**POST EVENT MEDIA ALERT**

NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION'S FOURTH ANNUAL NEW YORK GALA
AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART RAISED
$800,000 TO SUPPORT EMERGING ARTISTS NATIONWIDE

Expanded Partnership with Baccarat Will Offer Summer Mentorship Program for YoungArts Alumni in France

Alumni Michael McElroy, Andrew Rannells, Zuzanna Szadkowski, Daniel J. Watts and More, Joined
Master Teachers Mikhail Baryshnikov, Phylicia Rashad, Honorary Co-Chair Agnes Gund and
Gala Co-Chairs Sarah Arison, Gillian Hearst, and Sandra Tamer

Festivities Kick Off 2019 YoungArts New York, April 23–28

WHAT: On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, the National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts), along with honorary co-chair Agnes Gund, and gala co-chairs Sarah Arison, Gillian Hearst and Sandra Tamer, welcomed more than 220 of New York’s top cultural and community leaders, philanthropists, celebrities and art aficionados to the fourth annual YoungArts New York Gala. The evening at The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Temple of Dendur raised $800,000 and celebrated emerging young artists across the nation, including this year’s 710 YoungArts winners in 10 artistic disciplines. The YoungArts New York Gala was emceed by Broadway and TV star Daniel J. Watts (2000 YoungArts Winner in Dance) and featured a series of dynamic performance vignettes by 16 YoungArts alumni, directed by Grammy Award nominee and alumnus Michael McElroy (1985 YoungArts Winner in Theater).

The evening was presented by Baccarat, which—in addition to their generous financial support—provided fine glassware and table décor from their collection. During the program, an expanded partnership between the organizations was announced to provide YoungArts alumni with a unique mentorship opportunity to work closely with acclaimed artisans at Baccarat’s factory in France.

Jim Shreve, President and CEO of Baccarat, North America and Daniela Riccardi, Global Directeur Général and CEO of Baccarat said of the program, “Since its beginnings, the Maison’s vision has always been to invest in training to create the next generation of talent. Our partnership with the
National YoungArts Foundation builds on this tradition. As Baccarat continues to leave its mark throughout the world, it’s the brand’s commitment to continue to encourage and endorse youth in their quest for development and recognition."

Guests of the celebratory event were greeted with a performance by harpist Violetta Maria Norrie (2014 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music) during the cocktail reception. Additionally, guests enjoyed performances by Kassi Abreu (2002 YoungArts Winner in Dance), Joshua Banbury (2013 YoungArts Winner in Theater & Voice), Cole Davis (2015 YoungArts Winner in Jazz), Danny Fox (1998 YoungArts Winner in Jazz & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Joshua Green (2018 YoungArts Winner in Jazz), Mara Jill Herman (2003 YoungArts Winner in Theater), Jay Julio (2016 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music), Harrison Knostman (2018 YoungArts Winner in Dance), Liisi LaFontaine (2013 YoungArts Winner in Voice), Derek Louie (2016 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music), Erika Mitsui (2011 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music), Yaegy Park (2015 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music), Kevin Sherwin (2012 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music), Ben Walker (2014 YoungArts Winner in Theater), Daniel J. Watts (2000 YoungArts Winner in Dance) and Roxanne Young (2006 YoungArts Winner in Dance). The event concluded with a closing performance of “A New World” by the entire cast featuring a tap duet by Sydney Burtis (2017 YoungArts Winner in Dance) and Daniel J. Watts.

Continuing YoungArts' longstanding and ever-growing commitment to supporting emerging artists, the event kicked off the organization's annual regional program YoungArts New York, which will take place April 23–28 and feature an exhibition at Sotheby's New York and performances at Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC). As part of a series of regional programs also presented in Los Angeles and Miami—and modeled after the organization’s signature program, National YoungArts Week—YoungArts New York provides 2019 winners from the northeast region of the country with life-changing opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes with renowned leaders in their fields, including photographer Lydia Bittner-Baird, screenwriter Shari Carptenter and Joan Mitchell Fellow and visual artist Yashua Klos. This year, participants will showcase their talents to local audiences through performances co-directed by composer Jeanine Tesori, Darren Biggart and Torya Beard with jazz direction by musician Emmet Cohen (2009 YoungArts Winner in Jazz), and a classical music concert and writers’ readings directed by Dave Eggar (1987 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and author and award-winning journalist Joan Morgan.

**WHERE:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Temple of Dendur
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Contact Hanna Cunningham at hanna.cunningham@finnpartners.com.

ATTENDEES: Honorary gala co-chair Agnes Gund; and gala co-chairs Sarah Arison, Gillian Hearst and Sandra Tamer; Gala Committee members Zoë Buckman, Noreen Khalid Ahmad, David Dechman, Casey Fremont, Georgia Harrell, Michi and Charles Jigarjjan, Peter Kunhardt Jr., Steven and Oxana Marks, Kara Moore, Dalia Oberlander, José Parlá, Anna Raginskaya, Jim Shreve, Max Teicher, David Totah, Marlies Verhoeven and Terry Zucker; along with Kenyon Adams (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Cassie Arison and Niv Alexander, Raúl Ávila, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Lisa Rinehart, Alec Batis, Stuart Comer, Yulia Dultsina, Khirma Eliazov, Russell Granet and David Beach, Deana Haggag, Javon Jackson, Naeem Khan, John and Breanna Khoury, Richard Kohan, Samantha Leder, Libby Pratt, Andrew Rannells (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater), Phylicia Rashad, Marysia and Nathaniel Reeves, Joanne Rosen, Thor Shannon, Zuzanna Szadkowski (1997 YoungArts Winner in Theater & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Ann Tenenbaum, Zita Vass and Nicole Winhoffer.

MORE INFO: http://www.youngarts.org/nygala

Image credits (L-R): Top row: Lisa Leone and Kenyon Adams; Jim Shreve, Sarah Arison, Zuzanna Szadkowski, and Andrew Rannells; Michael McElroy and Daniel J. Watts; Gillian Hearst, Agnes Gund, Sarah Arison, and Sandra Tamer Middle row: Violetta Maria Norrie; Temple of Dendur; performance Bottom row: Naeem Khan; Libby Pratt, Michi Jigarjjan, Nicole Winhoffer, Zoe Buchman; Dalia Oberlander and Noreen Khalid Ahmad; alumni cast with Michael McElroy and Daniel J. Watts

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, Frank Gehry, Wynton Marsalis, José Parlá, Salman Rushdie, Jeanine Tesori and Mickalene Thomas—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, Instagram or Twitter.
To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click here.

ABOUT BACCARAT
Baccarat (Paris, Euronext, BCRA) is a French luxury brand internationally renowned as a leader in high end and exclusive crystal products. Since its foundation in 1764, the company, whose artisanal manufacture is based in Baccarat in the Lorraine region of Eastern France, has been synonymous with a unique savoir-faire and has come to symbolize an inimitable French Art de Vivre. For over 250 years, the brand has inspired leading designers from across the world. Ranging from iconic lighting to unique tableware and decorative objects, fine jewelry and tailor-made flacons, the brand’s products and tradition of excellence are widely distributed around the globe. Fortune Fountain Capital is the majority shareholder of the company. Explore the world of Baccarat at www.baccarat.com.