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**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION SECOND ANNUAL
YOUNGARTS AWARENESS DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**

**#becauseofyoungarts Nationwide Advocacy Campaign to
Encourage Young Artists to Pursue a Career in the Arts and to
Celebrate the Organization's Impact on More Than 20,000 Emerging Artists**

**YoungArts Alumni Including
Andrew Rannells, Daniel Arsham, Josh Groban,
India Carney, Tony Yazbeck and Zuzanna Szadkowski
to Participate in Online & Live Events in
Miami, New York, and Los Angeles**

MIAMI, FL (September 2015) – The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) today announces the second annual YoungArts Awareness Day, a national campaign recognizing the organization's impact on thousands of emerging artists with a call-to-action for future generations. Slated for Thursday, September 24, 2015, this year's events will take place on the heels of National Arts in Education Week to emphasize the growing need for programs that foster development, provide access to financial rewards, and present the arts as a viable career path—especially as schools are rapidly eliminating the arts within their curricula.

YoungArts Awareness Day will be celebrated through a series of public events in New York, Miami and Los Angeles. The initiative aims to show that **#becauseofyoungarts**, artists ages 15 to 18 years are able to take the next steps toward achieving their goals and building a strong professional network including award-winning and acclaimed alumni, such as Doug Aitken, Conrad Tao, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington, among other notable figures.

“Through *YoungArts Awareness Day* we hope to activate the public and our more than 20,000 YoungArts alumni to reach young artists in every corner of this country and make sure they know that we are here to support their dreams of becoming a professional artist,”

said Lisa Leone, Vice President of Artistic Programs for YoungArts. “We want to show them that being an artist is a worthwhile and fulfilling career path, and that we will guide and mentor them to help reach their fullest potential.”

The YoungArts network, including thousands of professional artists, master teachers, parents and aspiring artists, will take to social media to share their personal YoungArts stories and discuss why the arts are important using the hashtags **#becauseofyoungarts** and **#keepartsalive**. Events aim to inspire young artists (between the ages of 15 and 18 or in high school grades 10-12) to apply to become a part of the 35th Anniversary Class of YoungArts Winners at youngarts.org/apply through October 16, 2015.

YoungArts Awareness Day Events

YoungArts Awareness Day events in New York City will feature **Andrew Rannells** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater), **Zuzanna Szadkowski** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), and **Tony Yazbeck** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater) at the helm of a dynamic Broadway showcase. In Los Angeles, **Black Gatsby (D’Angelo Lacy)** (2005 YoungArts Winner in Theater) will direct a rock/pop concert starring **India Carney** (2011 YoungArts Winner in Theater, Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); and in Miami, where YoungArts is headquartered, a selection of **Daniel Arsham’s** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts) work—curated by recently appointed director of Pérez Art Museum Miami **Franklin Sirmans**—will open to the public in conjunction with a YoungArts Salon featuring Arsham and Sirmans in conversation about the exhibition. The first of an exciting season of programming, the YoungArts Salon Series is sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. For more information, visit youngarts.org/youngarts-awareness-day.

Additional Ways to Get Involved

Additional initiatives include a live Q&A hosted by **Josh Groban** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Theater) about arts education and his own Find Your Light Foundation on the [YoungArts Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/youngarts) page starting at 3pm.

Behind the Scenes

To help ensure that artists can maintain a career in the arts, YoungArts is in the process of **developing an online platform** for artists, choreographers, managers, booking agents, and curators, among other professionals, to help build networks and share job opportunities. Further, YoungArts continues to distribute its annual **Student List Service (SLS)** to colleges and universities around the country, providing them with a database of aspiring artists who have applied to the YoungArts program and may be valuable assets to their schools.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 winners are selected.

YoungArts Winners have the chance to work with renowned mentors, such as **Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker** and **Bruce Weber**; receive cash awards of up to \$10,000; gain access to significant scholarships; be recognized as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts (YoungArts is the nominating agency for this high honor for artistically-talented graduating high school seniors); and perform and exhibit their work at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (Washington, D.C.), **The Museum of Modern Art** (New York) and **New World Center** (Miami). YoungArts Winners also become part of the strong YoungArts alumni network artists which offers them additional opportunities throughout their careers.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

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

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