

**CITIZENS INTERESTED IN ARTS GIVE OUT \$81,500 TO CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT ANNUAL GRANTEEES ON PARADE EVENT AT AVENTURA ARTS CENTER**

AVENTURA, FL -- Thirty South Florida visual and performing arts organizations have received 2013 grants from **Citizens Interested in the Arts (CIA)** – a charitable group founded 15 years ago to help struggling arts groups in South Florida. A packed house at the the **Aventura Arts & Cultural Center** was on hand Sunday to witness the grants-making finale and a theatrical presentation featuring several of this year’s grantees.



Lenore Toby-Simmons
CIA President

CIA President **Lenore Toby-Simmons** of Aventura and Grants Chairman **Dr. Dorothy Koreman** said the 2013 grants of \$81,500 pushed the entire monetary CIA donations to \$930,000 since the group was founded by two North Dade residents – **Gloria Muroff** and the late **Colleen Werner** in 1997. She said she was hopeful that the donation total would crack the million dollar mark next year.

All 30 grantees awarded this year were officially recognized at CIA’s Grantees on Parade/Champion of the Arts Bruncheon. The annual event -- a lunch and show featuring some of the performing arts honorees—also paid tribute to this year’s Champion of the Arts **Robert and Florence Werner** for their philanthropy in supporting the arts. This year’s bruncheon was sponsored by **Chanin and Adam Carlin**.



Honorees Bob and
Florence Werner

Toby-Simmons emphasized how the recent economic downfall had impacted the arts. “Now, our group and other concerned citizens are organizing to turn things around.”

In addition to the grants presentation, appearing at this year’s event were performances by **Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, GableStage, City Theatre, Miami Children’s Chorus, City Theatre Summer Shorts** – all 2013 grantees – plus guest artists **Judy Scott** and pianists/vocalists extraordinaire **The Unconservatory**.

CIA gives award in both the performing and visual arts. Its funds come from membership dues, luncheon events and special fund-raising programs such as bus trips to cultural events.

“Using only volunteers, we pledge to raise monies and then give it away,” said co-founder Gloria Muroff who produced this year’s show along with Florence Werner. “We raise this kind of money by bringing in new members, attending our luncheons where often, grantees perform, and by enjoying the special events that are planned throughout the season.



Directors John Manzelli of City Theatre and Ricky J. Martinez of New Theatre



Vocalist/Emcee Judy Scott



Al Cohen and CIA Co-Founder Gloria Muroff

Here is a list of the 2013 grantees:

- Alhambra Music Inc.
- Alliance for Musical Arts Production
- Arts & Cultural Center of Hollywood
- Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida
- Barry University
- Bass Museum of Arts/Friends of the Bass Museum
- City Theatre, Inc.
- Classical of South Florida Inc.
- Dance Now. Miami Inc.
- Festival Miami
- Florida Grand Opera
- GableStage
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony
- Karen Peterson and Dancers
- Miami Art Museum
- Miami Children's Chorus
- Miami City Ballet
- Miami Lyric Opera Inc.
- Michael-Ann Russell JCC Inc.
- Milagro Center
- Momentum Dance Company
- New Theatre
- New World Symphony
- Orchestra Miami
- Patrons of Exceptional Artists
- Seraphic Fire Inc.
- South Florida Blue Grass Association
- South Florida Youth Symphony
- Sunday Afternoons of Music for Children
- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet