



## YoungArts Raises \$1.1 Million at Annual Miami Gala to Support Artists Throughout Their Careers

Filmmaker and photographer María Alvarez Named Winner of the 2026 YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award

Gala Emceed by Multidisciplinary Performer Alaman Diadhiou and Tony and Emmy Nominee Brandon Victor Dixon; YoungArts Award Winners Performances Directed by Chanel DaSilva

### WHAT

**YoungArts**—the national foundation for the advancement of artists—hosted nearly 300 of Miami’s top artistic luminaries, community figures, celebrities, and cultural stewards at their **YoungArts Miami Gala**. YoungArts raised **\$1.1 million** at the annual fundraiser, sponsored by **Oscar de la Renta**, to advance their steadfast and unparalleled support of artists nationwide and across generations. The winner of the annual YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award, filmmaker and photographer María Alvarez, was honored that evening.

The gala celebrated the culmination of the **44<sup>th</sup> National YoungArts Week**, which brought 171 YoungArts Award Winners with Distinction, including the nation’s most accomplished artists ages 15-18 spanning disciplines, to Miami for a week-long, all-expenses-paid experience. Students developed their respective crafts in masterclasses with distinguished YoungArts alumni, including Kennedy Yanko, Willa Bennett, Camille A. Brown, and more; came together to host public performances and share their artistic talents; and create lifelong bonds with fellow artists.

### WHO

**YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award Winner: María Alvarez** (2014 YoungArts Winner in Film)

**Artists, curators, collectors, and scholars: Derrick Adams** (artist); **Luis Alvarez** (artist); **Germane Barnes** (architect); **Michael Chuapoco** (artist); **Alex Gartenfeld** (Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami); **Nadege Green** (artist); **Dave Guy** (artist); **Nikolai Haas** (artist); **Simon Haas** (artist); **Amanda Krische** (artist); **Amani Lewis** (artist); **Sam Moyer** (artist); **Don Rubell and Mira Rubell** (collectors); **Jean Shin** (artist); **Franklin Sirmans** (Pérez Art Museum); **Cornelius Tulloch** (artist); and **Kennedy Yanko** (artist)

**Philanthropy, culture, and business leaders: Mario Cader-Frech** (philanthropist); **Jeff Davis** (Miami City Ballet Board of Trustees); **Alberto Ibarguen** (philanthropist); **Michael Miller** (philanthropist); **Kristina Newman Scott** (Knight Foundation); **Sidney Stern** (philanthropist);

**Pam Tatge** (Jacob's Pillow); **Sandra Tamer** (philanthropist); and **Robert Wennett** (philanthropist).

**Gala Co-Chairs: Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Chloe Berkowitz, Molly and Bill Ford, Dr. Christina Pérez MacLean and Nicolas MacLean, and Brynne McNulty Rojas and Julio Rojas**

**Emcees: Multidisciplinary performer Alaman Diadhiou** (2016 YoungArts Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and **Tony- and Emmy-nominated actor, singer, and producer Brandon Victor Dixon** (1999 YoungArts Winner in Theater)

**Performance Director: Chanel DaSilva** (2004 YoungArts Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts)

**YoungArts Award Winner Performers: Gabrielle Chou, Alaman Diadhiou, Codelia King, Rodrigo Rodriguez, Shoshana Sklar, Penelope Shvarts, and Nicole Streger**

**Gala Committee:**

Germane Barnes	Alex and Carolyn Hurst	Edward Manno Shumsky and Susan D. Kronick
Basil Chidi Funk	Sam Hyken	Julia Steyn
Rona and Jeff Citrin	Lisa and Adam Koffler	Sandra and Tony Tamer
Alexandra Codina	Michi and Charles Jigarjian	Cornelius Tulloch
Naomi Fisher	Richard and Amy Kohan	Randi Wolfson and Chris Adamo
Danielle Garno	Gordon Myers	Kennedy Yanko
Rosie Gordon-Wallace	Kristina Newman-Scott	Maurice Zarma
Simon and Nikolai Haas	Oti and Remi Roberts	

**WHEN**

Saturday, January 10, 2026

**WHERE**

**The Rubell Museum**  
1100 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Miami, FL 33127

**IMAGES**

Available [here](#).

**About the YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award**

Established in 2018 and one of YoungArts' largest financial awards, the YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award honors a previous YoungArts award winner who has strengthened their community through their artistic endeavors with an unrestricted cash prize of \$25,000. Support for the

award is provided by the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation. Winners ages 25 and over are invited to apply, and selections are made by the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation. Recent recipients include **Diana Eusebio** (2016 Visual Arts Winner & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Cornelius Tulloch** (2016 Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), **Juan Jose Cielo** (2015 Visual Arts), **Malaika Temba** (2014 Visual Arts), **Ilana Harris-Babou** (2009 Visual Arts) and **Mateo Nava** (2013 Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts).

### **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](http://youngarts.org), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#).

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