



For Immediate Release

**140 HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS SELECTED FROM 6000  
APPLICANTS TO PARTICIPANT IN 2009 youngARTS WEEK IN  
MIAMI, JANUARY 12-18**

**Winners also receive college scholarship monies,  
and chance to perform in New York City**

*For exceptionally gifted high school science students, there is the Siemens Westinghouse Science Award. For overall academic potential and achievement, there is the National Merit Scholarship Award. But for budding young Picassos, Baryshnikovs and Fitzgeralds, there is the youngARTS Award, the 28 year old Miami-based program that annually rewards exceptionally talented 17 and 18 year old artists with an all expense paid residency at youngARTS Week in Miami.*

**MIAMI, FL** – One hundred and forty high school seniors were selected from a pool of 6000 applicants nationwide to participate in 2009 youngARTS Week, announced National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts President and CEO Christina De Paul.

Blindly selected by panels of professional artists, this year's crop of winners will participate in a non-stop week of workshops, master classes, showcases, performances, exhibitions and personal mentoring by some of America's leading artists including visual artist James Rosenquist, choreographer Larry Keigwin, trumpet-player Jim Hynes, and actor Malcolm Gets. The 2009 youngARTS Week takes place January 12–18.

“Each year youngARTS offers the most talented of America's young artists the encouragement and means to transform their dreams into a reality as it has done for many of our alumni,” says Christina DePaul. youngArts alumni include actress Vanessa Williams, visual artist Doug Aitken, Broadway star and modern dancer Desmond Richardson and National Book Award-nominee Allegra Goodman.

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**youngARTS WEEK  
ADD ONE**

The whirlwind week of Miami activities culminates on January 17 with *An Affair of the Arts* Performance and Gala, which takes place this year at Miami's newly renovated Fountainebleau Miami Beach. The gala will include the presentation of the 2009 Arison Award to international award-winning visual artist James Rosenquist. The 2009 Alumni Award will be presented to 1988 youngARTS Alum, the three-time Tony Award nominee Raúl Esparza.

In addition to this life-changing week, young artists are eligible for over \$500,000 in prize money. The Gold Award winners (\$10,000) and Silver Award winners (\$5,000) are eligible for a chance to perform or have their work exhibited in New York City in late March at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. The 140 youngARTS recipients will also become eligible for selection as a United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts. youngARTS is an exclusive nominating committee of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, the U.S. Department of Education and the Presidential Scholars Program.

Carnival Cruise Lines founder, the late Ted Arison, and his wife Lin founded NFAA and its core program, youngARTS, 28 years ago to ensure the future of American art by identifying uniquely gifted young artists and supporting them both financially and educationally. Its roster of alumni reads like a Who's Who in the Arts. Previous winners include such luminaries as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater principals Matthew Rushing and Linda Celeste Sims; New York City Ballet principal Philip Neal; former American Ballet Theatre dancer and current ABT Executive Director Rachel Moore; Warner Brothers recording artist Josh Groban; Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinetist Ricardo Morales; and New York Philharmonic guest solo violinist Jennifer Koh; Verve Record jazz trumpet player Roy Hargrove; Broadway actors Ron Eldard and Donna Lynne Champlin; as well as visual artists John Currin, Doug Aitken and Herman Bas.

For a complete list of youngARTS finalists and more details about the program, please visit [www.youngARTS.org](http://www.youngARTS.org). Photos available upon request.

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**About youngARTS™:**

youngARTS™ is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). youngARTS identifies the nation's most talented high school seniors in nine different disciplines in the performing, literary and visual arts. The program offers unique educational opportunities as well as scholarships and awards to artists who demonstrate extraordinary talent. youngARTS is based on the belief that the arts sustain their power only if they are continually renewed and refreshed by the vigor and perspective of young artists. Since 1981 youngARTS has facilitated more than \$80 million in scholarships for higher education institutions throughout the country and has gifted over \$6 million in awards. youngARTS is the exclusive nominating agency to The Commission on Presidential Scholars for the annual selection of the Presidential Scholars in the Arts; the selected few receive their awards at the White House each summer. Alumni include Broadway actors, award-winning playwrights, published authors and numerous esteemed musicians and visual artists. Christina DePaul, an accomplished, award-winning artist and educator, is the new President and CEO of youngARTS. For more information, please visit [www.youngARTS.org](http://www.youngARTS.org).

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