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**JEWEL D. MALONE APPOINTED CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
OF THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION**

Miami, FL (September 15, 2016) – The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) announces the appointment of Jewel Malone as its Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Malone, who assumed her post in August 2016, joins YoungArts following more than a decade of leadership experience across the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors. In her new role, Ms. Malone will work alongside newly appointed President and Chief Executive Officer Carolina García Jayaram, focusing on systems and team-building across the organization to further help the organization realize its vision, elevate awareness, and activate the YoungArts campus as a vital asset for artists in the fabric of Miami’s burgeoning arts and culture community.

“I am excited to partner with Carolina Jayaram and the remarkable YoungArts staff to amplify this organization as a premiere resource for engaging and supporting talented emerging artists,” said Jewel Malone. “I’ve spent my career dedicated to creating equity and access to the arts, and I look forward to forging new strategic partnerships to strengthen YoungArts’ impact on our youth, alumni and the communities that we serve—and to show how the arts can awe-inspire when we need it the most.”

“I am thrilled that Jewel Malone has joined us as Chief Operating Officer,” said Carolina García Jayaram. “Over the years, I have witnessed first-hand her remarkable strategic intuition and singular dedication to helping institutions—cultural and corporate alike—achieve new areas of growth and success. Her passion for philanthropy and the arts, coupled with her proven leadership skills, make her the perfect candidate to help take YoungArts to the next level as a dynamic force in our nation’s cultural landscape.”

Ms. Malone comes to YoungArts from Chicago, where she most recently served as Chief Operating Officer of the Chicago Children’s Choir (CCC), one of the nation’s largest choral music education organizations, serving more than 4,400 youth in 79 schools and 10 after-school neighborhood programs. At CCC, she helped to increase organizational capacity and effectiveness through staff and board development, strategic planning and re-branding efforts, and grew student enrollment by nearly 10 percent.

Prior to joining Chicago Children’s Choir, Ms. Malone served as Deputy Commissioner at the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. During her tenure, she oversaw strategic initiatives and partnerships and cultural grant making program to nonprofits and individual artists. Additionally, she was instrumental in the creation and development of the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan, a major public engagement process and the first plan of its kind for the city in over 25 years, with goals for sustainability in the arts and future cultural and economic growth. Ms. Malone also served as Vice President for Corporate Responsibility and Global Philanthropy for JPMorgan Chase, where she stewarded over \$14 million of charitable grants toward community development, education and arts and culture programs.

Born in the Philippines and raised in Chicago, Ms. Malone received an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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 from a pool of more than an average of 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 applications), 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, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Neil Patrick Harris, 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-winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

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