

**NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S RESIDENCY PROGRAM CONTINUES TO  
EXPAND INTO MIAMI COMMUNITIES**

**MIAMI NATIVE ERNEST BAKER TO CREATE WORK TO BE PRESENTED IN OPA-LOCKA**

**MIAMI, FL (March 15, 2017)** – National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) presents In Process: Homecoming in April 2018, an artist-in-residence program dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration between two alumni at seminal stages of their careers. Shining light on Miami as a unique place where artists feel deeply connected to their experience, YoungArts has invited alumni with ties to the local community to its Miami campus for a weeklong residency to create new work. Provided with the time, space and resources to experiment and innovate, they will then take their works-in-development to the Miami neighborhood they feel most connected to, further expanding YoungArts' programs in communities throughout the city.

In April, dancer and choreographer Ernest Baker (2009 Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and filmmaker Kayla Briët (2016 Winner in Cinematic Arts) will collaborate for the second edition of In Process: Homecoming from April 2–7, 2018. Titled *HOME*, the public presentation with Baker and Briët will take place on Saturday, April 7 at 7 pm at the Arts & Recreation Center (ARC) in Opa-locka CDC's Thrive Campus. This event is free with RSVP to YoungArts at [inprocessernest.eventbrite.com](http://inprocessernest.eventbrite.com).

"For years I've desired to go back home and develop a project about my upbringing. Considering that YoungArts is where I first discovered my future in the arts, I see no better way of accomplishing this dream than with their support," said Ernest Baker. "My hope is for this personal story—titled *HOME*—to resonate with the many young people seeking spiritual direction in life, as I once was."

As a multidisciplinary artist, Baker is above all a storyteller. With *HOME*, an experimental documentary film, he explores his own journey from boyhood to manhood in his hometown of Miami, Florida. Dances and hymns are captured by filmmaker Kayla Briët to portray Baker's growing pains as well as a longing for a much less ephemeral home—Heaven.

Support for the In Process: Homecoming series is provided by the Hearst Foundation. Additional support for YoungArts programs is provided by National Premier Partner Carnival Foundation; Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and Wells Fargo.

**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, 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.

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 A. McCraney.

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

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