

YoungArts

# 2019-20 Annual Report





# About YoungArts

**Mission**  
YoungArts identifies the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary and performing arts, and provides them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers.

**Vision**  
To empower artists to pursue a life in the arts.

**Values**  
Our core values are excellence, collaboration, inclusivity, experimentation, respect and integrity. These concepts underpin our efforts to provide artists with space, funding, mentorship, professional development and community. We strive to incorporate and communicate them throughout all of our programs.

[Learn more](#) about YoungArts' commitment to equity and belonging.

# Our Shared Work

Every year thousands of performing, visual and literary artists ages 15-18 apply to YoungArts through our signature national competition. All award winners then go on to receive a lifetime of support, including access to funding, mentorship, space, community and creative and professional development opportunities throughout their artistic careers.

YoungArts was founded in 1981, and thanks to generations of artists, continues to grow as an uplifting and regenerative community.



**"Spending that incredible week with fellow creatives who felt passionately about their craft and their capacity to create positive, sustainable, emotive change in the world was inspiring, empowering, and transformative."**

**Isabella Cho**  
2020 Writing & 2020 YoungArts Lin Arison Excellence in Writing Awardee

# Chair of the Board & Executive Director

In March 2020, we, like the rest of the world, faced an unprecedented challenge. But even in this trying year, our commitment remained the same: We support artists.

After checking in with staff, partners and transitioning to work remotely, we dived into prioritizing the most critical needs of artists: financial support at a time when 95 percent of artists have reported a loss of income; professional development when 63 percent of artists have become fully unemployed; and a space for creativity when 67 percent of artists have lost access to the supplies, resources and support necessary for creative work. On April 8, 2020 we launched an emergency microgrant program, partnered with fellow national funders for Artist Relief, and followed up by offering virtual professional development workshops and residencies to local artists.

Artists are essential to society, and we are grateful to the storytellers, filmmakers, performers, visual artists and designers for giving us language and bringing us together not only when we needed it most, but every day and in almost everything we do.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and a special thanks to our [board and staff](#) for helping to make this important work possible.

Sarah Arison  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jewel Malone  
Executive Director





We serve artists by providing them access to creative and professional development and community throughout their careers.





2019-2020 Overview

Applying to YoungArts may be the first step in affirming “I am an artist.” From National YoungArts Week for award winners 15-18 years, to the Up Next professional development series for alumni, we are committed to offering critical and ongoing support to artists at all stages of their careers.

July

Baccarat Residency, France  
Jacob's Pillow Performance Reception  
Application is open  
Creative Microgrants



August

Bay Parc Residency & Exhibition: Lee Pivnik  
Application is open  
Creative Microgrants



September

2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Americans for the Arts National Arts Policy Roundtable at Sundance: Lindsay Emi & Mercedes Ferreira-Dias  
Fall Dance Residency: Yusha-Marie Soranzo  
YoungArts at Ted's: Allison Miller  
YoungArts Awareness Day  
Application is open  
Creative Microgrants



October

Application closes  
Application adjudications  
In Process: Isha Parupudi & Jessica Baldinger  
Miami Design District Performance Series & Baccarat Event: Ashley Tamar Davis & Grace Weber  
Within Interdependence exhibition opens  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Creative Microgrants



November

Alumni Space Grant: Patty Suau  
Up Next Focus: Writing  
Up Next Symposium: New York at Joe's Pub  
YoungArts at Ted's: Tony Yazbeck  
Winners announcement  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Application adjudications  
Creative Microgrants  
Within Interdependence exhibition



December

Art Basel Miami Beach VIP exhibition tour & talk  
Alumni Space Grant: Emma Lanford & Mercedes Ferreira-Dias  
Alumni Space Grant: Maria Phelan  
The Art of Anthropologie: Carly Rae Buck, Isabella Poulos, Patty Suau  
Daniel Arsham Fellowship Award: Adam Anram  
Miami Art Week Dinner  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Creative Microgrants



“Every space I entered was an opportunity to grow as an artist, peer, and civilian. I have formed the most fulfilling relationships and experienced art that has revolutionized the manner in which I view the world around me.”

