



## ANNOUNCING THE 2024 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS

**20 of the Nation’s Most Talented Artists, All YoungArts Award Winners,  
Receive High Honor Bestowed by the President of the United States**

**MIAMI, FL (May 9, 2024)** –YoungArts congratulates the 161 high school seniors selected for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **U.S. Presidential Scholars**, with special acknowledgement to the 20 **U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts** (full list below), YoungArts award winners who were nominated for the honor by YoungArts. The U.S. Presidential Scholars award—one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership qualities and community service—is presented on behalf of the President of the United States and honors up to 161 graduating high school seniors of high potential each year. To be selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, students must have attended National YoungArts Week.

**Clive Chang**, President of YoungArts, said, “YoungArts is proud to celebrate the incoming class of U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts. These students—who have so impressively demonstrated academic and artistic excellence, along with commitment to and leadership in their communities—represent the next generation of artistic changemakers who will continue to use their skills and creativity to help us broaden our understanding of the world. YoungArts is thrilled to support them today, and to invest in their lifelong creative freedom.”

“The 161 high school seniors selected for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Presidential Scholars program represent the best of our nation’s schools and inspire hope in the bright future of this country,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “On behalf of President Biden, I am delighted to celebrate their accomplishments, and encourage these scholars to continue to aim high, lift up others, and embrace opportunities to lead.”

### The 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts are:

Name	Hometown City, State	School	YoungArts Discipline and Winner Year
Paola Alvarez Ramirez	Miami, FL	New World School of the Arts	Visual Arts, 2024
Detola Badmus	Elmont, NY	Fiorello H. Laguardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts	Voice, 2024
Edward Chen	Irvine, CA	Orange County High School of the Arts	Dance, 2023
Lauren Cheng	Burlingame, CA	Burlingame High School	Design, 2024
Patrick Flanagan	Dallas, TX	St. Mark’s School of Texas	Photography, 2024
Ale Fonseca	Miami, FL	Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer	Voice, 2024
Niveah Glover	Jacksonville, FL	Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	Writing, 2022
Brian Guan	Dublin, CA	Dublin High School	Writing, 2024
Hannah Hong	Yorktown, VA	Grafton High School	Visual Arts, 2024

Iris Hur	Paramus, NJ	Bergen County Academies	Classical Music, 2023
Ian Kim	Glendale, CA	Harvard-Westlake School – High School Campus	Photography, 2022
Jessie Leitzel	Mount Pleasant, SC	Charleston County School of the Arts	Writing, 2024
Gabrielle Liberman	Summit, NJ	Kent Place School	Voice, 2024
Erin Park	Chino, CA	Chino High School	Dance, 2022
Chase Phillips	Louisville, KY	duPont Manual Magnet High School	Theater, 2024
Nalin Reed	Trussville, AL	Alabama School of Fine Arts	Theater, 2022
Christian Trimmingham	Richmond, VA	Interlochen Arts Academy	Theater, 2024
Ming Wei Yeoh	Chanhassen, MN	Minnetonka High School	Writing, 2024
Nicholas Yoo	Ramsey, NJ	Delbarton School	Classical Music, 2024
Harmony Zhu	Cresskill, NJ	The Brearley School	Classical Music, 2023

*Interviews can be facilitated, and images are available upon request.*

### **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 rigorous adjudication process. This year, nearly 700 YoungArts award winners were selected. In January, 151 winners with distinction from across the nation were invited to National YoungArts Week, where they participated in a week of intensive classes and workshops with internationally renowned artists, and shared their work through performances, readings, exhibitions, and screenings that were open to the public.

During National YoungArts Week, eligible participants are further evaluated, award levels are determined, and nominations are made for the year’s U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts candidates. After a rigorous selection process, YoungArts nominates 60 candidates to apply to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The Commission on Presidential Scholars selects up to 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, over 5,700 candidates qualified for the 2024 program determined by outstanding performance on the College Board SAT or 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 over 8,200 of the nation's high-performing students. U.S. Presidential Scholars are honored for their accomplishments during the online

National Recognition Program each June. To commemorate their achievement, the Scholars are awarded the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

The 161 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of two students 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**

Established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison, YoungArts identifies exceptional young artists, amplifies their potential, and invests in their lifelong creative freedom. YoungArts provides space, funding, mentorship, professional development and community throughout artists' careers. Entrance into this prestigious organization starts with a highly competitive application for talented artists ages 15–18, or grades 10–12, in the United States that is judged by esteemed discipline-specific panels of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process.

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

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