



by: [Niki Kottmann](#) Managing Editor of Arts and Entertainment

Generous gifters

Several philanthropic organizations gave out grants last week. Gulf Coast Community Foundation kicked things off by issuing a \$45,000 Arts Appreciation grant to Florida Studio Theatre. This gift will underwrite [FST's 2018-2019 Winter Mainstage and Cabaret](#) seasons and sponsor the theater company's annual fundraising event on Feb. 25.

Gulf Coast also awarded [Asolo Repertory Theatre](#) a \$70,000 Arts Appreciation Grant at the beginning of this week, which will help underwrite the 2018-2019 season, especially the costs of the sets, costumes, props and hiring actors.

Second was the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, which awarded Asolo Repertory Theatre a \$100,000 grant that will support the company's 2018-2019 season as well as Access to the Arts Programs: Main Stages (providing area students the opportunity to see a show at no cost) and the annual fall Shakespeare tour.

Rounding out the week of giving was Junior League of Sarasota, which awarded Embracing Our Differences a \$3,500 grant. This money will go toward the organization's Classroom Art Integration Project, an extension of EOD's [high school docent program](#). This expanded program involves the docents visiting Sarasota County elementary schools and engaging more than 1,200 elementary students in conversations about the importance of diversity and inclusion.