



# NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS



We congratulate tonight's  
honorees and proudly  
support the critically  
important work of

**Americans for the Arts.**

*the*  
HERB  
ALPERT *foundation*

# 2022 NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS

MONDAY  
OCTOBER 17

## WELCOME FROM SARAH ARISON

Chair of the National Arts Awards

## PHILANTHROPY IN THE ARTS AWARD

*Robert F. Smith*

Presented by Jon Batiste

## MARINA KELLEN FRENCH OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AWARDS

*For Freedoms*

Presented by Jesse Williams

## REMARKS BY NOLEN V. BIVENS

President and CEO  
Americans for the Arts

## DINNER

## PERFORMANCE

Featuring YoungArts Alumni  
Introduction by Sarah Arison  
Musical Direction by Jake Goldbas

## ARTS EDUCATION AWARD

*The Gordon Parks Foundation*  
Presented by LaToya Ruby Frazier

## TED ARISON YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

*Darren Criss*  
Presented by Lea Salonga

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Joy Harjo*  
Presented by Dr. Elizabeth Alexander

## CLOSING REMARKS BY JULIE C. MURACO

Chair of the Board of Directors  
Americans for the Arts

## FEATURED ART · JOSÉ PARLÁ

*Polarity, 2022*

Acrylic and oil paint on canvas  
72 x 108 inches  
Dinner journal cover and stage  
Courtesy of the artist

*A Better Chance for Clear Skies, 2020*

Collage, acrylic paint, enamel, ink, and  
plaster on canvas  
72 x 108 inches  
Entrance  
Courtesy of the artist

*One Union of the Senses, 2015*

Video  
Reception area  
Courtesy of the artist

# GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT



Photo by Omar Zaki

We are back! It is so exciting to be together again to celebrate the incredible work of the collective arts and culture contributions to our communities. The last two and a half years have been profoundly challenging for all of us—for our society, for the economy, and for the arts. As we move forward, we recognize and hold space in the knowledge that all our lives have fundamentally changed.

The past two years signified the resilience and transformative power of the arts. The arts brought us together where connections had been lost, gave us hope where hopelessness overwhelmed, and demonstrated a peace and beauty in the world when none seemed to exist. The arts allowed us the expression of our humanity during a uniquely challenging time.

The honorees we celebrate this year are examples of the unique expressions of our humanity and the best that the arts and our arts communities have to offer. We are pleased to lift them up and celebrate their accomplishments this evening. Our awardees are true change agents and champions of the arts. Tonight, we honor Robert F. Smith, patron of the arts as well as the Gordon Parks Foundation's preservation of history through arts education. We celebrate Joy Harjo, the first Native American Poet Laureate, artist-advocate Darren Criss, and the For Freedoms collective for their work at the intersection of arts and social justice. We appreciate the dynamic and compelling work of our featured artist, José Parlá.

The contributions of the arts and culture sector to the United States, its territories, and tribal nations has a prolific history and a powerful future. The arts offer our society a future of adaptation and evolution to meet the needs of the time. There will be new and different challenges that highlight the strengths as well as vulnerabilities of arts and culture in our communities. The same can be said for Americans for the Arts.

As we all have had to reflect and focus our priorities, live life a little differently and take a different approach to our work, Americans for the Arts has embarked on a Strategic Realignment Process in service to the field. This experience will create a fundamentally different organization, rooted in its important history, but looking ahead with a focus on equitable advocacy that amplifies grassroots community organizations and voices that have been underrepresented. We must work with partners in new ways to advance the importance of artists and the creative sector in communities across the country. We are so grateful to those who are on this journey with us.

Thank you for being with us tonight to celebrate the truly extraordinary—the artists, arts and culture sector professionals, and those who champion their work.

Julie C. Muraco  
Chair, Board of Directors

Nolen V. Bivens  
President and CEO

# THE NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS CHAIR

Dear Friends of Americans for the Arts,

I am thrilled to finally step into the role of event chair of the National Arts Awards after two years of pause due to the pandemic. Tonight's honorees have something truly remarkable in common—their tireless work to speak their truth, activate, and continue fighting to make our country a more equitable place. It is my honor to pay tribute to our honorees and to acknowledge their work in creating a more empathetic and just world.

