



YOUNGARTS ANNOUNCES THE 2025 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS NOMINEES

60 Talented High School Seniors from 22 States, Representing 10 Artistic Disciplines

MIAMI (January 30, 2025) – YoungArts announced today the **nominees for the 2025 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 prestigious honor, and the 60 candidates, representing 22 states and 10 artistic disciplines, are all YoungArts award winners with distinction. The students were nominated to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program following National YoungArts Week. Open to YoungArts award winners with distinction, National YoungArts Week includes classes and workshops with leading artists in their fields, performances, writers’ readings, film screenings and an exhibition, providing the artists opportunities to further advance their craft, and allowing audiences opportunities to meet and experience these outstanding artists and their work. During this life-changing week, YoungArts award winners were further evaluated for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

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.

“YoungArts has the honor of being the sole nominating agency for the 60 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars,” said **Clive Chang**, President and CEO of YoungArts. “Each of these artists approaches their work with boundless curiosity and astounding intellect. We are eager to continue supporting them as they evolve on their journeys.”

The 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are:

Name	Hometown City, State	High School	YoungArts Winner Year, Discipline
Aaron Dai	Livingston, NJ	Livingston High School	2025, Writing
Aayan Zuberi	Cypress, TX	Tomball Star Academy	2025, Design
Andres Jimenez	Madison, WI	eAchieve Academy	2025, Dance
Anna Castro Spratt	Greer, SC	South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities	2025, Writing
Arim (Ariana) Kim	Irvine, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	2025, Classical Music
Beth Anne McGowan	Dallas, TX	Highland Park High School	2025, Dance
Caroline Kim	Fullerton, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	2023, Design
Caroline Matthews	Allen, TX	Lovejoy High School	2025, Design
Chantal Eulenstein	Ames, IA	Ames High School	2025, Writing
Chengyu Li	Beachwood, OH	Beachwood High School	2025, Film
Crystin Herring	Los Angeles, CA	Windward School	2025, Theater
Dana Colston	Allen, TX	Lovejoy High School	2025, Visual Arts

Declan Cashman	Warminster, PA	William Tennent High School	2025, Voice
Denver Whaley	Lehi, UT	Juan Diego Catholic High School	2025, Visual Arts
Eion Nunez	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	2025, Film
Elena Weng	Sunnyvale, CA	The Harker School	2025, Jazz
Eli Williams	Tujunga, CA	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	2024, Film
Emma Donnelly	La Jolla, CA	The Bishop's School	2024, Dance
Emma (Aaron) Pakola	Sparkill, NY	Tappan Zee High School	2025, Design
Frida Vossler	Pacific Grove, CA	Monterey High School	2025, Voice
Hannah Cho	Tustin, CA	Pacific Academy	2023, Classical Music
Hudson Pletcher	Frisco, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	2025, Dance
Jan Vargas-Nedvetsky	Wilmette, IL	North Atlantic Regional High School	2024, Classical Music
Jinan Woo	Englewood Cliffs, NJ	Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School	2023, Classical Music
Katherine Chong	Wallingford, CT	Choate Rosemary Hall	2024, Visual Arts
Kayla McCarty	Riverside, CA	Ramona High School	2025, Theater
Keira Redpath	Dellwood, MN	Mahtomedi Senior High School	2025, Dance
Kento Hong	Scarsdale, NY	Edgemont Junior-Senior High School	2025, Classical Music
Kierra Reese	Jacksonville, FL	Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	2024, Visual Arts
Luna Garay	Miami, FL	Miami Arts Charter	2025, Photography
Macie Krause	Colleyville, TX	Booker T Washington Spva Magnet	2024, Dance
Marie Munoz	Las Vegas, NV	Bishop Gorman High School	2025, Theater
Matthew Yu	Conroe, TX	The Woodlands College Park High School	2024, Visual Arts
Max Rudelman	Dallas, TX	Pearce High School	2025, Theater
Maya Proulx	South Pasadena, CA	California School of the Arts	2024, Voice
Myesha Phukan	Los Altos, CA	Mountain View High School	2025, Writing
Naliyah Salahuddin	Miami, FL	New World School of the Arts	2025, Visual Arts
Nathaniel Zhang	Folsom, CA	California Online Public Schools	2023, Classical Music
Nyle Jones	Miami, FL	Design & Architecture Senior High School	2025, Photography
Olivia Le	Irvine, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	2025, Writing
Olivia Mitchell	Poway, CA	San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts	2025, Theater
Riley Walsh	Parkland, FL	Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School	2025, Film

Rosie Hong	Sugar Land, TX	Clements High School	2024, Writing
Ryan Zhou	Ellicott City, MD	Howard High School	2025, Voice
Sadie Schoenberger	Brooklyn, NY	Poly Prep Country Day School	2025, Film
Saheim Patrick	Fayetteville, GA	Mundy's Mill High School	2025, Writing
Samantha Antonetti	Lords Valley, PA	Homeschool	2025, Voice
Samuel Nelson	Jacksonville, FL	Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	2025, Theater
Sara Springett	Spring, TX	Klein Cain High School	2025, Voice
Sarah Baumgarten	Arlington, VA	Interlochen Arts Academy	2025, Voice
Sarah Rooney	Granger, IN	Penn High School	2025, Writing
Steven Young	Tyler, TX	Tyler Legacy High School	2025, Theater
Sydni Wheeler	Baton Rouge, LA	Baton Rouge Magnet High School	2025, Voice
Tokuji Miyasaka	Pullman, WA	Homeschool	2025, Classical Music
Tom Liu	Saint James, NY	Collegiate School	2025, Classical Music
Veronica Ye	Allen, TX	Lovejoy High School	2025, Visual Arts
Victoria Pham	Irvine, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	2025, Film
Will Bundon	Charlotte, NC	University of North Carolina School of the Arts High School Program	2025, Theater
William Rudolph	Decatur, GA	Paideia School	2025, Photography
Zahra Bello	Simi Valley, CA	Sierra Canyon School	2025, Film

Interviews can be facilitated upon request.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are actors, dancers, singers, songwriters, classical and jazz musicians, photographers, filmmakers, visual artists, designers and writers. Once selected, the 2025 awardees will join a 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 2025 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, more than 800 YoungArts award winners were selected. In January, 175 winners with distinction from across the nation attended 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 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, over 5,000 candidates qualified for the 2025 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 over 8,000 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 2025 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—the national foundation for the advancement of artists—was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify exceptional young artists, amplify their potential, and invest 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 adjudication process.

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

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