

AIM Together

Engage. Stimulate. Heal.

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Shands Arts in Medicine
University of Florida Performing Arts

*Bridging the
Performing Arts & Healthcare*



AIM

AIM Together represents a ground-breaking partnership between University of Florida Performing Arts (UFPA) and Shands Arts in Medicine (AIM) in Gainesville, Florida. This project brings world-class performing artists into healthcare settings to provide performances and interactive arts events to individuals who, due to illness, age, disability and challenging socio-economic and geographic circumstances, have little or no access to the arts.

Goals

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The goals of the **AIM Together** program are:

- ♦ To bring high level professional arts performances, as well as opportunities for active participation in the arts, to people whose access to the arts is limited by age, illness or disability;
- ♦ To provide people living with illness and disability with opportunities to discover, explore and develop creative, expressive, and artistic abilities; and
- ♦ To serve as a model for excellence in accessible arts programming.

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble



History

In 2004, the National Endowment for the Arts funded the **AIM Together** pilot project, establishing this innovative model at the University of Florida and Shands Healthcare. The project has been a tremendous success, bringing artists from around the world on the UF Performing Arts season schedule to Shands Healthcare facilities for performances and short residencies. **AIM Together** artists have included Teatro Hugo & Ines, Soweto Gospel Choir, *STOMP*, Nriyagram Dance Ensemble, Robert and Rebecca Bluestone's *Woven Harmony*, and The Ten Tenors.

In 2006-07, through funding from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the **AIM Together Florida** program seeded five new partnerships based on the UF/Shands model in Orlando, Jacksonville, Miami, Tallahassee, and Tampa. Major funding was also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to support a full-scale healthcare-based season in Gainesville including nine **AIM Together** residencies.

Soweto Gospel Choir / Photo by Randy Barista



Enriching the Lives of Artists

Breaking the standard “fourth wall” in performance, **AIM Together** artists experience new levels of performance and audience interaction with children and adults of all ages and medical conditions. The **AIM Together** seasons have demonstrated a concern for arts access within the national touring artists community and have provided artists with opportunities to bring deeper meaning to their work. Willing to take a challenge by reaching out beyond their comfort zone, artists in turn learn the humbling powers and deep emotions brought about by their presence and use of the arts as a healing tool. Artists who have participated in the project have been profoundly affected by their experiences, and are now seeking and creating similar opportunities across the nation and in their home countries.

Artists

STOMP



*“Beyond wonderful.
Thank you!!!”*

AIM Together continues to expand awareness of arts and healthcare partnerships through presentations at regional, national, and international conferences, and to provide a successful model and leader in bringing the performing arts to the healthcare industry.

Comments from Artists:

“I wasn’t sure what to expect from our performance and activities, but the arts speak for themselves and brought a sense of *harmony and calm* to a chaotic environment.”

“I am changed after this experience. Thank you for the opportunity to learn about who I am as a person, as well as an artist.”

Comments from Patients:

“I was left with feelings of *amazement and gratitude.*”

“Beyond wonderful. *Thank you!!!*”

Enriching the Lives of Patients

AIM Together residencies bring inspiring artists and cultural experiences to hospitalized patients in a variety of non-traditional settings such as public spaces in hospitals, patient care areas including waiting and family rooms and hallways, and the patient bedside. Patients of all ages have opportunities to enjoy performances and experience personal and meaningful interactions with world-class artists in music, dance, and theatre. The artists work to stimulate and engage the minds of patients, their families, and medical caregivers through the arts, in order to better heal the body.

STOMP / Photo by Ray Carson, UF News & Public Affairs



Patients



Tauro Hugo & Inez / Photo by Kristin Bartlett, UF News & Public Affairs

About University of Florida Performing Arts

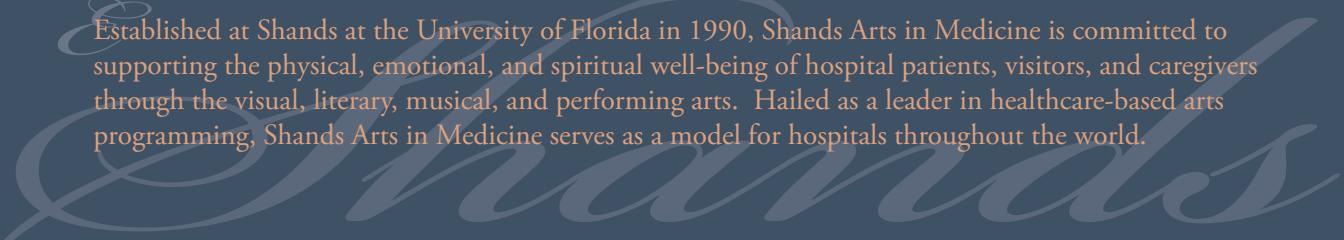
With a year-round season, University of Florida Performing Arts programs world-class and developing artists and ensembles in its three venues: the 1,750-seat Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 850-seat University Auditorium, and 100-seat Baughman Center. More than 125,000 patrons attend performances annually and take part in educational outreach opportunities, including pre- and post-performance discussions, master classes, workshops, school-day performances, and residencies.



Woven Harmony / Photo by Randy Batista

About Shands Arts in Medicine

Established at Shands at the University of Florida in 1990, Shands Arts in Medicine is committed to supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of hospital patients, visitors, and caregivers through the visual, literary, musical, and performing arts. Hailed as a leader in healthcare-based arts programming, Shands Arts in Medicine serves as a model for hospitals throughout the world.



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Helpful Web Links

University of Florida Performing Arts
www.performingarts.ufl.edu

Shands Arts in Medicine
www.shands.org/aim

National Endowment for the Arts
www.nea.gov

Society for the Arts in Healthcare
www.thesah.org



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 **Shands**
Arts in Medicine

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