Robert F. Smith, our Philanthropy in the Arts Award honoree, has established himself not only as a businessman and chemical engineer, but also as a philanthropist who is helping to actively remove barriers for young people and creating on-ramps for them to pursue the arts, education, and their dreams. After paying \$34 million to settle the loan debt for the nearly 400 students who graduated from Morehouse College in 2019, he also signed The Giving Pledge, further solidifying his commitment to investing half of his net worth during his lifetime to causes that support equal opportunities for young African Americans, and environmental protection causes. Or as Robert himself said, “to ensure a livable planet for future generations.” His passion and lifelong support for music and arts education runs deep, including his support of Carnegie Hall's educational and performance programs, The Louis Armstrong House Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Sphinx Organization.

Tonight, we also honor and celebrate the collective contributions of For Freedoms, the first artist-collective to be honored at the National Arts Awards. Founded by Wyatt Gallery, Eric Gottesman, Hank Willis Thomas, and Michelle Woo, this ever-expanding network of creatives continues to generate dialogue and discovery through provocative and poignant visual representations. For example, their “50 State Initiative” posted non-partisan political billboards in support of voters' rights from coast to coast along some of the most traveled roads in every U.S. state, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. and facilitated artist-led town halls and exhibitions to activate communities around pressing social issues. The Marina Kellen French Outstanding Contributions to the Arts Award is a fitting honor for the bold work of this collective of artist-advocates as they demonstrate the power of unifying to push for tangible social change.

More than 20 years after the photographer and activist Gordon Parks received his National Arts Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts, it's moving to witness the educational work that continues to be undertaken by the foundation in his name, and honor that work with our Arts Education Award. Through their educational fellowships, scholarships, and grant-making initiatives which provide critical support



Photo by Nick Garcia, courtesy of YoungArts

for artists and creatives, alongside their work to permanently preserve the work of Gordon Parks and make it available to the public through exhibitions, books, and electronic media, The Gordon Parks Foundation is living out Parks' vision for social justice and "the common search for a better life and a better world."

I am so pleased to once again have the opportunity to name the Young Artist Award after my late grandfather, Ted Arison. He and my grandmother, Lin, had the visionary idea in 1981 to create the National YoungArts Foundation, now known as YoungArts, to identify and support the next generation of artists and assist them at critical junctures in their development. To date, YoungArts has provided more than 20,000 artists with access to significant financial awards, national recognition, and opportunities to study with renowned mentors.

The involvement of YoungArts with Americans for the Arts and the National Arts Awards goes back to 2009, when alumni and students from our program became the featured performers at the event. The ceremony is a wonderful opportunity for these young artists to shine in front of an audience of true arts enthusiasts. And I note with pride that several National Arts Awards honorees have been associated with YoungArts, including my grandmother, Lin Arison, who received the Arts Education Award in 2012, and alumni Josh Groban and Kerry Washington, who are past recipients of the Young Artist Award.

Darren Criss has been a shining star since his breakout role in *Glee*. As an actor, singer, and songwriter, and the first Filipino American to win major awards for a leading role, he has captivated audiences from screen to stage. In addition to his artistry, we applaud Darren for advocating on behalf of causes he believes in, such as his work with The Trevor Project and Rock the Vote. Having already earned a Primetime Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors' Guild Award and Critics' Choice Award, it is clear this young artist-advocate is on an upward trajectory of success. On behalf of the Arison Arts Foundation, I congratulate Darren Criss as this year's recipient of the Ted Arison Young Artist Award.

Finally, I am especially excited to honor Joy Harjo with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. Her work as a poet feels inextricable from her role as a community leader, activist, and as an inspiration to us all. Her trailblazing legacy of written word ignites readers and emerging poets alike. She is the first Native American artist to be honored with a National Arts Award. We honor Joy tonight not only for her highly acclaimed books of poetry, plays, memoirs, and children's books, and her gift of transporting readers and audiences through stories that navigate the spectrum of human emotion, but also for her commitment to and passion for social justice and truth.

