (35%), and Outreach &

Education (25%). As in recent years, an important focus of the grant review is diversity. United Arts has provided extensive education for cultural groups in how to engage the diverse community of Central Florida through programming, target marketing and inclusion in decision-making. Many grantee organizations have made significant progress in outreach to diverse audiences in the past few years and are expanding the diversity of their boards of directors and advisory councils.

Detailed reports for each applicant organization were presented at the full panel meetings and included a financial analysis by a CPA. Total scores are used to rank applicant organizations within their budget category. For their final award recommendations, panelists consider the budget size and the score ranking based on the panel's review.

"Since its inception in 1989, United Arts has invested more than \$155 million in the growth and development of Central Florida nonprofit cultural groups," said President & CEO Flora Maria Garcia. "This highly competitive grant process ensures that Central Florida residents are receiving intriguing, inclusive, and creative programming from cultural organizations."

The Operating Support Grant deadline was August 15, 2019; final awards were determined at formal meetings of each grant panel in late October and November and approved by the United Arts Board on December 11, 2019. Grants support the cultural programs from January 1 through December 31, 2020. The Operating Support Grant program is one of more than six United Arts funding programs, including designated giving secured through the *Collaborative Campaign for the Arts*; match dollars provided by United Arts' Trustees and corporate donors; and contracts for services supporting educational programming.

2020 Operating Support Grants – Grantee Descriptions

Awards for Calendar Year 2020 activities

LARGE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Art & History Museums - Maitland (FY20 Award \$61,400) offers immersive art and history experiences throughout its five museums. A&H's largest museum is the Maitland Art Center, a 1937 artist colony and National Historic Landmark. A&H programs include artist residencies, exhibitions, and hands-on learning in unparalleled architectural environments.

Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (FY20 Award \$88,300) presents a full season of choral and orchestral concerts, the annual three-week Bach Festival, Visiting Artists, Insights & Sounds, Choral Masterworks, and educational programs for all ages to celebrate the legacy of J.S. Bach.

Central Florida Community Arts (FY20 Award \$41,500) exists to build and serve community through both performance-based program areas (choir, orchestra, children & youth arts programs, dance and theater) and the School of the Arts (the Academy, Arts & Wellness, Arts in Action programs for senior citizens, and outreach programs).

Crealdé School of Art (FY20 Award \$74,500) offers 125 visual art classes and workshops for all ages taught by over 50 professional artists, scholarships and free classes to those in need, programs for emerging artists, and multidisciplinary exhibitions and educational events that promote diverse cultural appreciation.

Downtown Arts District (FY20 Award \$32,800) leads, stimulates, and guides the development of a vibrant and innovative arts district in downtown Orlando by managing cultural facilities, providing arts engagement programs, executing public art projects, and supporting local emerging and established artists.

Enzian (FY20 Award \$85,700) is Central Florida's only full-time alternative cinema café, offering mostly independent and foreign films, and home to Eden Bar and the Florida Film Festival. A member-supported, nonprofit arts organization, Enzian exists to entertain, educate, and connect the community through film.

As a professional performing arts center, **Garden Theatre (FY20 Award \$38,800)** produces culturally-diverse and unique programming that includes innovative live theatre, concerts, special events, movies and impactful educational outreach programs benefiting youth in underserved areas.

Orange County Regional History Center (FY20 Award \$42,500), located in downtown Orlando, displays the Historical Society of Central Florida's collection of historical artifacts and permanent exhibits that tell the stories of the region's 12,000-year history.

Orlando Ballet (FY20 Award \$271,300) is the only resident professional ballet company presenting a full season of performances in Central Florida. The award-winning Orlando Ballet School is one of only five schools in the nation to be accredited by American Ballet Theatre® also serving over 60,000 students each year through Community Enrichment programs.

Orlando Fringe (FY20 Award \$45,700) is an internationally valued arts organization that produces the longest running Fringe Festival in the United States, offering free and low-cost activities by local, national and international artists to audiences of all ages, backgrounds and means.

Orlando Museum of Art (FY20 Award \$159,400) is a center for cultural engagement that seeks to inspire creativity, passion and intellectual curiosity by presenting compelling visual art exhibitions, exciting community events, and innovative and inspiring education and outreach programs for the public to experience.

