60 ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG ARTISTS NOMINATED FOR 2023 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS

Highest Honor Bestowed to Talented High School Seniors from 21 States and Representing Nine Artistic Disciplines

MIAMI, FL (January 23, 2023) – **YoungArts** announced today the **nominees for the 2023 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 21 states and Americans abroad, and nine artistic disciplines, are all YoungArts award winners. The students have been nominated to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program following National YoungArts Week. Open to YoungArts award winners at the Finalist level, 2023 National YoungArts Week included masterclasses and workshops during which the artists were further evaluated for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, as well as performances, writers' readings, film screenings and an exhibition, allowing audiences 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 **Clive Chang**, President. "These artists have demonstrated outstanding artistry and intellectual curiosity. They have shown us not only their true dedication to their craft, but also their immense joy and a remarkably comprehensive understanding of the world around us that characterizes this new generation of artists. We are all excited to watch and support these artists as they grow and evolve in their artistic journeys."

The 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are:

Name	School City, State	School	YoungArts Winner Year and Discipline
Calvin Alexander	Shreveport, LA	Caddo Parish Magnet High School	Classical Music, 2023
Joshua Armstrong	Spring Hill, FL	Pasco eSchool	Dance, 2023
Catrielle Barnett	Golden Valley, MN	Perpich Center for Arts Education	Design Arts, 2023
Mariae Broome	Interlochen, MI	Interlochen Arts Academy	Voice, 2023
Lucas Buckwell	Miami, FL	New World School of the Arts	Design Arts, 2023
Chloë Cheers	New York, NY	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Theater, 2023
Mia Grace Davis	San Diego, CA	Academy Our Lady of Peace	Writing, 2023
Fallon Dern	Studio City, CA	Harvard-Westlake School	Film, 2023
Zoe Dorado	Castro Valley, CA	Castro Valley High School	Writing, 2023
Kennedy Eagleton	Dallas, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Writing, 2023
Ella Edmundson	Dallas, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Theater, 2023
Raisa Effress	Studio City, CA	Harvard-Westlake School	Photography, 2022
Similolu Fadel	Lucas, TX	Lovejoy High School	Visual Arts, 2023
Samuel Fine	Orlando, FL	Florida Virtual School	Dance, 2023
Zakiriya Gladney	Tucson, AZ	University High School	Photography, 2023
Georgia Greene	Shelby, NC	Cleveland Innovation Academy	Dance, 2023

Ulysses Hill	Los Angeles, CA	Cathedral High School	Writing, 2023
Vibha Janakiraman	West Chester, PA	Legacy of Educational Excellence High School	Classical Music, 2022
Grey Jensen	Salt Lake City, UT	Skyline High School	Photography, 2023
Brianna Keingatti	Columbia, MO	Columbia-Rock Bridge Senior High School	Dance, 2023
Elizabeth Keller	Interlochen, MI	Interlochen Arts Academy	Writing, 2023
Joel Kim	Saratoga, CA	Saratoga High School	Classical Music, 2023
Mira Kim	Alexandria, VA	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	Classical Music, 2023
Yuri Lee	Eastchester, NY	Tuckahoe High School	Classical Music, 2023
Audrey Lim	Wallingford, CT	Choate Rosemary Hall	Writing, 2023
Daniel Liu	Orlando, FL	Lake Highland Preparatory School	Writing, 2023
Katherine Liu	Wellesley, MA	Wellesley High School	Classical Music, 2022
Alejandro Lombard	Studio City, CA	Harvard-Westlake School	Film, 2023
Miranda Lu	San Jose, CA	Leland High School	Visual Arts, 2023
Dalila Lugo	Miami, FL	New World School of the Arts	Voice, 2023
Yusheng Luo	Alhambra, CA	Alhambra High School	Writing, 2023
Caroline McAleavey	Milford, CT	Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Lauralton Hall	Dance, 2023
Khalil Mcknight	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	Visual Arts, 2023
Lauren Mei	Santa Ana, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	Theater, 2022
Fiorela Miria	New York, NY	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts	Voice, 2023
Emily Moreland	Boca Raton, FL	Florida Atlantic University High School	Theater, 2023
Esmé Nix	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Film, 2023
Sophia Paffenback	Baltimore, MD	George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology	Voice, 2023
Ashley Park	Santa Ana, CA	Orange County School of the Arts	Writing, 2023
Zariyah Perry	Dallas, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Theater, 2023
George Porteous	New York, NY	Dalton School	Theater, 2023
Ava Preston	Solon, OH	Solon High School	Voice, 2023
Sophia Rabin	Newport Beach, CA	Corona Del Mar High School	Voice, 2023
Cassidy Reigel	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore School of the Arts	Dance, 2023
Christopher Shin	Cherry Hill, NJ	Cherry Hill High School East	Classical Music, 2023
Britney Simbana-J	Baltimore, MD	George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology	Photography, 2023
Ezekiel Sokoloff	Salt Lake City, UT	Homeschool	Classical Music, 2023
Sunidhi Srinivas	Royersford, PA	Spring-Ford High School	Voice, 2022
Ryder Thompson	Tigard, OR	Tigard Senior High School	Theater, 2023
Wyatt Thompson	Calabasas, CA	Viewpoint School	Film, 2023
Gavin Trotmore	Berkeley, CA	Berkeley High School	Design Arts, 2023
Margaret Tsai	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	Morrison Academy Kaohsiung	Design Arts, 2023
Ella Vaughn	Cincinnati, OH	Walnut Hills High School	Voice, 2023
Winston Verdult	San Juan Capistrano, CA	St. Margaret's Episcopal School	Film, 2023
Caroline Vichot	Hillsborough, CA	Crystal Springs Uplands School	Film, 2023
Amy Wang	San Diego, CA	Westview High School	Writing, 2023
Ray Wang	Taipei, Taiwan	Taipei American School	Design Arts, 2023
Cole Willis	Dallas, TX	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Film, 2023

Bayan Yunis	Fort Wayne, IN	Carroll High School	Photography, 2023
Paul Zenas	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Theater, 2023

* Interviews can be facilitated upon request.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts nominees are actors, dancers, singers, songwriters, classical musicians, photographers, filmmakers, visual artists, designers and writers. Once selected, the 2023 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 2023 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, 702 YoungArts award winners were selected. In January, 128 Finalists 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 will shared their work through performances, readings, exhibitions and screenings that were 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 2023 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
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, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, or Twitter.

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