



## 60 ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG ARTISTS NOMINATED FOR 2022 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS

### Highest Honor Bestowed to Talented High School Seniors from 23 States and Representing 10 Artistic Disciplines

**MIAMI, FL (January 20, 2022)** – YoungArts announced today the **nominees for the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts**, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who exemplify artistic and academic excellence. YoungArts is the sole nominating agency for this high honor, and the 60 candidates, representing 23 states and 10 artistic disciplines, are all YoungArts award winners. The students have been nominated to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program following the first week of National YoungArts Week+, the virtual adaptation of the organization’s annual signature program, National YoungArts Week. Open to YoungArts award winners at the Finalist level, 2022 National YoungArts Week+ included virtual classes and workshops during which the artists were further evaluated for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. From January 29 to February 4, National YoungArts Week+ programming continues with streamed performances, writers’ readings, film screenings and an online exhibition, allowing audiences across the country opportunities to meet and experience these outstanding artists and their work.

All completed and submitted U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts applications will be reviewed by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. The Commission will ultimately select 20 high school seniors to be recognized as U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts for their academic and artistic accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, community service and outreach initiatives, and overall creativity.

“It is with great pride that YoungArts nominates these 60 extraordinary artists to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars,” said **Lauren Snelling, Artistic Director**. “These artists have navigated the challenges of the past year with grace, creativity and dedication to their craft. It gives us hope to see how these young artists have channeled the uncertainty we have all felt into their work. We are all excited to watch and support these artists as they grow and evolve on their artistic journeys.”

The 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Hometown City, State</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>YoungArts Winner Year and Discipline</i>
Madeline Alemi	Egg Harbor Township, NJ	Chartertech High School	Theater, 2022
Leah Amory	New York, NY	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Classical Music, 2021
Ayana Askew	Norfolk, VA	Booker T. Washington Senior High School	Writing, 2022
Andrew Bakun	Beaverton, OR	Mountainside High School	Theater, 2022
Caroline Berthin	Miami, FL	Design and Architecture Senior High School	Visual Arts, 2022
Joshua Brown	Interlochen, MI	Interlochen Arts Academy	Theater, 2022
Quoc Bui	Interlochen, MI	Interlochen Arts Academy	Visual Arts, 2021
Christian Burse	Frisco, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Dance, 2021
Eva Soryn Call	Peachtree City, GA	McIntosh High School	Design Arts, 2021
Madeleine Case	Woodland Hills, CA	Viewpoint School	Writing, 2022

Emmy Cheung	Irvine, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	Dance, 2022
Glenn Choe	Cedar Park, TX	Vista Ridge High School	Classical Music, 2022
Samuel Correa	Hollywood, FL	West Broward High School	Film, 2022
William Cummins	Mansfield, OH	Homeschool	Classical Music, 2022
Youjaye Daniels	Rock Hill, SC	South Carolina Governor's school for the Arts and Humanities	Writing, 2022
Saman de Silva	Los Altos Hills, CA	Henry M. Gunn Senior High School	Voice, 2022
Ryan Diaz-Rousselot	Miami, FL	Design Architecture Senior High	Film, 2022
Ava Ditto	San Antonio, TX	Legacy of Educational Excellence High School	Film, 2022
Ryan Evans	Wentzville, MO	Wentzville Holt High School	Dance, 2022
Jamie Felix-Toll	Los Angeles, CA	Waverly School	Voice, 2022
Zoe Goldemberg	Miami Beach, FL	Design and Architecture Senior High School	Design Arts, 2022
Grace Gramins	Bronxville, NY	Bronxville High School	Voice, 2022
Isabella Gueck	Grand Prairie, TX	Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy	Voice, 2022
Kaila Harunzade	Los Angeles, CA	Brentwood School	Photography, 2022
Sara Homma	San Antonio, TX	TMI Episcopal	Visual Arts, 2022
Younging Jiang	Irvine, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	Film, 2022
Anya Jiménez	Brooklyn, NY	Professional Performing Arts School	Writing, 2022
Grace Kaste	Seattle, WA	Roosevelt High School	Jazz, 2022
Jessica Kodsi	Ooltewah, TN	Interlochen Arts Academy	Voice, 2022
Maya Koenig	Arlington, VA	Washington-Liberty High School	Film, 2022
Stella Lei	Paoli, PA	Conestoga High School	Writing, 2022
Chelsie Lim	Cresskill, NJ	Academy of the Holy Angels	Classical Music, 2021
Arayah Lyte	Country Club Hills, IL	The Chicago Academy for the Arts	Dance, 2022
Jordin MacKenzie	Leawood, KS	Blue Valley North High School	Voice, 2022
Tomek Marczewski	Dallas, TX	The St. Mark's School of Texas	Design Arts, 2022
Christian Moody	Columbia, SC	South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities	Theater, 2022
Shikta Mukherjee	Edison, NJ	John P. Stevens High School	Voice, 2022
Chinonye Omeirondi	Cypress, CA	Cypress High School	Writing, 2022
Jaya Parker	Trotwood, OH	Stivers School for the Arts	Photography, 2022
Eleanor Pimentel	Moscow, ID	Moscow High School	Design Arts, 2022
Ella Reaugh	Lucas, TX	Lovejoy High School	Visual Arts, 2022
Jayden Robinson	Montgomery, AL	Booker T. Washington Magnet High School	Photography, 2022
Rodrigo Rodriguez Hernandez	Kissimmee, FL	Osceola County School for the Arts	Classical Music, 2022
Isabelle Rogando	Arlington, VA	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	Writing, 2022
Eason Rytter	New York, NY	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Theater, 2022
Anu Sahar	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore School of the Arts	Theater, 2022
Maeve Sheehan	Staten Island, NY	Staten Island Technical High School	Film, 2022
Malavika Singh	Salt Lake City, UT	West High School	Dance, 2022
Sam Song	Campbell, CA	Westmont High School	Voice, 2022
Reva Srivastava	Fremont, CA	Mission San Jose High School	Dance, 2022
Megan Stuart	Minneapolis, MN	Oak Meadow School	Dance, 2022
Miye Sugino	La Canada Flintridge, CA	La Canada High School	Visual Arts, 2022
Grace Tapia	Woodhaven, NY	Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts	Writing, 2022

