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NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ARQUITECTONICA AS NEW SPONSOR OF DESIGN ARTS DISCIPLINE

*Arquitectonica Joins the Roster of Internationally Renowned Designers Supporting the Discipline Including
Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid*

*Leading Architecture and Design Firm to Kick Off Five-Year Partnership
By Participating in YoungArts Miami, March 8-13*

MIAMI, FL (March 2, 2016) –The **National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts)** today announced that international architecture, design and urban planning firm **Arquitectonica** will lend its expertise and support to YoungArts' Design Arts discipline. Over the next five years, the organizations will work together to support students of architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, industrial design, graphic design, fashion design, and interaction design by providing educational experiences and professional opportunities. Arquitectonica will make a merit-based contribution and prepare a Design Arts master class for the **2016 YoungArts Miami regional program**, which will take place on the YoungArts campus on **March 9, 2016**. Led by Arquitectonica principals, the master class will focus on creating innovative designs for an information kiosk. Participating Winners also will be eligible for an opportunity to intern at the global firm.

"On behalf of everyone at YoungArts, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Arquitectonica for their generosity and support, which will allow us to continue to grow our Design Arts program," said Lisa Leone, Vice President of Artistic Programs for YoungArts. "As one of the world's leading architecture and design firms, Arquitectonica will offer invaluable insights and professional development opportunities to YoungArts Winners in this field. We look forward to working together to champion outstanding young talent—in the design arts and beyond."

Launched in 2013 with the support of YoungArts Artistic Advisor and world-renowned architect **Frank Gehry**, YoungArts' Design Arts discipline has attracted hundreds of applicants to date, with nearly 75 YoungArts Winners selected to participate in a wide range of interdisciplinary workshops, seminars and master classes. Master teachers have included such renowned architects and designers as Pritzker Prize-winning architect **Zaha Hadid**, 9/11 Memorial architect **Michael Arad**, and The Museum of Modern Art's Senior Curator for Architecture and Design **Paola Antonelli**.

Since its founding in 1977, Arquitectonica has had a major presence on the world architecture stage thanks to its bold, modern designs and implementation of Miami's 'Grid-era' in the 80s and 90s and presently, for ushering in the 'bas-relief era,' a new phase in architectural design. Founding Principals Bernardo Fort-Brescia and Laurinda Spear continue to push the limits and create innovative shapes and colors to introduce modern design to the world. Today their practice spans the globe, with projects in 60 countries on five continents with hundreds of design awards as well as multiple landmark projects showcased within numerous museums and institutions.

“We are very pleased to collaborate with YoungArts and to be able to provide a platform that fosters groundbreaking, forward-thinking ideas with today’s youngest luminaries in design,” said Marisa Fort, spokesperson for Arquitectonica. “Our philosophy has always been to push boundaries in architecture to further spur creative thought and we are delighted to partner with this esteemed organization.”

How to Apply to the YoungArts Design Arts Discipline

Young artists between the ages of 15 and 18 or in high school grades 10-12 (as of December 1, 2016) across the nation are encouraged to apply to the National YoungArts Foundation. Each year, the organization holds an open call for applications which can be submitted online. The application for the 2017 program will open in the spring and close in October 2016. From the application pool, YoungArts Winners are selected through a blind adjudication process and are recognized at Finalist, Honorable Mention and Merit levels. Finalists are eligible to participate in National YoungArts Week in Miami in January 2017, and all Winners are eligible to participate in one of YoungArts’ regional programs—YoungArts Miami, YoungArts Los Angeles and YoungArts New York—space permitting. In addition, Finalists and Honorable Mention Winners receive monetary recognition from YoungArts. Finalists are also considered for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, for which YoungArts is the sole nominating organization. For more information visit youngarts.org.

About Arquitectonica

Arquitectonica is an architecture, interior design and planning firm that began in Miami in 1977 as an experimental studio. Led by **Bernardo Fort-Brescia** and **Laurinda Spear**, the studio has evolved into a worldwide practice, combining the creative spirit of the principals with the efficiency of delivery and reliability of a major architectural firm. With projects in over 60 countries, Arquitectonica’s work spans several continents, from projects such as schools and universities, resorts and casinos, hotels, luxury condominium towers, retail centers and office buildings to specialized projects such as a U.S. Embassy, opera house/symphony halls, museums, courthouses, multipurpose arenas and convention centers, airports and transportation centers, television studios and several bank headquarters. <http://arquitectonica.com/>

About The National YoungArts Foundation

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. Through a wide range of annual programs, regular performances, and partnerships with some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts’ signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15 – 18 or in grades 10 – 12 from across the United States. Selected from a pool of more than an average of 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 applications), YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts Winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts Winners also become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields include actresses Anna Gunn, Viola Davis, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Tony Yazbeck, Raúl Esparza, Andrew Rannells and Billy Porter; recording artists Josh Groban, Chris Young and Judith Hill; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton and Jennifer Koh; choreographer Desmond Richardson and Camille A. Brown; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; television writer, producer, and director Jenji Kohan; *New York Times* bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).

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