While the last two and a half years have been difficult and often daunting, the pandemic has emphasized the essential nature of the arts. While sequestered at home, the arts brought joy and solace to so many, connecting families and friends near and far over digital offerings and artmaking at home among children and the young at heart. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge all that was lost in this time, but with remembering comes the reminder to celebrate what we have, the progress made, and the opportunity to continue the work.

I am grateful to my co-chairs the Herb Alpert Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Julia Chiang and KAWS, Shepard and Amanda Fairey, David and Susan Goode, Agnes Gund, Marina Kellen French, Jeff and Justine Koons, Kara Moore, Rick Rosenthal, Nancy Stephens, and Jamie Rosenthal Wolf, who have worked so hard to make tonight a success. I also want to thank tonight's honorees and their families, and importantly, all of you in the audience for your unflinching support of the arts in your community and across the nation.



Sarah Arison  
Chair, National Arts Awards



## CHAIR

Sarah Arison

## CO-CHAIRS

Herb Alpert Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Julia Chiang and KAWS

Shepard and Amanda Fairey

David and Susan Goode

Agnes Gund

Marina Kellen French

Jeff and Justine Koons

Kara Moore

Rick Rosenthal and Nancy Stephens

Jamie Rosenthal Wolf

The 2022 National Arts Awards takes place on the unceded homeland of the Lenape diaspora which is also historically a gathering and trading place for many diverse Native peoples who continue to live and work on this island. We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—for their ongoing and fundamental relationships to the region. If you want to learn more about the tribal land you live on, we encourage you to use the Native Land resource at [native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca). If you want to learn more about the Lenape peoples, please visit the [lenapecenter.com](https://lenapecenter.com).

# PHILANTHROPY IN THE ARTS AWARD

## ROBERT F. SMITH



Robert F. Smith is the founder, chairman, and CEO of Vista Equity Partners. Vista currently manages equity capital commitments of over \$93 billion and oversees a portfolio of over 80 software companies that have more than 200 million users and employ over 90,000 people worldwide.

Smith is the chairman of Carnegie Hall and a recipient of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. He serves on the board of directors of the Business Roundtable, the board of overseers of Columbia Business School, as a member of the Cornell Engineering College Council, and as a trustee of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco.

In 2020, Smith was named as one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World and has been recognized by Forbes as one of the 100 Greatest Living Business Minds. Smith is the founding director and president of the Fund II Foundation and a leading advocate for companies to take diverse internship candidates in STEM fields.

In 2019, Smith made headlines by announcing that he would cover the student loans of nearly 400 Morehouse College graduates in a commencement address. After his Morehouse pledge, Smith founded the Student Freedom Initiative to relieve the crushing burden of student debt for STEM students at all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Smith has been a strong advocate for what he has named the 2% solution—calling on corporations to commit 2% of their annual net income for the next decade to empower minority communities. He also co-leads the Southern Communities Initiative, a catalytic program for racial equity across six southern communities representing half of the Black population in the U.S.



# MARINA KELLEN FRENCH

## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AWARD

### FOR FREEDOMS

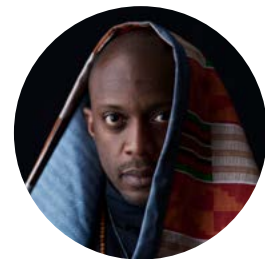
For Freedoms, founded in 2016 by Wyatt Gallery, Eric Gottesman, Hank Willis Thomas, and Michelle Woo, is an artist collective that centers art and creativity as a catalyst for transformative connection and collective liberation. By wielding the power of art, they aim to deepen and expand their capacity to interrogate what is and imagine what could be. Together, they seek infinite expansion.

Leading up to the 2016 elections in the United States, For Freedoms asked themselves how they could center artists' voices in public discourse; broaden what participation in democracy looks like; and initiate a larger conversation about the role of art in local, national, and global politics.

What began as a one-off campaign has now evolved into an ongoing movement. For Freedoms has since produced artworks and run nationwide campaigns timed to significant political elections: in 2018, they conducted the 50 State Initiative, named by TIME as the "largest creative collaboration in United States history" and in 2020, they launched the 2020 Awakening, activating artists, museums, schools, corporations and civic organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and beyond.

