

MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT * * * MEDIA ALERT

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION TO PRESENT
TWO *FREE* *OUTSIDE THE BOX* EVENTS ON THE YOUNGARTS CAMPUS**

OUTSIDE THE BOX: THE LANGSTON HUGHES PROJECT

Featuring the Ron McCurdy Quartet, YoungArts Alumnus Kenyon Adams and Special Surprise

Guests

April 18, 2015

&

ROMEO & JULIET OUTSIDE THE BOX

In partnership with Playwright and YoungArts Alumnus Tarell McCraney and Miami City Ballet

May 8, 2015

Sponsored by ArtPlace America

WHAT

The [National YoungArts Foundation](http://www.nationalyoungarts.org) (YoungArts) will present two new *Outside the Box* events on **April 18** and **May 8, 2015**. Both events will be **free and open to the public**, and will take place on the **YoungArts Campus** in Miami. Launched last year, the *Outside the Box* series engages the public, inspires artists, and serves as a catalyst for neighborhood transformation.

In honor of National Poetry Month, YoungArts will present ***Outside the Box: The Langston Hughes Project***, a multimedia concert performance of Hughes' *Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz*, on April 18. Directed by YoungArts Master Teacher **Ron McCurdy**, this epic jazz poem suite in music and verse about the struggle for artistic and social freedom in the '60s will feature McCurdy's quartet, YoungArts Alumnus **Kenyon Adams** (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and special surprise guests.

On May 8th, YoungArts will present ***Romeo & Juliet Outside the Box*** created by playwright, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow and YoungArts Alumnus **Tarell Alvin McCraney** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Theater), along with filmmaker and fellow YoungArts Alumnus **Andrew Hevia** (2003 YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts). Inspired by the story of Romeo & Juliet, this interactive evening will bring together some of Miami's electric performance artists, including dancers from **Miami City Ballet**. Created specifically for the YoungArts Campus, the lovers' doomed affair will find itself nestled into the heart of one of Miami's most iconic spaces, the Jewel Box.

Stephen Starr Events will have concessions available for *Outside the Box* attendees. The menus will be specifically designed around the theme for each event.

YoungArts' *Outside the Box* series is sponsored by a grant from **ArtPlace America**, a national consortium that funds significant projects that use art and culture for creative placemaking to shape their communities' social, physical and economic futures.

Additional support for *Outside the Box* is provided by **The Miami Foundation, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, The Children's Trust, and IKEA.**

WHERE National YoungArts Foundation Campus
2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137

WHEN April 18, 2015 (rain or shine)
7pm-9pm; Doors open at 7pm & performance starts at 7:30pm
Event is free and open to the public, RSVP to OutsideTheBox@youngarts.org

May 8, 2015 (rain or shine)
7pm-9pm; Performance begins promptly at 7pm
Event is free and open to the public, RSVP to OTB@youngarts.org

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 provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities at critical junctures throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni, including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington, with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$60 million in college scholarship opportunities in the past two years; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber.

YoungArts is working with world-renowned architect and YoungArts Artistic Advisor Frank Gehry to transform the former Bacardi Tower and Museum buildings and three-and-a-half acre campus into its national headquarters, which will support expanded local activities in Miami and across the country. The new campus will feature a Gehry-designed performing arts center and park with state-of-the-art sound and video capabilities. Since opening the campus for programming in November 2013, YoungArts has held salons sponsored by the *John S. and James L. Knight Foundation* with Marina Abramović, Robert Redford, Justin Peck & Sufjan Stevens, Joshua Bell, Ben Folds and Lil Buck; hosted Olafur Eliasson and his *Little Sun* installation in partnership with MoMA PS1 and Fondation Beyeler; launched a Visual Artist in Residency program supported by The Related Group; held master classes for local music students with jazz icon Wynton Marsalis and opera star Plácido Domingo; produced an interdisciplinary performance on the campus with Robert Redford and Sibylle Szaggars Redford, Living Colour's Will Calhoun, and YoungArts alumni Dave Eggar and Desmond Richardson; premiered HBO's *Joshua Bell: A YoungArts MasterClass*; and hosted a concert series in partnership with III Points Presents featuring FKA twigs, James Blake and SBTRKT.

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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