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**NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE ARTS ANNOUNCES
2006 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS**

*20 High School Students Selected to Receive Prestigious National
Award From President Bush During June White House Ceremony*

MIAMI, FL (May 4, 2006) – The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is proud to announce that 20 high school senior artists have been named 2006 Presidential Scholars in the Arts by the U.S. Department of Education. The Presidential Scholars Program is a national recognition program honoring the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. The arts honorees, recommended exclusively through participation in NFAA's ARTS program, will join 121 other Presidential Scholars during National Recognition Week, June 23-27, in Washington, D.C.

"We congratulate this extremely gifted group of students for their extraordinary accomplishments," said NFAA President Dr. William H. Banchs. "Because our goal is to empower young artists, it is always a pleasure to identify students of this caliber and watch them grow."

Each year, NFAA nominates up to 50 NFAA ARTS winners for the Commission on Presidential Scholars' consideration. These students are recognized for their accomplishments in a variety of areas: the arts, academics, leadership, and community involvement.

As guests of the Commission, the Scholars will spend the week meeting with elected officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists and other accomplished professionals and attend seminars, recitals and receptions. Closing the week will be a special ceremony held at the White House, where each student will be presented with their Presidential Scholar Medallion by President George W. Bush.

In addition, the Presidential Scholars in Film & Video, Visual Arts and Writing will be featured in an exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, June 3 –25, and the Presidential Scholars in Dance, Music and Theater will perform June 26 in the Concert Hall of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

NFAA identifies and rewards exceptional student artists from across the U.S. in the fields of dance, film and video, classical, pop and jazz music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing. Each year, NFAA invites up to 160 artists, selected from an original pool of more than 6,500 applicants, to participate in NFAA ARTS Week, which takes place every January in Miami. This once-in-a-lifetime experience consists of performances, master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits and enrichment activities with renowned artists and arts educators. In addition to drawing national recognition, every student who participates in NFAA ARTS Week gets the chance to be nominated as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and receive a cash award ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 for the coveted Gold Award.

For more information, contact Vivian Orndorff, Director of Programs at 305.377.1140 ext. 239 or visit www.NFAA.ARTSawards.org.

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ABOUT NFAA:

Dedicated to empowering the arts for America's future, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 by businessman and visionary Ted Arison. NFAA's mission is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures with their educational and professional development; and to raise the appreciation for, and support of, the arts in American society.

Arts Recognition and Talent Search® (ARTS) is a program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). The NFAA ARTS program is sponsored, in part, by: Carnival Cruise Lines; The Coca-Cola Company; Gibson Guitar, Baldwin Piano and The Gibson Foundation; International Association for Jazz Education; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust; The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Smithsonian Magazine; and SunTrust. ARTS Week 2006 was made possible, in part, by support from American Airlines; the Miami Herald; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Tourist Development Council, and the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners; The State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about NFAA, visit the website NFAA.ARTSawards.org.