For Freedoms has grown to become the largest community for creative civic engagement in the country. They comprise thousands of artists and organizations working together to invite radical imagination and set the table for new national conversations.

For Freedoms maintains that if creativity is a core societal value, and if artists are at every table, new ideas are more likely to take hold. With that, we all can build new systems that no longer rely on extractive or corrupt foundations but instead center love, care, and community. For Freedoms is working toward a new economic model for art and culture while offering financial and education opportunities for artists.



Photos by Jeff Vespa

# **THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION**

## **ARTS EDUCATION AWARD**

### **THE GORDON PARKS FOUNDATION**

The Gordon Parks Foundation permanently preserves the work of Gordon Parks; makes it available to the public through exhibitions, books, and electronic media; and supports artistic and educational activities that advance what Parks described as “the common search for a better life and a better world.”

The Foundation supports and produces artistic and educational initiatives that advance the legacy and vision of Gordon Parks for social justice. Recognized as the most significant African American photographer of the 20th century, as well as an influential writer, composer, and filmmaker, Parks used the arts as a vehicle to further what he described as “the common search for a better life and a better world.” The Foundation was co-founded in 2006 by Parks with his longtime friend and editor at LIFE magazine, Philip B. Kunhardt Jr., to preserve his creative work and support the next generation of artists advancing social justice.

Through scholarly exhibitions, publications, critical research projects, and public programs organized in collaboration with institutions internationally and at its exhibition space in Pleasantville, New York, The Gordon Parks Foundation provides access to, and deepens understanding of, the work and legacy of Gordon Parks for artists, scholars, students, and the public. The artist’s archive of photographs, negatives, and contact sheets is a critical resource for scholars and curators in the development of academic research and institutional exhibitions.

Drawing inspiration from the pivotal role of a fellowship Parks received early in his career, the Foundation’s educational and grant-making initiatives are core to its mission and year-round activities. Through The Gordon Parks Foundation Scholarships and Prizes and The Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship, the Foundation provides vital support to artists and champions current and future generations of creatives whose work continues his legacy. These initiatives are made possible through The Gordon Parks Arts and Social Justice Fund, established by the Foundation in 2019.

# TED ARISON YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

## DARREN CRISS

Since bursting onto the pop-culture landscape in his breakout portrayal of Blaine Anderson on the arts-education focused television show, *Glee*, Darren Criss' career has spanned TV, film, music, and the stage. This past summer, Criss starred on Broadway opposite Sam Rockwell and Laurence Fishburne in *American Buffalo*, which received a Tony Award nomination for Best Revival of a Play. Criss also co-hosted The 2022 Tony Awards: Act One, with Julianne Hough. In 2015, he starred as Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, in a performance which critics, including *The New York Times*, called "mesmerizing." He made his Broadway debut in 2012 as J. Pierrepont Finch in *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*.

Criss' layered portrayal of Andrew Cunanan in the award-winning 2018 television series *American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace*, was met with widespread acclaim, earning Criss a Primetime Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild Award and Critics Choice Award, making him the first Filipino American to win in a leading role category. Criss' other film and TV credits include *Muppets Haunted Mansion*, *Midway*, *Girl Most Likely*, *American Horror Story*, *Web Therapy*, *Eastwick*, as well as serving in the role of host of ABC's *The Queen Family Singalong*.

In 2015, Criss co-founded Elsie Fest, an annual outdoor music festival celebrating music from the stage and screen. As a singer and songwriter, Criss released his first holiday album entitled *A Very Darren Crissmas* on Decca Records in 2021. Last year he also delivered a collection of character-driven singles as part of his solo EP titled *Masquerade*.

A San Francisco native, Criss pursued his acting degree at the University of Michigan. He has championed causes that advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community as well as voters' rights, including The Trevor Project and Rock the Vote, respectively.



Photo by Tony Moux for OneKind



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## JOY HARJO



Photo by Matika Wilbur

Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned poet, performer, and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She served an historic three terms as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States. Her signature project as Poet Laureate, *Living Nations, Living Words*, maps contemporary Native Nations poets across the United States through an interactive digital Library of Congress audio collection.

