

## **NATIONWIDE OPEN CALL FOR VISUAL, LITERARY, DESIGN AND PERFORMING ARTISTS AGES 15 -18 BEGINS TODAY**

*Winners Receive Extraordinary Mentorship, Professional and Monetary Opportunities*

*Exclusive Path to Become a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts*

*Applications Accepted through October 13, 2017*



**MIAMI, FL (March 15, 2017)** – The [National YoungArts Foundation](http://www.youngarts.org) (YoungArts) has announced that applications to become a 2018 YoungArts Winner will be accepted beginning today, **March 15 through October 13, 2017**. YoungArts identifies and nurtures the nation’s most accomplished emerging artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts between the ages of 15 and 18 or in high school grades 10-12. One of the most comprehensive programs dedicated to supporting and propelling young artists, YoungArts provides opportunities to participate in its programs nationwide and engage with renowned mentors, monetary awards, including prizes of up to \$10,000, the chance to become a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and guidance in taking important steps toward achieving their professional and artistic goals. Prospective candidates are encouraged to submit applications online at <http://www.youngarts.org/apply>.

Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts’ President & Chief Executive Officer said, “Supporting and encouraging young artists to believe in themselves and share their point of view has never been so important. We hope that young artists across the country will apply to our 2018 program, and look forward to getting to know the next generation of creative visionaries and supporting them at critical junctures in their careers.”

Artists may apply to any of YoungArts' ten disciplines: **Cinematic Arts, Dance, Design Arts, Jazz, Classical Music, Photography, Theater, Visual Arts, Voice and Writing**. YoungArts Winners are selected annually through a blind adjudication process, and recognized at the Finalist, Honorable Mention or Merit level.

All YoungArts Winners are exposed to professional and educational opportunities, including the chance to work with and learn from renowned artists in their fields—such as **Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie, Rebecca Walker** and **Carrie Mae Weems**—and are eligible to participate in one of YoungArts' annual regional programs in Miami, Los Angeles and New York. YoungArts also offers a strong professional network of more than 20,000 alumni, as well as ongoing professional guidance and the opportunity to perform and exhibit their work at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (Washington, D.C.), **Baryshnikov Arts Center** (New York), **Sotheby's** (New York), **New World Center** (Miami) and the **Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA** (Los Angeles).

Each January, YoungArts Finalists are invited to National YoungArts Week, the organization's signature program held annually in Miami, to participate in an all-expenses-paid week of intensive master classes and workshops with leading artists. Each evening, participants share their work with the public through performances, readings, exhibitions and screenings, and are further evaluated to receive awards of up to \$10,000. Nominations for that year's U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts—one of the highest honors given to high school seniors in the United States who embody academic and artistic excellence—are also made, as YoungArts is the exclusive nominating agency for this award.

Talya Krupnick, a 2017 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts from Silver Spring, Maryland, said, "As a young artist, there's nothing more reassuring than being able to talk with practicing artists 10, 20, even 30 years down the line, and finding that you share the same ideals, ethics, or even struggles. The level of discussion provided through YoungArts has not only validated my experience as an artist, but has also shown me what my future as an artist may look like."

### **Eligibility and Award Information**

To be eligible for recognition by YoungArts, applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18 (as of December 1, 2017); or in high school grades 10-12 either a United States citizen or a permanent resident; and must demonstrate excellence in the visual, literary, design or performing arts. The applications deadline is October 13, 2017 at 11:59pm EST.

If students have any questions, they can reach programming staff at (305) 377-1140 or [apply@youngarts.org](mailto:apply@youngarts.org).

### **YoungArts Disciplines/Categories**

The YoungArts application consists of ten disciplines across the visual, literary, design and performing arts. They are listed below alongside the respective subcategories to which students may apply:

- Cinematic Arts
- Dance: Ballet, Choreography, Hip Hop, Jazz, Modern, Tap, World Dance (various forms)
- Design Arts
- Jazz: Composition and Instrumental (various)
- Classical Music: Composition and Instrumental (various)

- Photography
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Voice: Classical, Jazz, Popular and Singer-Songwriter
- Writing: Creative Non-Fiction, Novel, Play or Script, Poetry, Short Story, Spoken Word

### **2017 YoungArts Winners**

Selected from the largest pool of applicants to date, 691 YoungArts Winners from 42 states were recognized for their outstanding work across the visual, literary, design and performing arts fields. A complete list of the 2017 Winners is available online at <http://youngarts.org/winners>.

### **YoungArts Alumni**

YoungArts' expansive alumni network of leading professionals includes visual artists **Doug Aitken** (1986 Winner in Visual Arts) and **Daniel Arsham** (1999 Winner in Visual Arts); musicians **Conrad Tao** (2011 Winner in Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and **Jennifer Koh** (1994 Winner in Music and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); filmmaker **Doug Blush** (1984 Winner in Cinematic Arts); recording artists **Josh Groban** (1999 Winner in Theater) and **Chris Young** (2003 Winner in Voice and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); writer **Sam Lipsyte** (1986 Winner in Writing and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts); actors **Viola Davis** (1983 Winner in Theater), **Andrew Rannells** (1997 Winner in Theater) and **Kerry Washington** (1994 Winner in Theater); choreographers **Camille A. Brown** (1997 Winner in Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and **Desmond Richardson** (1986 Winner in Modern Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts).

### **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.

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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#### **Image Captions:**

Bria Hamlett (2016 & 2017 YoungArts Winner in Photography) in a master class with Corinne May Botz during National YoungArts Week  
Photo credit: Jason Koerner

Nicholas 'Kade' Cummings (2017 YoungArts Winner in Dance/Modern) rehearsing during National YoungArts Week  
Photo credit: Katherine Bollens

Visual Arts master class with Jean Shin during National YoungArts Week  
Photo credit: Jason Koerner