Marjan Naderi  
2020 Writing



January

2020 Jorge M. Pérez Award: Ilana Harris-Babou & Mateo Nava  
Backyard Ball  
National YoungArts Week  
Social Sculpture Cohort & Mentors begin  
Sundance Ignite  
Up Next Focus: Jazz  
Up Next: Resident Advisors  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Creative Microgrants

February

Up Next Symposium: Los Angeles at Netflix HQ  
YoungArts at Ted's: Judith Hill  
Up Next: Resident Advisors  
YoungArts Miami  
Social Sculpture Focus Session, Miami  
Bay Parc Residency & Exhibition: Patty Suau  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Creative Microgrants



March

2020 YoungArts Lin Arison Excellence in Writing Award: Isabella Cho  
In Process: Haley Hasen and Patty Suau  
2020 Miami Film Festival Curatorial Mentorship Program  
Social Sculpture



April

Artist Relief opens  
Artist Talk: Michael McElroy & Lisa Leone  
Emergency Microgrants open  
Live from Emmet's Place: Emmet Cohen  
Relay Art Project  
Social Sculpture



May

Alone Together series support & artist talk: Jennifer Koh & Andrew Norman  
Primetime: A Virtual Photography Exhibition opens  
Artist Relief Talk: Kristy Edmunds & Lauren Snelling  
YoungArts at Conrad's: Conrad Tao  
Artist Relief  
Emergency Microgrants  
Social Sculpture



June

U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts  
Artist Relief  
Emergency Microgrants  
Primetime: A Virtual Photography Exhibition  
Social Sculpture





# Creative opportunities through every stage of an artist's career

**Competition**  
Entrance to YoungArts starts with a highly competitive application process for the most accomplished artists ages 15–18, or grades 10–12, in the United States, which is judged by esteemed discipline-specific panels of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process.

**Awards**  
YoungArts award winners, who represent the top 10% of applicants, receive valuable financial awards of up to \$10,000 and the chance to learn in intimate settings from notable artists such as Endia Beal, Terence Blanchard, Doug Blush, Claire Chase, Santino Fontana, René Marie, Dr. Joan Morgan, Michele Shay, Reggie Wilson and B.D. Wong.

7,483

applications submitted

687

new YoungArts award winners

40

states

6

countries

\$650,000+

in awards



**National YoungArts Week & U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts**  
Of the 687 award winners who represent Finalist, Honorable Mention and Merit award levels, 147 Finalists were invited to participate in National YoungArts Week, the organization's signature program.  
  
Held annually in Miami, National YoungArts Week aims to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration, community and the guidance that young artists need to prepare for the next stage of their artistic development. Finalists are further eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

147

finalists

242

classes

8

public events

**YoungArts Miami**  
Modeled after National YoungArts Week, regional programs such as YoungArts Miami offer life-changing experiences, guidance and support to award winners nationwide through interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes with renowned leaders in their fields. Regional programs are open to winners from all award levels—Finalist, Honorable Mention and Merit—and take place in Miami, Los Angeles and New York,\* with opportunities to engage with local audiences in their communities.\*

78

attendees

90

classes

5

public events

\*To prioritize the safety and health of artists, staff and partners, the 2020 YoungArts Los Angeles and YoungArts New York programs were suspended due to precautions related to COVID-19.