Harjo is the author of 10 books of poetry, including *American Sunrise* (2019), which won a 2020 Oklahoma Book Award, and *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings* (2015), which was shortlisted for the Griffin Prize and named a Notable Book of the Year by the American Library Association. In addition to poetry, she has published award-winning children's books, three plays, two prose collections, and two memoirs, *Crazy Brave*, awarded the PEN USA Literary Award and the American Book Award, and the highly acclaimed *Poet Warrior*. Harjo has also edited several anthologies, including *When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*; and *Living Nations, Living Words: An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry*.

Her many honors include the Ruth Lily Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, a PEN USA Literary Award, two NEA fellowships, a Tulsa Artist Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. As a musician and performer, Harjo has produced seven award-winning music albums including *Winding Through the Milky Way*, for which she was awarded a NAMMY for Best Female Artist of the Year, and her newest, *I Pray for My Enemies*. Harjo has been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the National Native American Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and the National Women's Hall of Fame. She has been an Americans for the Arts Artists Committee Member since September 2020.

She is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, chair of the board of directors of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, and serves as the inaugural artist-in-residence at the Bob Dylan Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the city where she lives.

# PRESENTERS



Photo by David Needleman

## PHILANTHROPY IN THE ARTS AWARD

### JON BATISTE

Jon Batiste is one of his generation's most accomplished musicians. He received a B.A. and M.F.A. from the Juilliard School in NYC. From 2015-2022 Batiste was the bandleader and musical director for *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. In 2018 he received a Grammy nomination for Best American Roots Performance and in 2020 received two Grammy nods for *Chronology of a Dream: Live at the Village Vanguard* and *Meditations* (with Cory Wong). In 2020, he won an Academy Award for Best Original Score for the film *Soul*, alongside Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross. *Soul* also earned a Golden Globe, BAFTA, NAACP Image Award and a Critic's Choice Award. Batiste's latest album, *WE ARE*, was released in 2021 to overwhelming critical acclaim. Subsequently, he was nominated for 11 Grammys across seven different categories. He went on to win five, including the 2022 Album of the Year.



Photo by Tina Turnbull

## MARINA KELLEN FRENCH OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AWARD

### JESSE WILLIAMS

Jesse Williams is a former teacher and longtime activist who began his acting career Off-Broadway under the direction of Edward Albee in *Brilliant Minds*. After 12 seasons on *Grey's Anatomy*, Williams made his Broadway debut portraying Darren Lemming in *Take Me Out*, earning him Tony Award and Drama League nominations. Williams executive produced the 2021 Oscar winning film *Two Distant Strangers*. He recently starred alongside Owen Wilson in *Secret Headquarters* and will soon be seen in *Your Place or Mine* with Reese Witherspoon. Additionally, Williams is an impactful tech entrepreneur, with three leading apps on the market (Scholly, BLeBRitTY, Ebroji). In 2016 he received the BET Humanitarian Award.



Photo Courtesy of the artist and Stephanie Gallery

## ARTS EDUCATION AWARD

### LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER

LaToya Ruby Frazier is a Pennsylvania native whose artistic practice spans a range of media, including photography, video, performance, installation art and books, and centers on the

nexus of social justice, cultural change, and commentary on the American experience. In various interconnected bodies of work, Frazier uses collaborative storytelling with the people who appear in her artwork to address topics of industrialism, Rust Belt revitalization, environmental justice, access to healthcare, access to clean water, workers' rights, human rights, family, and communal history. This builds on her commitment to the legacy of 1930s social documentary work and 1960s and '70s conceptual photography that address urgent social and political issues of everyday life. Frazier is an associate professor of photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she currently lives and works. Frazier's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at institutions in the U.S. and Europe and her work is held in numerous public collections.



Photo by Raymond Isaac

## TED ARISON YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

### LEA SALONGA

Lea Salonga is best known for her Tony Award winning role in *Miss Saigon*. In addition to the Tony, she has won the Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Theatre World Awards. Salong was also the first Asian to play Eponine in the musical *Les Misérables* on Broadway. Fans of all ages recognize her as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan for *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. For her portrayal of the beloved princesses, the Walt Disney Company bestowed her with the honor of "Disney Legend." Salonga is currently starring in the HBO Max series, *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin*.



