NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION NAMES
LAUREN SNELLING SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI PROGRAMMING

Miami, FL (August 20, 2018) – The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) President and CEO Carolina García Jayaram today announced the appointment of Lauren Snelling as senior director of alumni programming. Snelling will work alongside García Jayaram and Vice President of Artistic Programs Lisa Leone to support artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts by overseeing and expanding programming for YoungArts alumni, including public programs, career development and local, regional and national partnerships that will continue to establish YoungArts as the leading pipeline for the next generation of great artists and creatives. She will assume her post immediately.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lauren Snelling to YoungArts, and look forward to growing our existing alumni programming and strengthening new alliances around the country,” said Carolina García Jayaram, YoungArts President and CEO. “For nearly 38 years, we have collaborated with schools, organizations, institutions and partners to nurture, empower and support the creative journeys of young artists. With a new senior director of alumni programming on board, we will focus on a pipeline of lifelong support for our alumni, including ongoing funding, mentorship, and artistic and professional development.”

“I am tremendously excited to join an organization whose leadership recognizes the investment in its mission and doubles down in support of the continued creativity and ingenuity of fiercely talented, emerging artists,” said Snelling.

Lauren Snelling brings a global perspective and collaborative spirit to curating in the contemporary arts. As founding artistic director of OZ Arts in Nashville, Tennessee (2013–2018), Snelling led the organization to critical acclaim in its first five years, and is credited with changing the cultural landscape of the city.

Under Snelling’s leadership, OZ Arts presented world-class artists and companies to a region of the country where they had rarely, if ever, performed.
Recognizing the extraordinary caliber of artists locally, Snelling also authored two, distinctive and ongoing series for ambitious Tennessee-based artists to experiment in OZ Arts’ flexible, 10,000 warehouse and gallery. She created an artist fellowship program, as well as a visual art program in partnership with local galleries to exhibit both local and visiting artist works, fostering a community environment at OZ Arts with over a dozen presentations both on site at OZ and in the city center.

In New York City (2008–2010), Snelling was artistic associate at Park Avenue Armory during the creation and infancy of their now renowned artistic program, developing large-scale visual art installations, performances and an artist residency program. Previous to the Armory (2006–2008), Snelling was artistic associate and assistant to Artistic Director Kristy Edmunds at Melbourne International Arts Festival in Australia. Throughout the early 2000s, Snelling held various production and theatre management roles for festivals including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Sydney Fringe and Olympic (2000) and Commonwealth (2006) Games.

Snelling holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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, 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.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click here.