

Media Contacts:

Vanessa Leitman / National YoungArts Foundation / 305-377-1140 X1300 / vleitman@youngarts.org
Paola Villanueva / Harrison & Shriftman / 305-534-0008 / pvillanueva@hs-pr.com

*****POST-EVENT MEDIA ALERT*******THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION HONORED ZAHA HADID, RITA MORENO & ANDREW RANNELLS AT A BACKYARD BALL GALA, AND RAISED OVER \$1.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT YOUNG ARTISTS**

*YoungArts Winners Celebrated at the Inaugural Performance and Gala
on the YoungArts Campus*

WHAT: In Miami, on Saturday, January 11th, a major highlight of the National YoungArts Foundation's 33rd annual YoungArts Week was their *Backyard Ball*, a Gala and special alumni performance that brought together more than 800 notable guests to celebrate the artistic excellence of the 2014 YoungArts Finalists for the first time on the organization's new campus, the former site of the historic Bacardi Tower and Museum buildings. The evening raised over \$1.5 million to be used directly to support YoungArts, whose mission is to support the development of talented young artists in the literary, performing, visual, and design arts.

Set in an elegant outdoor tent, the evening was hosted by Gala chairpersons, **Elizabeth and Facundo L. Bacardi**, along with the organization's President and CEO, **Paul T. Lehr**. Guests including YoungArts Artistic Advisor **Frank Gehry**, and YoungArts master teachers **Rosie Perez, Paola Antonelli, Shelly Berg, Angela Brown, James Rosenquist, Naomi Fisher, Jacque d'Amboise**, and **Judith Hill** (YoungArts Popular Voice Winner 2002) enjoyed cocktails courtesy of BACARDI, dinner, and a powerful alumni performance directed by renowned dancer, choreographer, and YoungArts Artistic Advisor, **Bill T. Jones**, who also made an impromptu appearance on stage, bouncing between performers to cheer them on.

Tony Award® winner **Brian Stokes Mitchell** emceed the evening that also saw speeches from Gehry and Perez when they presented architect **Zaha Hadid** and actress **Rita Moreno**, respectively, with the YoungArts Arison Award for their influence on the development of young artists. YoungArts alumnus **Andrew Rannells**, who currently appears on the HBO series, *Girls*, received the Alumni Award. Following the gala, on the campus plaza, guests savored a selection of sweet treats while mingling at the *After Hours* party with live music and dancing.

Other notables in attendance included **Armando & Margarita Codina, Adrienne Arsht, Emilio Estefan, Sarah Arison, Mayda Cisneros, Jorge & Darlene Perez, Susie & Walid Wahab, Jackie Soffer, Princess Leirjal Fyrial Iran Issa Khan, Criselda Breene, Cathy Leff, Daniel & Marcela Novella, Adam & Lisa Koffler, Martin Margulies, Marvin Ross Friedman & Adrienne bon Haes, Andres Fanjul Jr., Stephanie & Evan Reed, Sandy Muss, Mark & Arlys Raymond, Bruce & Tracey Berkowitz, Sam Robin, Tui Pranich and Diana Stoll.**

The Backyard Ball Performance and Gala was sponsored by UBS, Bacardi Limited, Braman Motors, EventStar and The James Royal Palm Hotel.

WHEN: Saturday, January 11, 2014

WHERE: YoungArts Campus
2100 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION The National YoungArts Foundation (formerly known as the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 17,000 young artists with over \$6 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$150 million in college scholarship opportunities; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Jacques d'Amboise, Plácido Domingo, Bill T. Jones, Quincy Jones, Robert Redford and Martin Scorsese. For more information about YoungArts, visit www.youngarts.org.