Photo by Djenaba Aduwaba

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### DR. ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

Decorated poet, educator, memoirist, scholar, and cultural advocate, Elizabeth Alexander is president of the Mellon Foundation. She has held distinguished professorships at Smith College, Columbia University, and Yale University, is chancellor emeritus of the Academy of American Poets, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and serves on the Pulitzer Prize Board. Dr. Alexander composed and delivered "Praise Song for the Day" for the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama, and is author or co-author of fifteen books, including *American Sublime* (Pulitzer finalist, Poetry, 2006), *The Light of the World* (Pulitzer finalist, Biography, 2015), and *The Trayvon Generation* (2022).



Photo courtesy of Rey

## FEATURED ARTIST

### JOSÉ PARLÁ

José Parlá has emerged in the past decade as one of his generation's most fervent champions of painting, working for more than twenty years to establish

a style of painting that transforms the language of the street into a hybrid form of abstraction and urban realism. From the outset, Parlá has sought to interpret his experience of cities that have served as crossroads in his life, from Miami to Brooklyn, San Juan to Havana, London to Tokyo, Istanbul to Hong Kong as a central theme in his work, while purposefully engaging with the rich history of painting since the rise of abstraction in the 1950s. His work provides markers of time, and is about the accumulation of information that settles like accretions upon the surfaces of walls and streets, like the lines on the hands and faces of the people who inhabit them.

Parlá is publicly known for his permanent installations of large-scale paintings and community engagement as a co-founder of Wide Awakes. In 2015 he painted the monumental mural *ONE: Union of the Senses* in the lobby of One World Trade Center.

Other notable mural projects include *Nature of Language* at the James B. Hunt Jr. Library at North Carolina State University (2013), the mural *Diary of Brooklyn* at the Barclays Center (2013), and *Amistad América* at The University of Texas at Austin (2018).

Parlá studied at Miami Dade Community College, New World School of the Arts and Savannah College of Art & Design. His work is currently included in the Brooklyn Abstraction exhibition, at the Brooklyn Art Museum through August 6, 2023. Solo exhibitions of Parla's work have been organized at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY (2020), Istanbul74' a project of the Istanbul Biennial (2019); HOCA Foundation, Hong Kong (2019); Kennedy Center, Washington, DC (2018); Neuberger Museum of Art, New York, NY (2018); SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA (2017); National YoungArts Foundation, Miami, FL (2016); The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA (2015).

Parlá's work is in several public collections including, Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL; The British Museum; The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; POLA Museum of Art, Hakone, Japan; The Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY; El Espacio, Miami, FL; and The National Museum of Fine Arts, Havana, Cuba.



Photo by Branislav Jankić

## BALLOON RABBIT AWARD

### JEFF KOONS

Jeff Koons, a longtime member of Americans for the Arts' Artists Committee, designed the National Arts Awards Balloon Rabbit award in

2009. One of the world's most preeminent artists, Mr. Koons's work has been widely exhibited and is in numerous public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City; the National Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; The Broad in Los Angeles; the Tate Gallery in London; the Stedelijk Museum in

Amsterdam; the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum; and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas.

In 2008, he was the first contemporary artist to have his work installed at the Palais de Versailles in France. A retrospective of Koons's work was organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2014 that toured to The Pompidou Center in Paris and Guggenheim Bilbao Museum in Spain. His work is currently on exhibition at the Slaughterhouse, the DESTE Foundation Project Space, in Hydra, Greece, through the end of October.

The Americans for the Arts National Arts Awards evokes Koons balloon forms from his highly acclaimed Celebration series as well as the iconic 1986 Rabbit sculpture and is truly a visual exemplification of artistic "celebration!" We are grateful to the artist and his studio for their generosity and support.