As the region's premier professional orchestra, **Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (FY20 Award \$276,800)** provides extraordinary symphonic performances, stimulating educational programs, and widespread community outreach that impact more than 180,000 Central Florida residents and visitors annually.

Orlando Repertory Theatre (FY20 Award \$181,400) creates experiences that enlighten, entertain, and enrich the lives of family and young audiences through professional productions, an award-winning Youth Academy, community engagement programs, and a partnership with UCF hosting a Masters of Fine Arts program.

Orlando Science Center (FY20 Award \$271,200) inspires science learning for life, promoting hands-on learning through four floors of interactive exhibits, events, live shows and educational programming. The 207,000 sq. ft. facility features cutting edge technology such as immersive virtual reality in the Flight Lab.

Orlando Shakes in partnership with UCF **(FY20 Award \$245,700)** produces classic, contemporary, and children's plays through its Signature Series and Children's Series productions, in addition to innovative programming in new play development, arts education and community outreach.

MIDSIZE BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens (FY20 Award \$31,300) preserves a 200+ piece collection of works by world-renowned Czech-American sculptor Albin Polasek and offers tours of his home, studio and sculpture gardens. It also hosts the annual Winter Park Paint Out and is home to the historic 1885 Capen House.

Bay Street Players (FY20 Award \$15,800) has been providing quality live theater entertainment and education in Lake County since 1975. The Young People's Theatre, one of the first in the state of Florida, has been operating continuously for over 40 years.

Central Florida Ballet (FY20 Award \$45,200) keystones are innovative and powerful ballet productions, educational programs and international partnerships with glowing recognition from The White House, U.S. House of Representatives, ABC News, CNN Headline News, USA Today, and the Wall Street Journal.

Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras (FY20 Award \$35,500) exists to encourage children and young adults, through the performance of music, to become passionate leaders and contributors in their community. Annually, over 300 students of diverse backgrounds travel from nine counties to participate in FSYO programs.

Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida (FY20 Award \$61,900) is dedicated to building a just, caring and inclusive community free of all forms of prejudice and bigotry. The 2020 season includes exhibits, films & programs that address contemporary social issues & is open to all members of the community.

Mennello Museum of American Art (FY20 Award \$17,100) celebrates the diversity of American art, offering thought-provoking exhibits and programs in a welcoming environment. MMAA's 2020 season presents work by emerging and prominent artists addressing timely issues including the environment, colonialism and identity.

MicheLee Puppets (FY20 Award \$17,900) empowers lives through the art of puppetry. As Florida's only educational puppetry arts organization and nationally awarded by Puppeteers of America, MLP delivers original, issue-based plays, videos and puppetry classes in schools and public venues throughout Florida.

Mount Dora Center for the Arts (FY20 Award \$21,000) is a community-based organization committed to bringing arts alive in our diverse community by mounting exhibits of high-quality, original art, providing educational art classes for adults and children, and hosting the nationally recognized Mount Dora Arts Festival.

Opera Orlando (FY20 Award \$27,000) is redefining the operatic experience with theatrical works of high artistic quality in the Central Florida area. The Opera creatively fuses various genres and mediums to engage the community with innovative productions and educational programs; making opera accessible to everyone.

Winter Garden Heritage Foundation (FY20 Award \$9,800) is the driving force behind the preservation of the rich heritage of West Orange County, fostering an understanding of the social, cultural, economic and environmental transformations that have shaped the area.

SMALL BUDGET ORGANIZATIONS

ArtReach Orlando (FY20 Award \$7,000) brings visual-arts programming to children and teens who are experiencing difficult economic and social situations and may not have access to the arts. Through art, these Central Florida young people can safely explore issues they face and build self-worth and emotional resilience.

Central Florida Vocal Arts (FY20 Award \$5,500) is dedicated to providing the highest quality training to young artists, while providing performance opportunities to currently emerging artists of all ages. CFVA creates a life cycle for the vocal arts through education, mainstage and Opera del Sol productions.

Creative City Project (FY20 Award \$13,700) is shaping the global perception of Central Florida as a hub for creativity and innovation, connecting residents and visitors to compelling art experiences. The annual performing and installation arts event, IMMERSE is growing into a global-destination arts experience.

Global Peace Film Festival (FY20 Award \$9,700) celebrates film and the arts, using creative media as a catalyst to inspire positive change in communities. Global Peace Film Festival encourages public awareness of and engagement for peace and environmental sustainability locally, nationally and worldwide.

