NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION SEASON KICKS OFF WITH DANCE RESIDENCY, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES BY JAY JACKSON OF RUPAUL’S DRAGRACE AND SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

Third Edition of In Process Artist Residency Program Continues With Focus on Intergenerational Collaboration

Project for Empty Space’s Jasmine Wahi Curates Fall Exhibition; Daniel Arsham Fellow SHENEQUA Exhibits at Expo Chicago; Up Next Professional Development Symposia in New York and Los Angeles Return

National YoungArts Week Signature Program to Take Place January 6-13, 2019, Followed by Regional Programs in Miami, Los Angeles and New York

MIAMI, FL (August 2, 2018) – YoungArts today announces a 2018/2019 season that celebrates interdisciplinary collaboration, experimentation and mentorship, and expands support for its alumni artists. From public workshops, community-wide dance classes and headliner performances by Jay Jackson (2007 Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)—best known as Laganja Estranja on RuPaul’s Drag Race and So You Think You Can Dance—and a visual arts exhibition curated by Project for Empty Space’s Jasmine Wahi, to artist residencies in Miami and professional development symposia in New York and Los Angeles, the organization has curated a national program that champions its 10 disciplines aimed to propel artists’ careers forward.

“We are proud to announce a season committed to nurturing the next generation of great artists that provides a platform to share their significant achievements,” said Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts President and CEO. “Through YoungArts’ national competition, we have built an alumni network of approximately 20,000 artists over 37 years. Increasingly, we are finding new ways to engage them beyond their student years by working with mentors, partners, donors and industry professionals to ensure artists are supported at pivotal moments in their careers. We are excited to share our alumni’s work in this new season with audiences around the country.”

Artistic Development
For the 2018/2019 season, YoungArts is expanding residency opportunities available to alumni through various new partnerships.

Starting September 10, 2018, YoungArts alumna Jay Jackson will take over the YoungArts Jewel Box for a dance residency that will include the creation of a new piece featuring
multiple YoungArts alumni in Classical Music, Dance and Design Arts, as well as public performances, workshops and community engagement.

A new partnership with Aimco will offer six Visual Arts alumni the opportunity to create site-specific installations in a public exhibition space at Bay Parc Apartments in Miami over the course of two years. Accompanied by activations and art talks, the project connects artists to the public and aims to foster art as an integral part of living in Miami. The first resident artist is Nadia Wolff (2016 Winner in Design Arts and Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), who will explore space structure within a black Caribbean context and transform the exhibition space into a collage that channels the energy inherent to Haitian cities, homes and history.

For the third consecutive year, YoungArts will continue its In Process residency program dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration. At the conclusion of each residency, two YoungArts alumni will showcase their work on the YoungArts Campus through a public presentation and conversation. This year, In Process will highlight YoungArts’ nearly 40-year history of supporting artists by focusing on intergenerational work and pairing alumni not only across disciplines, but generations.

Presentation Opportunities
Since 2013, the two-story YoungArts Gallery has hosted exhibitions by YoungArts master artists, winners and alumni, including Olafur Eliasson, Daniel Arsham (1999 Winner in Visual Arts) and Hernan Bas (1994 Winner in Visual Arts).

This fall, YoungArts will present “Education as the Practice of Freedom,” an exhibition curated by Jasmine Wahi, whose practice predominantly focuses on female empowerment, complicating binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multipositional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism. Opening on October 9, 2018, the exhibition will feature works by Visual Arts and Design Arts alumni that are in conversation with one of three prompts or “phases” related to the idea of transgressive education in Bell Hooks’s Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom. The exhibition will feature additional programming in celebration of Miami Art Week in December. In spring 2019, YoungArts will present an exhibition featuring the work of Photography alumni.

Additionally this season, YoungArts will support Visual Arts, Design Arts and Photography alumni with exhibitions and residencies in collaboration with our valued partners.

Alumni work will be available for purchase at two of the nation’s premiere art fairs: EXPO Chicago in September 2018, where interdisciplinary textile artist SHENEQUA (2011 Winner in Visual Arts), the inaugural recipient of the Daniel Arsham Fellowship, will present her new body of work; and Pulse Miami Beach Contemporary Art Fair in December 2018 during Miami Art Week. SHENEQUA’s wall-mounted sculptural hair weavings mimic African-American hairstyles (such as braiding and bantu knotting), explore cultural heritage and contemporary identity and celebrate family, womanhood, beauty and the idea of sacred space.
YoungArts at ONE will annually feature alumni works as part of the ONE Is Where The Art Is art program by ONE Sotheby’s International Realty. Curated by YoungArts Exhibition Manager Luisa Múnera, this traveling exhibition will feature works by 2019 YoungArts winners.

**Professional Development**

Building on the success of YoungArts’ mentorship model with master artists across disciplines, **Up Next** features talks, workshops and panels that help prepare YoungArts alumni for successful careers in their artistic fields. Led by industry experts and renowned artists, daylong symposia take place in Los Angeles and New York, which are followed by showcases of alumni work and networking opportunities for alumni to collaborate with one another and pitch their work to leaders in the field.

**Signature Programs**

With YoungArts’ national competition open through **October 12 at 11:49 pm**, emerging artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts ages 15–18 or in high school grades 10–12 are encouraged to apply to participate in one of the most comprehensive programs dedicated to supporting and propelling young artists. YoungArts winners participate in intensive programs nationwide; engage with renowned mentors; become eligible for nomination as U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts; and receive monetary awards, including prizes of up to $10,000, and ongoing support as they work to achieve their professional and artistic goals. Prospective candidates should submit applications online at youngarts.org/apply.

YoungArts winners are designated as a Finalist, Honorable Mention or Merit winner through a blind adjudication process by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists. The 2018 Finalists, the most talented artists from across the nation, will attend the organization’s signature program, **National YoungArts Week**, in Miami from January 6–13. During the week, winners work with distinguished artists in intensive master classes, workshops and seminars and share their work with the public through performances and screenings at New World Symphony as well as writers’ readings and an exhibition curated by Rosie Gordon-Wallace on the YoungArts Campus. National YoungArts Week will culminate with the **YoungArts Backyard Ball** performance and gala on January 12, 2019. The event celebrates the year’s outstanding YoungArts winners and raises funds to support YoungArts programs.

YoungArts’ **regional programs** in Miami, Los Angeles and New York will take place in February, March and April 2019, respectively. Modeled after National YoungArts Week, these programs are open to winners from all award levels and offer artists life-changing experiences, guidance and support through interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes with renowned leaders, and opportunities to engage with local audiences in their communities.

Additional information on YoungArts’ new initiatives and programming will be announced in the coming months and available at youngarts.org.
Support for YoungArts programs is provided by the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor, Carnival; the Regional Sponsor, Northern Trust; the Legacy Master Series Sponsor, Aon; the Design Arts Discipline Sponsor, Arquitectonica; the Visual Arts Discipline Sponsor, Related Group; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and The Children’s Trust; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Wells Fargo; and the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

**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, Plácido Domingo, 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](http://youngarts.org), Facebook or Twitter. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click here.