

LOCAL ADVOCACY ALERT 2010-01

## **Thank You Seminole County Commission**

United Arts invites you to follow our lead and send a letter of thanks to the Seminole County Commission.

Dear Friend of the Arts:

### **WE NEED YOU TO TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

On September 22, 2009 the Seminole Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt their FY2010 budget. That budget included \$127,924 for United Arts, which will fund thousands of cultural experiences, arts education, and capacity-building efforts. *Won't you help us share our gratitude for their support?*

The last few years have been most challenging for the arts. Governments have significantly lower revenues. Public sector lay-offs and furloughs are the norm and many projects have been put on hold or discontinued completely. Our sector has sustained reductions but NOT disproportionately. That is a testament to the organizations and artists we support and, by extension, the hundreds of thousands of adults and children who equate opportunities in the arts with a desirable quality of life.

These were difficult decisions for county and city staff and elected officials. We applaud our partner cultural organizations, their boards and their donors for helping get the message that art and culture MATTER to our community, to our children and to our economy.

Forecasts for the national, State, and local economies do not show any likely improvement in revenues for the next few years. We need to redouble our collective efforts to let our government officials know how important the arts are to our community.

We implore you to thank our elected officials for their support of arts and culture! Below you will find their contact information. And, please, forward this alert to your boards and donors to ask them to

add their thanks to yours. If you send emails, please copy them to us so we may collate your responses.

Seminole County Board of Commissioners:

The Honorable Robert Dallari, Chairman  
[fmacdonald@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fmacdonald@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Michael McLean, Vice Chairman  
[dmerkt@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:dmerkt@seminolecountyfl.gov)

The Honorable Dick Van Der Weide  
[deswine@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:deswine@seminolecountyfl.gov)

The Honorable Carlton D. Henley  
[gvenn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gvenn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

The Honorable Brenda Carey  
[alockhart@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:alockhart@seminolecountyfl.gov)

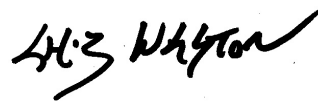
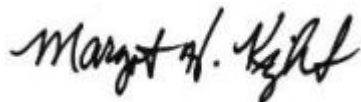
Cynthia A. Coto, County Manager  
[ccoto@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:ccoto@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Board of County Commissioners  
Seminole County Services Building  
1101 E. First Street  
Sanford, FL 32771

SAVE THE DATE! We will also be sending you an upcoming advocacy alert asking that you attend the Orange County Cultural Affairs "State of the Arts" presentation, which is now currently scheduled for the morning of October 27th at 9 am. Help us pack the house with grateful supporters from throughout the region.

Your words, your cards, your emails, your letters, your telephone calls COUNT. We know we don't need to tell you what to say-please speak from the heart about the value of funding for arts and cultural endeavors.

**Thank you for your contribution to making Central Florida a wonderful place to live work and create.**



Margot H. Knight  
President & CEO

Chip Weston  
Government Affairs