The Leesburg Center for the Arts (FY20 Award \$8,900) strives to enrich the quality of life through arts and culture in the Leesburg area, Lake County, and the contiguous counties by leveraging the arts to create a platform for creativity, community and cohesiveness.

Orlando Gay Chorus (FY20 Award \$9,700) inspires individuals, the community and the world through excellence in musical entertainment. Entering its 30th year, Orlando Gay Chorus uses music to bring the community together and make the world a better place.

Snap! Orlando (FY20 Award \$10,900) is a leading Florida visual arts organization, with two contemporary galleries, and a roster of over one hundred international multimedia artists. Snap!'s programming is highly diversified and community driven.

Timucua Arts Foundation (FY20 Award \$6,800) is an interactive, live-performance laboratory where guests from around the world expand their cultural awareness with affordable contemporary music, theater and visual arts experiments in an intimate setting

Urban Think Foundation (FY20 Award \$16,300), the parent organization for Page 15 and Burrow Press, provides community-based programs that enrich Orlando's literary landscape such as youth writing workshops, literary publishing, public literary events, and more.

Panelists for 2020 Operating Support Grants

Large Budget Category

Diane O'Dell (ex-officio panel chair), VP, Community Relations, Universal Orlando Resort

Daniel J. O'Keefe (ex-officio finance reviewer), Shareholder, MSL CPAs & Advisors

Muffett Baker, Entertainment Consultant

Christopher Belt, Executive Director, Timucua Arts Foundation

Art Bunday, retired from The Disney Company

Gisela Carbonell, Curator, Cornell Fine Arts Museum

Debbie Fahmie, retired from Osceola School District

Malika Harrison, Director of Social Responsibility, Orlando Magic

Steven High, Executive Director, The Ringling
Paul Lartonoix, Assistant to the Dean, College of Arts and Humanities, UCF
Chevalier Lovett, SVP & Managing Director, Organize Florida
Brendan O'Connor, Editor in Chief, Bungalow.com
Maria Ruiz-Hays, SVP-Sales Development, Recruiting & Training, Wyndham Vacation Ownership
Rich Taylor, Rich Imagination Creative + Consulting
Julie Tindall, Community Outreach Manager, City of Orlando
Michael Wainstein, Theatre Department Director, UCF

Midsized Budget Category

Richard Sandler (ex-officio panel chair), Nemours Children's Hospital; UCF
John Webb (ex-officio finance reviewer), CPA, Strombeck Consulting CPA's
Melissa Braillard, Director of Patron Development, Garden Theatre
Scott Evans, Senior Director, Visual & Performing Arts, Orange County Public Schools
Linda Ferrone, Chief Customer Officer, OUC
Jennifer Grozio, Director of Development, Embrace Families Foundation
Melba Luciano, retired superintendent, Osceola County Public Schools
Farnaz Namin-Hedayati, Ph.D., Doctor of Corporate Psychology, Center for Work Life
Amy Painter, former executive director, Leesburg Center for the Arts
Valerie Read, Director, Universal Orlando Foundation
Myles Thoroughgood, Choreographer
Rangsook Yoon, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Artis - Naples

Small Budget Category

Bonnie Hubbard (ex-officio panel chair), Grants Manager, Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation
Marcellene Baugh (finance reviewer), VP of Finance and Accounting, Massey Services
Emily Behzadi, Associate, Meehle & Jay
Cynthia Cardona, Executive Director, Winter Garden Heritage Foundation
Allison Crutchfield, Operations Production Manager, A to Z Theatrical Orlando
Terrance Hunter, Senior Director of Programs, Central Florida Community Arts
Henry Maldonado, Former President, Enzian
Randy McKey, Executive Director, McKey Associates
Ken Naigus, Strategic Planner, Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour
Diana Portillo, Theater Operations Manager, Sak Comedy Lab
Tristan Ruby, Grants & Impact Manager, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
Tiffany Sanders, Account Executive, Knight Agency
Victoria Sarau, South Campus Supervisor, Orlando Ballet
Stacia Wake, Community Relations Manager, Corporate Citizenship, The Walt Disney Company

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.

For more information, visit <http://www.UnitedArts.cc> or call 407.628.0333. Please email FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc for comments or inquiries.

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