Asian

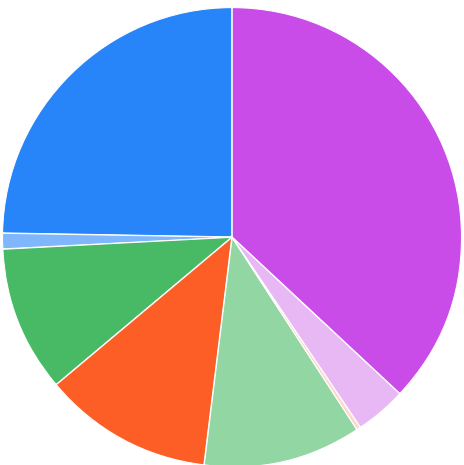
Two or more races

Black or African American

White

Hispanic or Latino

Prefer not to answer



Asian

Native American/Alaskan

Asian/Pacific Islander

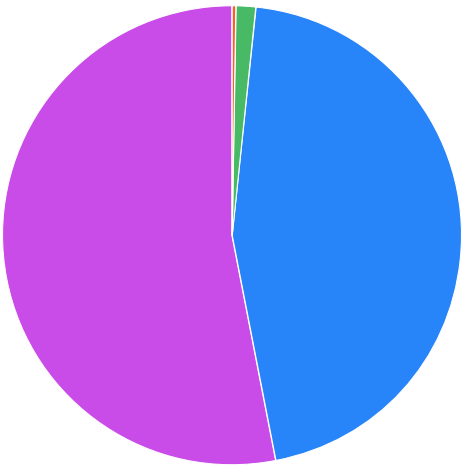
Prefer not to answer

Black or African American

Two or more races

Hispanic or Latino

White



Female

Male

Non-binary

Transgender





Residencies

Residency programs foster creative growth for projects in development by providing artists with dedicated time, space and financial support.

**Yusha-Marie Sorzano**  
2000 Dance, 2020 Dance Artist-in-Residence

Sorzano's *THREAT*, developed in the YoungArts Jewel Box, investigates emotional coping mechanisms associated with change and the often rebellious actions it can instigate.



Performances

Performances featuring YoungArts award winners provide a platform for presentation and new audience cultivation.

**Conrad Tao**  
2011 Classical Music & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts

Conrad Tao, pianist and composer, gave a compelling performance that explored livestreaming as a medium and stretched traditional boundaries of classical music.



Exhibitions

Exploring timely themes in art or society, *Primetime*—the first virtual exhibition that opened in May 2020—focuses on current affairs, body image, race and representation in the media.

**Primetime: A Virtual Photography Exhibition**  
Featuring the works of 11 YoungArts award winners, curated by Luisa Münera, YoungArts Exhibitions Manager.

**"I am so glad that I will be able to be a part of the YoungArts family forever and have such a great connection to likeminded and inspiring people."**

**Chiemeka Offor**  
2020 Photography

Grants & Awards

**YoungArts Daniel Arsham Fellowship**

A \$25,000 unrestricted award, presented by the Ridinger-McLaughlin family, and valuable mentorship from alumnus and contemporary artist Daniel Arsham (1999 Visual Arts).

**Adam Amram** 2012 Visual Arts

**YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award**

An unrestricted prize of \$25,000 for artistic excellence and promise of future achievement.

**Ilana Harris-Babou** 2009 Visual Arts  
**Mateo Nava** 2013 Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts

**YoungArts Lin Arison Excellence in Writing Award**

A \$50,000 scholarship award to a YoungArts winner in Writing to support educational development.

**Isabella Cho** 2020 Writing

**Gordon Parks Centennial Scholarship**

The Gordon Parks Foundation granted \$5,000 cash awards to YoungArts winners who represent the depth, breadth and integrity of Gordon Parks' work.

**Mosab Hamid** 2020 Theater & Writing  
**Emmanuel Michael** 2020 Jazz  
**Destiny Moore** 2020 Visual Arts

**Creative Microgrants**

Creative Microgrants provide up to \$3,000 monthly to alumni seeking support for a wide range of artist needs and professional development opportunities, such as travel expenses to a residency, registration fees for a conference or class, the purchase of equipment, studio rental fees and more.

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Creative Microgrants were halted temporarily and replaced with Emergency Microgrants that supported artists facing financial hardship due to the crisis.

