

# There's Hope, but Arts and Cultural Groups Need You

DEAR CULTURAL SUPPORTER:

Often, the flipping of the calendar to a new year is rather uneventful; perhaps a New Year's resolution or two, with a focus on eating healthier and exercising more. Moving into 2021, however, brings more hope than any year in recent memory.

Hope for an end to a pandemic that has ravaged us in so many ways; hope of a return to normalcy at some point sooner rather than later; hope for being able to gather with friends and familiar faces to enjoy live arts and cultural events shoulder-to-shoulder, our smiles on full display.

Our stupendous arts and cultural organizations have helped to keep us spiritually and emotionally afloat through a tumultuous past year — and are waiting with open (socially distanced) arms for a more complete return in 2021.

Most organizations have begun exhibitions and shows in a modified format — either different due to the audience

size allowed, or smaller in scope than perhaps previously planned, or perhaps at brand-new venues. Two of these tremendous exhibits close in January: *Jefrè: Points of Connection* at the Orlando Museum of Art; and *Pompeii: The Immortal City* at the Orlando Science Center. Get out and see them if you haven't already (or go again if you have)!

Although doors are now open, our beloved organizations are still struggling financially. Orange County has continued to step up in this capacity, through a partnership with United Arts, to provide additional CARES Act funding at the end of 2020.

Much more importantly, however, will be a second year of the \$500,000 matching grant through the 2020-21 United Arts Collaborative Campaign. This past year's Collaborative Campaign was record-breaking in its scope and ultimate results; we need this year to be the same.

Many of the grants from corporations and foundations for our arts and cultural groups will be diminished or eliminated due to the economic struggles of those grantors. Only with the outstretched hands of you, our cultural supporters, will these organizations be able to thrive despite the changes brought on by the pandemic.

Personally, I cannot wait to see many of you throughout early 2021, whether virtually or in person. Please continue to be safe until then.



**S. BRENDAN LYNCH**

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