Up Next Focus
An alumni professional development program
Bruce and Ellie Taub, founding partner

Intimate, discipline-specific industry events designed for YoungArts alumni to intersect with industry professionals who can advise and advance careers in their fields. Beginning with four disciplines in the 2019-2020 season, three more will be added in 2020-2021, and all ten disciplines will be served by the 2021-2022 season. These three-hour sessions allow for five local professionals to meet with 10-15 alumni, provide on-the-spot feedback and make valuable connections.

Timeline
2019-2020 Season
Writing – Nov, 2019; Jazz – Jan, 2020; Film – Mar, 2020; Theater – Apr, 2020

2020-2021 Season
Theater, Jazz, Cinematic Arts, Writing, Dance, Photography, Classical Music

2021-2022 Season
Theater, Jazz, Cinematic Arts, Writing, Dance, Photography, Classical Music, Visual Arts, Design, Voice

Eligibility and requirements
Open to all YA disciplines, however preference will be given to alumni whose awarded YA discipline matches the session OR who have been working professionally within that discipline. Individuals will be selected to participate through their application to the open call published on YoungArts Post. Applications will be assessed by a selection panel made up of community leaders, YoungArts alumni and YoungArts staff. If an alumna/us selected for participation is not local to the area where the program will take place, the alumna/us will be required to make their own way to/from the program, or forfeit the opportunity.

Please consult youngartspost.org for dates and application details.
2019-2020 Season

Up Next Focus: Writing focuses on YoungArts alumni-authored manuscripts, drafts, treatments or scripts that are developed enough to be considered for publishing or production. Alumni may submit an excerpt (up to 10 pages) of original work to be assessed for selection, and up to 25 pages for discussion in person at the session. Participants should be prepared to present their manuscripts or writing samples to publishers, established writers, editors, and/or producers and should be prepared to discuss their work with professionals in the literary community as well as their peers.

Up Next Focus: Jazz allows YoungArts alumni to discuss their career goals and perform solo for bookers, club owners, and managers from the jazz community, as well as Broadway directors and an audience of their peers. The goal of this session is to connect participants to those in the field who make decisions, create opportunities and provide jobs, in addition to offering insight into a variety of career tracks.

Up Next Focus: Film offers YoungArts alumni working in cinematic arts, (including cinematography, directing, producing, editing and screenwriting) an opportunity to speak about their work in front of producers and established filmmakers. Alumni will submit clips of their work in advance & should be prepared to pitch their film project. Through this program, participants will receive critical feedback on their work, their pitch and develop valuable connections to industry professionals in their field.

Up Next Focus: Theater asks YoungArts Theater Alumni pursuing a career in acting to perform for a mix of casting agents, directors, and programmers, as well as audience of their peers. Participants may or may not receive individual feedback on their performances, but will have the opportunity to ask questions and get straightforward, firsthand information about auditioning and the business of casting.