**44**  
awarded between  
July 2019-April 2020

**\$23.9K**  
total  
Awarded



**"Each passing day also provided me with a drastically different and new way to internalize this music and life itself... The lessons I learned will continue to develop roots throughout my lifetime."**

**Emmanuel Michael**  
2020 Jazz



# Professional development designed to build real world skills

## Up Next Series

From a daylong series of panel discussions and interactive workshops across artistic disciplines, to intimate, discipline-specific opportunities with industry leaders, the Up Next professional development series is designed to help build and advance the careers of artists.

Up Next Symposium: New York at Joe's Pub November 14, 2019  
Up Next Symposium: Los Angeles at Netflix February 4, 2020  
Up Next Focus: Writing November 13, 2019  
Up Next Focus: Jazz January 27, 2020



## YoungArts at Sundance Ignite

Five alumni filmmakers under the age of 25 attend the Sundance Film Festival and participate in the Ignite program of activities during the second weekend of the festival. YoungArts award winners attend panels and workshops with other young filmmakers, meet with established filmmakers and view films debuting at the prestigious festival.

"Sundance was life changing and soul expanding. Up Next, a one day symposium at Netflix Headquarters in LA, deepened my transformation even further. These two events back to back truly pushed my mindset to the next level."

Kira Bursky  
2014 Film

# Community to connect and support artists

## YoungArts Post

YoungArts Post is a custom online portal for award winners to connect, share their work and discover new opportunities. It's where artists can access applications for residencies, grants, performance and exhibition opportunities, temporary work with programs and targeted offerings from YoungArts' cultural partners.

Through Post, we are constantly building and engaging with our artistic community. In January 2020 three features were added to YoungArts Post: a calendar view for events, instant messaging for users, and custom commenting for tagging friends on posts.

1,921 users  
68% increase in users in FY20

## Alumni Space Grants

YoungArts offers alumni complimentary use of space at the YoungArts Campus, including the Jewel Box, Ted's and outdoor areas for rehearsals, performances or meetings. With an emphasis on process, YoungArts actively utilizes its available resources for individual and collaborative creative project development.

6 grants  
48 days  
4 disciplines





# COVID-19 Relief: A story of interdependence and collaboration

To support artists during the COVID-19 crisis, a coalition of national arts grantmakers came together to create Artist Relief, an emergency initiative to offer financial and informational resources to artists across the U.S.

Coalition members included Academy of American Poets, Artadia, Creative Capital, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, MAP Fund, United States Artists and YoungArts—all small to mid-sized national arts grantmakers, working together to distribute \$5,000 grants to artists facing dire financial emergencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3,916  
artists

161,601  
applications

\$19.5M+  
granted

35  
weeks

\$20.9M  
raised

250+  
press articles

In addition to Artist Relief, YoungArts launched an Alumni Emergency Microgrant program to support YoungArts alumni experiencing loss of income due to the cancellation of scheduled professional engagements or unexpected expenses related to COVID-19 precautionary measures. YoungArts Alumni Emergency Microgrants are unrestricted \$1,000 grants that aim to offer more than 80 emergency microgrants each cycle.

262  
Awarded between  
April-June 2020

\$262K  
total  
awarded

Artist Relief and YoungArts Alumni Emergency Microgrant programs are ongoing.

Coalition Partners

academy of  
american poets

Artadia

Creative  
Capital

FCA

MAP FUND

United  
States  
Artists  
BELIEVE IN ARTISTS

# Donors' generosity and commitment to artists

## Dr. Sidney Stern

This year, Dr. Sidney Stern, through the Sidney and Florence Stern Family Foundation, generously endowed the **Florence Stern Master Class in Dance** in loving memory of his late wife. Through this class, YoungArts winners in Dance are able to experience life-changing access to renowned artists that can shape and inform their artistic practice. Choreographer, dancer and artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Robert Battle instructed the Finalists in Dance during 2020 National YoungArts Week. Dr. Stern's support allows these classes to continue inspiring artists in perpetuity.

## SunTrust now Truist

As the 2020 National YoungArts Week Performance Sponsor, SunTrust now Truist's lead support made possible a week of inspiring public performances by YoungArts award winners from across the country at New World Symphony. One participant shared: "YoungArts Week taught me that there is a place for me in the future of American theater, that I can do anything if I have the grit, and that I'm not alone. The world seems so much smaller now that I have family and mentors in every corner of the country."

