



PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 19, 2019

Contact:

Flora Maria Garcia
President & CEO
407.628.0333 x225

FloraMaria@UnitedArts.cc

UNITED ARTS AWARDS DIVERSITY GRANTS

ORLANDO – December 19, 2019 – United Arts of Central Florida announced the recipients of its December cycle of Diversity Grants. Three organizations were awarded Diversity Grants totaling \$11,500.

Diversity 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 \$50,000 grant from Duke Energy, awarded to United Arts to continue diversity and inclusion initiatives.

This cycle's grant recipients are:

ArtReach Orlando – awarded \$2,500 for *ART-ivist: Where Art Meets Activism*. In partnership with Hope Community Center, the program is a new semester-long after-school program, engaging middle school students in visual arts, community and leadership. They will participate in a variety of activities that will invite creativity as well as empower them to explore identity, culture, voice, and justice. The curriculum will focus on the celebration and exploration of diverse identities. Admission is free of charge to the students. The program will culminate in an interactive gallery event at the end of the semester, open to family, friends and community members.

Opera Orlando – awarded \$5,000 for *Pláticas con el Ballet*. Orlando Ballet aims to connect with the Central Florida Hispanic/Latino population by creating community get-togethers, or pláticas, to raise the profile of its company and school. These events will be open to the public and will feature a tour of its new facility, Harriett's Orlando Ballet Centre. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about all aspects of its mission as they interact with Company dancers, staff, and board. Orlando Ballet will partner with Hispanic organizations, including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Orlando and the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund to disseminate information.

Orlando Science Center – awarded \$4,000 for *I.D.E.A. Council Speaker Series*. In an effort to promote awareness of and best practices in Inclusivity, Diversity, Accessibility and Equity (I.D.E.A.) and bolster staff's cultural competency, Orlando Science Center will host a series of guest speakers during organizational staff workshops held throughout the year.

United Arts is now accepting applications for the next cycle of Diversity 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. The next application deadline is 5:00 p.m., February 3, 2020. The maximum grant award is \$5,000 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 organizations 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.

###