

NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES 710 ARTISTS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL, LITERARY, DESIGN AND PERFORMING ARTS

*Winners from 44 States Across the Nation to Receive Cash Awards,
Mentorship and Professional Development Opportunities*

Finalists to Participate in National YoungArts Week in Miami, January 6–13, 2019

MIAMI, FL (November 29, 2018) – The [National YoungArts Foundation](http://NationalYoungArtsFoundation.org) (YoungArts) is proud to announce the 2019 YoungArts winners—**710** of the nation’s most promising young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts. Selected from thousands of applications and representing artists from 44 states, YoungArts winners gain access to one of the most comprehensive programs for emerging artists in the United States, offering financial, professional and artistic development opportunities over the course of their careers. A complete list of the 2019 winners, all 15–18 years old or in grades 10–12, is available online at youngarts.org/winners.

The 2019 winners will receive cash prizes of up to \$10,000, access to mentors and opportunities to share their work with the public at renowned institutions such as the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (Washington, D.C.), **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** (New York), **Baryshnikov Arts Center** (New York) and **New World Center** (Miami). From January 6–13, the 2019 YoungArts Finalists—representing the organization’s highest award level—will learn from renowned artists including Tony Award winner **Joan Lader**; Grammy Award-winning percussionist **Joseph Gramley**; Academy Award-winning film editor **Doug Blush**; Obie Award-winning theater artists **Steven Sapp** and **Mildred Ruiz**; award-winning journalist, author and provocative cultural critic **Joan Morgan**; poet **John Murillo**; opera singers **Daniela Mack** and **Alek Shrader**; US Artist Fellow and Princess Grace award-winning choreographer **Rosie Herrera**; bestselling author **Kristen Simmons**; and award-winning photographer **Lori Hepner**, among many others.

“On behalf of YoungArts, I want to congratulate all of the 2019 winners for their achievements at such an early stage in their careers,” said **Sarah Arison**, YoungArts Board Chair. “We believe that every artist should be empowered to pursue a life in the arts, and we are excited to welcome our winners to the YoungArts family. This is just the beginning and we look forward to helping provide them with the valuable opportunities and support they will need to thrive throughout their artistic journeys.”

Selected through a blind adjudication process conducted by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists, the 2019 winners represent the top **10 percent** of applications. Of this year’s **710** winners, some have been awarded for excellence in multiple disciplines at various levels. Altogether, **725** awards have been attributed: **163** have been named Finalists, the organization’s highest honor; **268** are Honorable Mentions and **294** are Merit winners.

This year’s Finalists have the opportunity to participate in the 38th annual **National YoungArts**

Week in Miami January 6–13, 2019. All winners are eligible to participate in YoungArts’ regional programs, including **YoungArts Miami** (February 19–24, 2019), **YoungArts Los Angeles** (March 26–31, 2019) and **YoungArts New York** (April 23–28, 2019), and will join a professional network of distinguished artists.

Finalists are also eligible for nomination to the White House-appointed Commission on Presidential Scholars. As the sole nominating agency, YoungArts selects 60 Finalists each year, 20 of whom are invited to become **U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts**, one of the highest honors for graduating high school seniors.

National YoungArts Week

National YoungArts Week, the organization’s signature program, aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and community while offering Finalists the guidance needed to prepare for the next stage of their artistic development. During the free, weeklong intensive, artists across 10 disciplines participate in master classes and workshops with internationally recognized leaders in their fields, such as Ansin Stewart Master Teacher **Gavin Creel** and Florence Stern Memorial Master Teacher **Wendy Whelan**. Throughout the week, Finalists’ work will be further adjudicated to determine additional award levels.

Each evening, audiences can experience the work of the next generation of artists through performances in voice, jazz, theater, dance and classical music, as well as film screenings at **New World Center**, writers’ readings in the **YoungArts Jewel Box**, and a visual arts, photography and design exhibition curated by **Rosie Gordon-Wallace** of Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator in the **YoungArts Gallery**. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit youngarts.org/yaw.

National YoungArts Week culminates with the annual **Backyard Ball** performance and gala. Presented by **Harry Winston, Inc.**, the artistic black tie event is the organization’s largest fundraiser, bringing together prominent artists, community leaders, philanthropists and celebrities to celebrate all 2019 YoungArts winners.

Performances will be streamed live on youngarts.org and on YoungArts’ [Facebook page](#).

Tickets are now on sale for National YoungArts Week.

[Performances at New World Center](#) (500 17th St., Miami Beach, FL 33139)

Monday, January 7 | 8 PM

Classical, Jazz & Pop Voice Performance

[Buy tickets](#)

Tuesday, January 8 | 8 PM

Jazz & Theater Performance

[Buy tickets](#)

Wednesday, January 9 | 8 PM

Dance Performance & Film Screenings

[Buy tickets](#)

Thursday, January 10 | 8:30 PM

Classical Music Concert

[Buy tickets](#)

On the YoungArts Campus (2100 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137)

Friday, January 11

Writers' Readings | 6 PM

[RSVP](#)

Design, Photography & Visual Arts Exhibition Opening | 7:30 PM

[RSVP](#)

Support

YoungArts Week is supported by the YoungArts National Premier Partner Carnival Foundation; the YoungArts Week Performance Partner SunTrust; the Design Arts Discipline Partner, Arquitectonica; the Visual Arts Discipline Partner, Related Group; Jay Franke and David Herro, Sandra and Tony Tamer; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, The Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and the Miami-Dade Tourist Development Council; Wells Fargo; The City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council; Miami Downtown Development Authority; and the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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 Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

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