

NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION INSTITUTIONAL FACT SHEET

MISSION AND HISTORY

Established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison, the National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) identifies and nurtures the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assists them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, regular performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 young artists with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated access to significant scholarships; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Sarah Brightman, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Neil Patrick Harris, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems.

APPLYING AND AWARD LEVELS

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15 – 18 or in grades 10 – 12 from across the United States. Selected through a rigorous blind adjudication process from a pool of more than 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of 12,000+ applications), YoungArts Winners are designated into three categories—Finalist, Honorable Mention and Merit. Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors, and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions.

NOTABLE ALUMNI

YoungArts Winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill, Nicki Minaj and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; television writer, producer, and director Jenji Kohan; *New York Times* bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

National YoungArts Week

The organization's week-long signature program, which takes place in Miami each year, provides approximately 170 YoungArts Finalists with life-changing artistic enrichment experiences, including master classes with such distinguished teachers and mentors as James Caan, Rosie Perez, Robert Redford, James Rosenquist, Mickalene Thomas, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber, as well as workshops, interdisciplinary activities, performances and exhibitions. National YoungArts Week is designed to support young artists at a critical juncture in their lives and encourage them to pursue a career in the arts.

Regional Programs

In an effort to provide all Winners with the National YoungArts Week experience, YoungArts began offering regional programs in 2012. Currently, programs are offered in Miami, New York and Los Angeles and are produced in close partnership with institutions in each region including the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Sotheby's New York and National Sawdust (NY), and Los Angeles Theatre Center (LA). Like National YoungArts Week, these programs offer participants the opportunity to work one-on-one with renowned master teachers in interdisciplinary sessions, master classes and workshops, and to perform and exhibit work at leading venues.

U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts

At the request of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, which is appointed by the President of the United States, YoungArts serves as the exclusive nominating agency for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, the nation's highest honor for young artists. Each year, 20 YoungArts Winners are recognized as U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. They receive a Presidential Medallion, and have their work showcased at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Throughout the year in Miami, YoungArts offers alumni continued opportunities to engage with the public through screenings, performances, visual arts exhibitions, talks and artist in residency programs. Past highlights include *Romeo & Juliet: Outside the Box*, a site-specific performance created by playwright and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Tarell Alvin McCraney (1999 Winner in Theater), along with filmmaker Andrew Hevia (2003 Winner in Cinematic Arts); exhibitions by Hernan Bas (1996 Winner in Visual Arts) and Daniel Arsham (1999 Winner in Visual Arts); and Desmond Richardson's (1986 Winner in Dance) YoungArts Residency in Dance and *Outside the Box* performances.

The 2015/2016 YoungArts season encompasses a series of new performances, showcases, exhibitions, and interdisciplinary collaborations across a broad range of art forms—from the interdisciplinary performance series "Outside the Box," to site-specific presentations and Salon Series discussions with YoungArts alumni Jason Moran and Daniel Arsham, and YoungArts Master Artists Jay Scheib and Fab 5 Freddy.

In New York, YoungArts' public programming includes YoungArts @ The Met, an ongoing classical music program presented in partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art that offers museum visitors and patrons free performances; as well as annual public performances as part of YoungArts New York and YoungArts Awareness Day.

PARTNERS

YoungArts is proud to partner with some of the nation's most respected institutions including The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), American Ballet Theater, New York Live Arts, Jacob's Pillow, and New World Symphony.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Working with world-renowned architect and YoungArts Artistic Advisor Frank Gehry, YoungArts is transforming its three-and-a-half acre campus, formerly the Bacardi Complex, into a lively, multidisciplinary cultural center.

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