## PERFORMERS

### JAYLA CHEE | BASSIST



Jayla Chee (2019 YoungArts Alumna) is a New York bass player, originally from Belmont, CA. She is currently a junior at The Juilliard School, studying with Ben Wolfe and Billy Drummond, and has previously studied with Gerald Cannon. Before moving to NYC, Chee played regularly with acclaimed Bay Area artists such as Vince Lateano, among others. She has played at venues such as The Monterey Jazz Festival, the SFjazz Center, the Black Cat, and Cafe Stritch. Chee has participated in some of America's top youth jazz programs including Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra, the NextGeneration Jazz Orchestra, and YoungArts. These programs have given her the opportunity to perform in Brazil, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Since moving to NYC, she has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Evan Sherman, Giveton Gelin, and many local musicians at venues like Smalls, Birdland, Ginny's, among others. She derives inspiration from nature and musical influences including Herbie Hancock and Elis Regina.

### JAKE GOLDBAS | MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND DRUMMER



Jake Goldbas (2007 YoungArts Winner in Jazz) is a creative director, educator, and drummer. The articulate detail that characterizes his musical direction has opened important doors beyond genre. In 2019 he recorded for the legendary O'Jays album *The Last Word* and Grammy nominated jazz album *Dancer in Nowhere* by Miho Hazama. Goldbas was the principal drummer for the Tony Award winning Broadway show *Dear Evan Hansen* for the last six years. His musical vision is intimately linked to his sense of social justice and global citizenship. He is currently director of education programs for the Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, and program director for the Louis Armstrong House Museum.

### SOPHIA KICKHOFEL | SAXOPHONIST



Sophia Kickhofel (2020 YoungArts Alumna) is a multi-instrumentalist from the St. Paul suburb, Apple Valley. She spent the majority of her time in secondary school performing across the Twin Cities area. Kickhofel has performed with and has been mentored by several notable

jazz musicians including Sean Jones, Camille Thurman, Javon Jackson, Lenny White, Rufus Reid, Wycliffe Gordon, Ron Blake, and Bruce Williams. Through participating in camps and ensembles, including the National Youth Orchestra Jazz Band, YoungArts, the National Association for Music Education and Vail Jazz, she has been able to perform at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New World Center for the Arts, and other notable music venues. She is currently in her first year as a student at The Juilliard School.

### BLAINE KRAUSS | VOCALIST



Photo by Karen Sabin

Blaine Alden Krauss (2010 YoungArts Alumnus), a native of Tampa Bay, FL, is currently starring in the national tour of *Hamilton* as the standby for both Hamilton and Burr. He was part of the second season of *Pose* while appearing in *The Cher Show* on Broadway. Prior to that he was seen understudying the character Lola in *Kinky Boots* shortly after making his Broadway debut in *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. Krauss regularly performs with symphonies around the globe with Scott Coulters SPOT-ON Entertainment and is a regular performer at Feinstein's/54 Below where he debuted his acclaimed solo show, *From the Soul*. In 2011 he was a feature performer for the largest Commemoration of 9/11 outside of the U.S at the Trocadero in Paris, France. Krauss is a 2010 Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

### DEVON YESBERGER | PIANIST



Devon Yesberger (2008 YoungArts Alumnus) is a pianist, producer, and educator whose passion for pop, jazz, and music tech has taken him all over the world to share the stage with a wide array of artists including Bobby McFerrin, Lawrence, Cynthia Erivo, Cory Wong, Darren Criss, Theo Katzman, Grace Kelly, Sam Evian, and more. A 2013 graduate of Berklee College of Music, Yesberger has become one of New York's most sought after pianists for feel-focused, soulful playing and production. As an educator, his online piano lessons have amassed millions of views from piano students all around the world. When he's not on the road or playing around town, Yesberger can be found on his bicycle or in his studio (Keyboard Heaven) in Bushwick working on original pop/soul productions and collaborating with other local artists.

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design, and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Each year, YoungArts receives thousands of applications from emerging artists (ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12), and from these, approximately 800

winner are selected. YoungArts provides these promising artists with life-changing experiences, monetary awards, and opportunities for professional and artistic advancement. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni and has enabled its participants to work with master artists such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Dana Schutz, Mickalene Thomas, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie, and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

# CREDIT AND SPECIAL THANKS

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Alberto M. Carvalho, public school superintendent  
Schuyler Chapin, civic leader  
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