YoungArts
The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists

ANNOUNCING THE 2027 YOUNGARTS AWARD WINNERS

The Nation's Most Accomplished Visual, Literary, and Performing Artists, Ages 15–18, Selected from a Record 13,700+ Applications



Miami (November 24, 2026) – YoungArts today announces the 2027 YoungArts award winners, the nation's most accomplished young visual, literary, and performing artists. Bestowed annually since 1981, the YoungArts Award is the only award in the nation that recognizes exceptional young talent across disciplines and affirms their pursuit of a professional life in the arts. Recipients become part of a lifelong community of peers and mentors, with access to opportunities and critical resources that help sustain their creative practices throughout their careers. **A complete list of the 2027 winners is available online Tuesday, November 24, at youngarts.org/winners.**

"The future of American art and culture depends on how we invest in the artists who will shape it," said **YoungArts President & CEO Clive Chang**. "Being named a YoungArts winner is the start of a lifelong relationship, one where artists can access funding, meaningful opportunities, professional development, and a network of peers and mentors for years and decades to come. We look forward to welcoming the 2027 award winners into our thriving YoungArts family and to championing them through every stage of their creative lives."

YoungArts award winners, all ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12, are selected through a highly competitive application reviewed by panels of esteemed artists in a rigorous adjudication process. All YoungArts winners have demonstrated exceptional technique, a strong sense of artistry, and an extraordinary commitment to developing their craft. Winners were selected from a **record number of over 13,700 applications** from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 27 countries—from nearly 10 percent more applicants than last year. Applications spanned 10 artistic disciplines: classical music, design, dance, film, jazz, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing.

The winners join a distinguished community of artists who receive creative and professional development support throughout their careers, including microgrants and financial awards,

mentorship and professional development opportunities, and collaborations with major cultural partners nationwide. They also become part of an intergenerational network of more than 25,000 past awardees and accomplished artists including Daniel Arsham, Jon Batiste, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Timothée Chalamet, Viola Davis, Amanda Gorman, Denyce Graves, Judith Hill, Jennifer Koh, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson, Jean Shin, Hunter Schafer, and Shaina Taub. Each winner receives a monetary award of $250 in recognition of their achievement.

From this year's cohort, a select group of artists have been named **YoungArts Award Winners with Distinction** and are invited to participate in **National YoungArts Week**, held January 9–17, 2027, in Miami. During the week, participants share their work with peers; attend interdisciplinary classes and workshops; receive mentorship from leading artists; and are considered for additional awards of up to $10,000. Notable guest artists for 2027 include **Kyle Abraham**, **Lake Bell**, **Nicholas Boggs**, **Zoe Buckman**, **For Freedoms founded by Hank Willis Thomas and Eric Gottesman**, **Eric Haze**, **Rashid Johnson**, **KAWS**, **Anastasia Samoylova**, **Anna Deavere Smith**, and **Rosie Perez**.

Support
YoungArts programming throughout the year is made possible by the support of its most generous donors, including AG Foundation; American Foundation for Bulgaria; Anthropologie; Aon; Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation; Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm; Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation; Black Family Philanthropies; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Estate of Ruth P. Cohen; Jeffrey Davis and Michael Miller; Doris Duke Foundation; Kathryn Fagin; Molly and Bill Ford; The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; Hearst Foundations; The John C. Hench Foundation; Barbara and Amos Hostetter; Michi and Charles Jigarjian / 7G Foundation; Jason Kraus; Melony and Adam Lewis; Ashley Longshore; Steven and Oxana Marks / Podhurst Orseck, P.A.; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; New World Symphony; Northern Trust Bank; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Corey Robinson; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Dr. Sidney Stern and the Stern Family Foundation; Estate of Linda and Bill Swain; Sandra and Tony Tamer; Robert Wennett & Mario Cader-Frech; and Debi and Steven Wisch; and Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation.

About YoungArts
YoungArts is the only national organization that champions artists throughout their lifetimes and across all art forms, fueling the ongoing vitality of the arts nationwide. Building on 45 years of impact, the organization is galvanizing a dynamic ecosystem of support with hundreds of world-class cultural institutions across the country, enabling artists to more effectively shape and sustain their careers. Artists gain lifelong access to critical resources—including funding, incubation and presentation opportunities, mentorship, and professional development—beginning with early recognition as YoungArts Award winners. Through an intergenerational and interdisciplinary network of 25,000 artists, YoungArts cultivates community and drives innovation, collaboration, and career-defining opportunities.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.

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Images:
2026 YoungArts Winners with Distinction in Dance perform at 2026 National YoungArts Week. Photo by Em Watson.