

## For Such a Time as This

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Visitors enjoy *JEFRE: Points of Connection*, an exhibition from last winter at the Orlando Museum of Art. Arts and culture in Central Florida has served as an outlet for connection and release during a difficult time.

‘At the deepest level, the creative process and the healing process arise from a single source. When you are an artist, you are a healer; a wordless trust of the same mystery is the foundation of your work and its integrity.’

Rachel Naomi Remen’s words resonate today more than ever. It’s safe to say that 2020 was an extremely challenging year. But with all the chaos surrounding us, one thing is certain: Arts and culture in Central Florida has served as an outlet for connection and release.

Everyone has been impacted to some extent by arts and culture — even if that simply means watching your favorite TV shows or listening to radio

stations that play your favorite music. Arts and culture is more than a hobby; it provides a means to share stories that might not otherwise be told.

The arts have always had a way of bringing us together, especially during difficult times. Studies continue to show that creative expression eases depression, anxiety and even chronic illness.

Arts and culture touches people of all ages. It plays a major role in uniting, inspiring and comforting the entire community. That’s why it’s our profound duty to echo the urgency of increased giving to the arts.

Central Florida’s arts and culture organizations rely on their supporters

to enable them to stretch their creative capacity and test social norms. And yes, to throw them a lifeline when their own ability to raise revenue through ticket sales and admissions is diminished.

As the newest member of the United Arts family, I encourage you to donate to the *Arts for ALL* Fund to sustain one of the most critical resources in Central Florida. In this unprecedented time for the arts, let’s unite in making a difference to secure the future of our arts and culture community.

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