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

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
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.
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...
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 unflagging support of the arts in your community and across the nation.

Sarah Arison
Chair, National Arts Awards
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. If you want to learn more about the Lenape peoples, please visit the 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.
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 CRISSTED ARISON YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

DARREN CRISSTED ARISON YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

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.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JOY HARJO

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.
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.

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.

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.

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. Salonga 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.

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).
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.

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, Wyckliffe 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

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 Coulter’s 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 winners 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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Lavern Hill Clark
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Karen Kuehn
Shelly C. Lowe
Shawn Miller
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Jeannette Gabrielle
Jake Goldbas
John Haworth
Paul Kingston
Jeff Koons
Julien McCall
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Olu & Company
Josh Pultz
Lauran Rothstein
Priya Satiani
Seaberry Design
Margaret Slowey
Whitney Tancred
Olivia Tarpley
Krista Whaley
YoungArts
Nesma Youssef
PAST HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Marian Anderson §
Dame Julie Andrews
Richard Avedon
George Balanchine §
John Baldessari
Tony Bennett ~
Leonard Bernstein ~
Hume Cronyn §
Clive Davis –
Agnes DeMille §
Aretha Franklin
Frank O. Gehry
Martha Graham §
Helen Hayes §
E.L. Konigsberg
Billy Taylor §
Jessica Tandy §
Isaac Stern §
Mavis Staples ~
Stephen Sondheim §
Beverly Sills §
Jason Robards §
James Rosenquist +
Richard Serra
Harry Belafonte µ
Chuck Close µ
Betty Comden &
Adolph Green µ
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Merce Cunningham µ
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Ben Folds
Helma Golden
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Hugh Hardy µ
Kitty Carlisle Hart
Al Hirschfeld µ
Jenny Holzer
Judith Jamison µ
Peter Martins µ
Yoko Ono µ
Nam June Paik µ
Gordon Parks µ
James Stewart Polshek µ
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Salman Rushdie µ
Martin Scorsese µ
Joel Shapiro
Beverly Sills µ
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Academy of Recording Arts
& Sciences
Phil Ramone
Christopher Reeve
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ARTS EDUCATION
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Martina Arroyo, artist
William Bassell, public school
principal
Alberto M. Carvalho, public
school superintendent
Schuyler Chapin, civic leader
CMA Foundation

Pierre Dulaine & Yvonne
Marceau, American Ballroom
Theater
Midori Goto, artist
Agnes Gund, philanthropist
Wynton Marsalis, artist
Arthur Mitchell, artist
The Mr. Holland’s Opus
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Studio in a School Association
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Kirk Varnedoe, Memorial
Truly
Pinchas Zukerman, Isaac
Stern Award, Excellence in
Classical Music

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Exemplary Contributions to
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Andra Day ~
Dakota Fanning ∞
Lady Gaga ~
Josh Groban ∞
Jake Gyllenhaal
David Hallberg ∞
John Legend
Kate and Laura Mulleavy,
Rodarte ∞
Justin Peck ^
Ben Platt ^
Natalie Portman
Gabourey Sidibe ∞
Esperanza Spalding ^
Mena Suvari
Uma Thurman
Kerry Washington
Kehinde Wiley

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Will Cotton
Salvador Dali
Todd Eberle
Shepard Fairey
Luchita Hurtado
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Sol LeWitt
Kerry James Marshall
Julie Mehretu
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Ed Ruscha
Kenny Scharf
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Sarah Sze
Andy Warhol

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∞ Bell Family Foundation
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15
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Congratulations to Americans for the Arts and the 2022 National Arts Awards honorees. Americans for the Arts’ work on behalf of the arts is needed and appreciated now more than ever.


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in celebration of their contributions to the arts

With much gratitude

Agnes Gund
Americans for the Arts is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the arts and arts education advocacy in America. With more than 60 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

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