

Dear Cultural Supporter:

Sadly, this will be my last letter to you as president and CEO of United Arts of Central Florida; I will be retiring at the end of January 2020 and moving to the Gulf Coast. The national search for my replacement has been under way and hopefully by March a new and dynamic CEO will be in place who will take the organization to the next level, bolstered by a strong, committed board and a highly professional staff. It's been an amazing eight years, and I am so proud of what we have accomplished together in that time. Most recently, Orange County Government awarded United Arts an additional \$2 million per year of TDT funds, catapulting the agency's budget to an all-time high of more than \$7.5 million.

As a result, we have added \$1 million to United Arts' grants pools; we have created a \$500,000 Venue Subsidy Grant that will offset the costs of venue rental in Orange County — including the Dr. Phillips Center — open to all cultural non-profits in the region; and we have been charged with a \$500,000 Challenge Grant on new and increased contributions to the Collaborative Campaign. The Challenge Grant is renewable each year, and provides a great opportunity to attract new donors, increase existing gifts, and focus on the sustainability of our amazing cultural assets.

It's been my pleasure and privilege to have served our cultural sector for so many years, and thank you for your part in the success we have shared.

Sincerely,



Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
United Arts of Central Florida



A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Excitement Builds

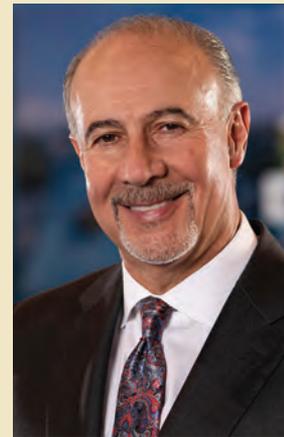
As we enter the new decade, excitement continues to build for new developments that are transforming Orlando's arts and cultural scene.

In January, our professional ballet company moves into its new home, Harriett's Orlando Ballet Centre, in Loch Haven Cultural Park. The 37,000-square-foot facility, funded in part with money from Orange County's Tourist Development Tax, can now pair traditional works at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (don't miss February's performance of *Cinderella*) with contemporary choreography in its own performance space.

Also at Loch Haven, the Mennello Museum of American Art is working toward a 40,000-square-foot expansion that will include more gallery space for local artists and the city's art collection. And later this year, the Dr. Phillips Center will open its state-of-the-art, acoustically transcendent Steinmetz Hall, also made possible by a large infusion of tourism-generated tax revenue.

Complementing these new arrivals this winter season are longstanding cultural gems like the annual Bach Festival in Winter Park (celebrating 85 years of award-winning musical performances) and the 31st annual ZORA! Festival, Eatonville's weeklong celebration of author Zora Neale Hurston.

Finally, a special thank-you to Flora Maria Garcia, retiring after eight years as president and CEO of United Arts of Central Florida. Her advocacy for our community's arts and cultural organizations has made Orlando a better place to live and visit, and we wish her the very best in her new endeavors. 



PRESTON MACK



George Aguel
President & CEO, Visit Orlando
Publisher, *Orlando Arts Magazine*