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YOUNGARTS OPENS *TOTAL TOLERANCE* EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Washington D.C. (April 23, 2018) – The **National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts)** was selected by the **U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Student Art Exhibit Program** for a show opening in Washington, D.C. on May 4, 2018. Titled ***Total Tolerance***, the exhibition will showcase works by **2018 YoungArts winners** in Design Arts, Photography, Visual Arts and Writing that investigate and address the theme of the exhibition—tolerance of all people regardless of religion, culture, race or gender.

In the context of current discussions about social and civil rights issues, and the strength of student movements across the country, it is clear that our nation’s youth are leading important conversations about how people from different backgrounds can come together through the arts. Whether these young artists are creating work directly rooted in their own lived experiences, or as a reflection of the multitude of inequalities and injustices they see in this country and around the world, they are using their canvases to reject narratives of intolerance.

“This exhibition exemplifies why we do this work,” said Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts President and CEO. “Together with the U.S. Department of Education, we can signal to the country that arts education is a necessary facet of education for all students. Seeing their own artwork in an exhibition at the nation’s headquarters for education makes it clear to these young artists that art is a longstanding institution of the United States and will continue to be for decades to come.”

Through their artwork, the young participants—ages 15–18 years old—aim to prompt difficult dialogue around equity, inclusiveness and diversity. They are constantly and deliberately looking at the world around them with a critical eye, questioning existing systems and prescribed outlooks through their practices, and offering alternative, more inclusive perspectives on the systemic issues of global injustice.

The opening reception for *Total Tolerance* will be held at the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., on May 4, 2018. The formal program and ribbon cutting ceremony with a spoken word performance by **Tika Wallace** (2018 Winner in Writing) will take place from 11 am to 12 pm, followed by the viewing of the exhibition, which will be open by appointment until June 29, 2018. On June 25 and 26 the exhibition will be open by appointment from 9 am – 5 pm coinciding with the **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program** celebration and performances, for which YoungArts is the sole nominating agency in the arts. To attend the opening please RSVP by May 1 to Jacquelyn.zimmermann@ed.gov. To visit the exhibit after the opening and for information, contact Jacquelyn Zimmermann at the same email address or call her at 202-401-0762.

The selection process for the artists in *Total Tolerance* was inspired by its location in a national space at the U.S. Department of Education, the timing and its relevance, as well as a proposed curatorial investigation of current affairs, empathy and tolerance through the eyes of young artists working across media. The selected YoungArts winners are: **Amanata Adams** (2018 Winner in Photography, previously enrolled at

Hewitt School, New York, NY), **Hanna Andrews** (2018 Winner in Writing, Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana, CA), **My'Racle Brown** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Miami Arts Charter School, Miami, FL), **Aidan Forster** (2018 Winner in Writing, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Greenville, SC), **Kiki Gordon** (2018 Winner in Design Arts, Design & Architecture Senior High School, Miami, FL), **Amal Haddad** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Albert Einstein High School, Kensington, MD), **Kevin Hopkins** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Greenville, SC), **Quinlan Lewis-Mussa** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI), **Leanne Lin** (2018 Winner in Design Arts, Design & Architecture Senior High School, Miami, FL), **Laiza Martinez** (2018 Winner in Photography, Inwood Early College For Health And Information Technologies, New York, NY), **Christopher McCready** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Design & Architecture Senior High School, Miami, FL), **Ameya Okamoto** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Catlin Gabel School, Portland, OR), **Janelle Radcliffe** (2018 Winner in Photography, Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, West Palm Beach, FL), **Belle Ray** (2018 Winner in Photography, Lawrence High School, Lawrence, KS), **Juniel Solis** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL), **Edith Trautwein** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, The New Roads School, Santa Monica, CA), **Harley Walker** (2018 Winner in Photography, Miami Arts Charter School, Miami, FL), **Thunder "Tika" Wallace** (2018 Winner in Writing, George Mason High School, Falls Church, VA), **Hazelle Withers** (2018 Winner in Photography, Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA), **Caroline Zhang** (2018 Winner in Visual Arts, Chapel Hill High School, Chapel Hill, NC) and **Bianca Zhou** (2018 Winner in Writing, Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon, CA).

About the National YoungArts Foundation

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, 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.

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 blind adjudication process, YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

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 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; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [instagram.com/youngarts](https://www.instagram.com/youngarts), [facebook.com/youngartsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/youngartsfoundation) or twitter.com/youngarts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).