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youngARTS™ TO LAUNCH A REGIONAL SOUTH FLORIDA ARTS PROGRAM, WITH SUPPORT FROM KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Miami, FL (Dec 1, 2008) youngARTS™, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), is proud to announce a new regional program that will train, mentor and support Miami's best artists of tomorrow thanks to support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. **youngARTS/Miami** is set to launch in spring 2009; this Miami based program is an extension of NFAA's successful national program and is designed to encourage South Florida's most promising high school seniors to pursue their artistic interests at a critical juncture in their development. With the \$600,000 grant from the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**, youngARTS/Miami will provide select local artists with an exceptional two-day program that includes one-on-one formal training with some of the world's most renowned artists and master teachers, as well as recognition opportunities, performances and financial support.

"As a Miami-based, national organization, it is amazing to be able to focus on our local talent, and increase the number of outstanding artists we can impact," said Christina DePaul, youngARTS President and CEO. youngARTS/Miami is a key component to DePaul's vision for youngARTS. "The **Knight Foundation Arts Partnership grant** allows us to continue our mission and encourage the development of art and culture in our own backyard" says DePaul.

A key initiative for youngARTS is to encourage gifted teens to pursue their artistic path and to motivate them to give back and support their art community which will then fuel the creative economy. Their future contributions will help to sustain the power of the arts at a local level, as South Florida continues to increase its position as a world class center for art and culture. This sense of local pride and ownership in the art community will help to produce a cultural wealth in Miami enhanced by artists and patrons alike.

youngARTS and Knight Foundation believe that by encouraging the arts at a local level, Miami's cultural landscape will be invigorated. Knight Foundation Miami Program Director Lorenzo Lebrija says, "We believe that the arts have the power to inspire and move the soul and to bring us together as a community. youngARTS/Miami will allow young artists to develop their craft and advance a fusion culture in Miami."

Legendary artists such as **Frank Gehry, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Anthony Rapp** and **Placido Domingo** are some of the master teachers that youngARTS have included in their programs. With the **Knight Foundation Arts Partnership grant**, more local students will be able to experience this extraordinary training and join the ranks with some of youngARTS notable alumni such as **Adrienne Grenier, Vanessa Williams, Doug Aitken** and **Josh Groban** - something all South Floridians will take as a point of pride.

The Knight Foundation Arts Partnership is a five-year, \$40 million initiative to transform the South Florida arts. The effort includes endowment grants to leading arts institutions, plus a community-wide contest to fund the best arts ideas.

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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.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation:

Knight Foundation promotes artistic excellence world-wide and invests in the vitality of communities in the United States where the Knight brothers once owned newspapers. Knight Foundation invests in ideas and projects that can lead to transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.