Benjamin Tucker	Tarzana, CA	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Film, 2022
Madison Uphoff	Madison, WI	Madison West High School	Theater, 2020
Eric Wang	San Jose, CA	Valley Christian High School	Classical Music, 2020
Natalie Wang	Irvine, CA	Stanford Online High School	Writing, 2022
Kailey Worontsoff	Wellington, FL	Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	Dance, 2020
Sean Yu	Rye, NY	Rye High School	Classical Music, 2022
Adrian Zaragoza	Davis, CA	Davis Senior High School	Classical Music, 2022

*\* Interviews can be facilitated upon request.*

The U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are actors, dancers, singers, songwriters, classical musicians, jazz musicians, photographers, filmmakers, visual artists, designers and writers. Once selected, the 2022 awardees will join an distinguished group of YoungArts and U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts alumni including Tony Award-nominated performer and choreographer **Desmond Richardson**; Los Angeles Music Center President **Rachel S. Moore**; novelist and National Book Award Finalist **Allegra Goodman**; Grammy Award-nominated violinist **Jennifer Koh**; BRAVO's "Work of Art" winner **Abdi Farah**; OBIE Award-winning actress **Donna Lynne Champlin**; Tony Award-nominated choreographer and educator **Camille A. Brown** and RCA Records award-winning singer-songwriter and Grammy Award-nominated artist **Chris Young**.

The 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts will be announced in the coming months. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/psp>

### **BECOMING A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR IN THE ARTS**

The first step to becoming a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts is to apply to YoungArts, which is the nominating agency for this honor. To be eligible for the YoungArts program, applicants must be 15–18 years old or in high school grades 10–12. To be further considered for a nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, applicants must be high school seniors and meet all of the U.S. Presidential Scholars requirements.

YoungArts award winners demonstrating excellence in the performing, visual or literary arts are selected annually through a blind adjudication process. This year, 720 YoungArts award winners were selected. In January, 157 Finalists from across the nation were invited to National YoungArts Week+, where they participated in a week of intensive virtual classes and workshops with internationally renowned artists, and will share their work through virtual performances, readings, exhibitions and screenings that will be open to the public.

During National YoungArts Week+, eligible participants are further evaluated, award levels are determined, and nominations are made for that year's U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts candidates. After a rigorous selection process, YoungArts nominates 60 candidates for an invitation to apply to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Finally, the Commission on Presidential Scholars selects 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts each year.

### **ABOUT U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS**

In 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by executive order of President Lyndon B. Johnson to recognize and honor the nation's top graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrated talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

Scholars are selected annually by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, appointed by the President, based on academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and writing ability. This year, about 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2022 program determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT and ACT exams, through nominations made by Chief State School Officers, or other partner recognition programs or YoungArts.

Since its inception, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored almost 8,000 of the nation's high-performing students. U.S. Presidential Scholars are honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program each June. To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

The 161 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and from U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large, 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, and 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education.

## **About YoungArts**

YoungArts was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary and performing arts and provide them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers. Entrance into this prestigious organization starts with a highly competitive application process for talented artists ages 15–18, or grades 10–12 in the United States. Applications are adjudicated through a rigorous blind process by esteemed discipline-specific panels of artists. All YoungArts award winners receive financial awards and the chance to learn from notable artists such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Germane Barnes, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Mickalene Thomas.

YoungArts award winners are further eligible for exclusive opportunities including: nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school seniors; a wide range of creative development support including fellowships, residencies and awards; professional development programs offered in partnership with major institutions nationwide; additional financial support; and access to YoungArts Post, a private, online portal for YoungArts artists to connect, share their work and discover new opportunities.

Past YoungArts award winners include Daniel Arsham, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Timothée Chalamet, Viola Davis, Amanda Gorman, Judith Hill, Jennifer Koh, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson and Hunter Schafer.

For more information, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

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