## Miami-Dade County

With the longstanding support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, YoungArts continues to celebrate the vibrancy of the Miami cultural community. Thanks to the County's continued partnership, we welcomed hundreds of talented artists to Miami (before shifting to virtual programs in March 2020), supported the local partners who are the bedrock of our community and invested in the future of the arts in South Florida.





Miami Art Week

In celebration of Miami Art Week, YoungArts welcomed a distinguished circle of artists, supporters and philanthropic leaders to the YoungArts Campus for an intimate dinner in the Jewel Box sponsored by Baccarat, ONE Sotheby’s International Realty, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars at Braman Motors and Bruce and Ellie Taub. Later in the week, YoungArts hosted a breakfast, talk and tour exploring *Within Interdependence*, an exhibition featuring work by 20 YoungArts alumni curated by Deana Haggag, former President and CEO of United States Artists.



Victoria Canal (2015 Voice & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) performs at the Miami Art Week celebratory dinner.



Jorge M. Pérez presented the YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award to New York-based sculptor and installation artist Ilana Harris-Babou (2009 Visual Arts) and Miami-based sculptor and painter Mateo Nava (2013 Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) at the Backyard Ball.



Alaman Diadiou (2016 Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Julius Rodriguez (2014 Jazz), Michelle May (2014 Dance) and Jake Goldbas (2007 Jazz) perform at the Backyard Ball.

YoungArts Backyard Ball

The culmination of National YoungArts Week in January, the Backyard Ball brought together hundreds of supporters to celebrate the 2020 award winners and raised \$1.7M for YoungArts programs. The event was chaired by Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Jay Franke and David Herro, and Oxana and Steven Marks, and featured performances by past YoungArts award winners directed by choreographer John Heginbotham, in collaboration with musical director Jake Goldbas (2007 Jazz).

Thank you to gala Presenting Partner Harry Winston and VIP Host Partner UBS Financial Services, Inc.

2019-2020 Donors

\$100,000+

7G Foundation  
Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm  
Carnival Foundation  
Jay Franke and David Herro  
Harry Winston  
Steven and Oxana Marks  
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs  
Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Related Group  
Dr. Sidney Stern in Loving Memory of Florence Stern  
SunTrust Banks  
Sandra and Tony Tamer  
Bruce and Ellie Taub

\$75,000-\$99,999

Anthropologie  
Arquitectonica  
Givenchy  
Northern Trust Bank  
Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation

\$50,000-\$74,999

Stephanie Ansin and Spencer Stewart  
Aon  
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Miami Herald Media Company\*  
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Wells Fargo

\$25,000-\$49,999

The Batchelor Foundation  
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Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs  
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Graham Steele  
Van Cleef & Arpels Americas

\$10,000-\$24,999

Baccarat  
The Alvah H. and Wylina P. Chapman Foundation  
City of Miami Beach, Dept. of Tourism, Culture & Economic Development  
The Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation

The Fine and Greenwald Foundation  
Funding Arts Network  
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Alison Mas and Sal Bommarito  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.  
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W. Marcus and Mary Elizabeth Sheridan  
Carrie Sisson  
Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits\*  
Jerry I. Speyer and Katherine Farley  
Troy D. Templeton and Miriam C. “Sissy” Templeton  
The Robert and Jane Toll Foundation  
Trivest Partners, L.P.  
WOW MKTG

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Angela Birdman  
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Edward Fisher  
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Univision Limited Network

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Bal Harbour Village  
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Clifford Stober  
Amy Stojanovic  
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Harriett and Stuart Levine  
Jane S. and Robert Toll  
Virtus Investment Partners  
Gavin Williams  
Jennifer Williams  
Wendy Wing  
Helen Wooten  
Allan and Ray Ellen Yarkin

\*Gift In-Kind



# YoungArts

The National Foundation  
for the Advancement of Artists



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