



YOUNGARTS ANNOUNCES THE ASHLEY LONGSHORE EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD

New Annual Unrestricted \$25,000 Award to Support One Artist a Year Working in Musical Theater, Photography or Visual Arts

Miami, FL (March 24, 2022) – **YoungArts** announces the creation of a new annual unrestricted \$25,000 award furthering its mission of providing support to artists at all stages of their careers. **The Ashley Longshore Excellence in the Arts Award**, made possible by the generous support of artist Ashley Longshore, will deepen and expand support for artists in the disciplines of photography, musical theater and visual arts. In addition to the cash award, artists will have the opportunity to benefit from further mentorship, continuing education that can influence the trajectory of their careers.

In its inaugural year, the award will be granted to a past YoungArts winner in Theater (Musical Theater) and will honor the vibrant memory of Patrick B. Hale, an interdisciplinary artist in musical theater and visual arts. In the second and third years, the award will be granted respectively to a past YoungArts winner in Photography, in memory of photographer Alix Edmondson Martinez, and to a past YoungArts winner in Visual Arts. To be considered for the award, all candidates must be 25 years or older and exemplify the traits of artistic rigor, excellence, a love of their craft, and demonstrate an active interest in furthering the arts in their community.

“I am thrilled that, with this award, I am able to have a significant impact on the creative journey of the next generation of artists,” said **Ashley Longshore**. “I am honored to create this award in the memory of my dear friends, Patrick B. Hale and Alix Edmondson Martinez, who were both exceptional artists deeply involved in their communities. I hope that the recipients of this award will bring their spirit and creative excellence to all that they do.”

“YoungArts is grateful to Ashley Longshore for her generosity and dedication to acknowledging and supporting artistic achievement,” said **Lauren Snelling**, YoungArts Artistic Director. “It is through the commitment of philanthropists like Ashley that YoungArts is able to achieve its mission of providing support to YoungArts award winners throughout their careers.”

Eligible YoungArts award winners are invited to apply through YoungArts Post, a free, private, online platform for YoungArts award winners to connect, share their work and discover new opportunities.. Recipients will be selected by discipline-specific panels of artists.

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, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#).

About Ashley Longshore

A self-taught mixed media artist, author and entrepreneur, Longshore has built an empire in the art world. As a powerhouse artist and pioneer in social media marketing, she has exploded into a global brand and used her platform to encourage positivity and authenticity. Dubbed by The New York Times as "Fashion's Latest Art Darling," Longshore has paved a colorful path for pop art and fashion to coexist.

Media Contacts:

Heike Dempster, YoungArts
hdempster@youngarts.org / 305.377.1140

Sara Ory, Polskin Arts
sara.ory@finnpartners.com / 212.593.5815