THE STREES, FALL 2016

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Cameron Collins (below) was named a YoungArts Merit winner for his Visual Arts portfolio. These outstanding artists from the Visual Arts and Music conservatories bring ChiArts' total number of YoungArts awardees to



NATIONAL **YOUNGARTS** FOUNDATION NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES FOUR STUDENTS

This year, four ChiArts scholar-artists received recognition for their talents from the National YoungArts Foundation, the premier educational and developmental organization for high school artists across the country. For this application period, 693 students nationwide were honored by YoungArts. The following students were among thousands who applied for their work or performance to be evaluated in the hope of earning scholarships and educational experiences with world-renowned artistic mentors.

GUADALUPE CAMPOS

Finalist, Visual Arts

Lupe ('17) was honored as a Finalist for her Visual Arts portfolio. She has been invited to participate in National YoungArts Week in Miami, Florida, where she will work with professional artists to develop her work, participate in master classes, meet her fellow finalists from around the country, and be eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

CAMERON COLLINS

Merit, Visual Arts

Cam ('17) was named a Merit awardee for his Visual Arts portfolio. To apply, an artist must submit a portfolio of 10 works, at least 5 of which must relate to a single theme. Cam received two Silver Keys from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards last year for Digital Art and Drawing and Illustration.

Sarah Kingsbury

Merit, Popular Voice

Sarah ('19) was named a Merit awardee for her vocal performance submissions. In the Popular Voice category, a vocalist must submit four video recordings in a variety of styles and genres.

Andrea Reyes

Finalist, Photography

Andrea ('17) was honored as a Finalist for her photgraphy. Like Lupe, she has been invited to participate in National YoungArts Week in Miami. This is Andrea's second recognition by YoungArts, having been awarded an Honorable Mention for her work last year.

SCHOLAR-ARTISTS PRODUCE School's first hispanic Heritage celebration

As an organization founded on the importance of diversity in the arts, it makes ChiArts overwhelmingly proud to see its students carry that mission on their shoulders.

On September 29th, a group of talented and ambitious students self-produced ChiArts' first Hispanic Heritage Celebration assembly to recognize the impact of Latin culture on the arts and honor its significance as a crucial part of the identities of so many of our scholar-artists.

The assembly consisted of a visual arts exhibit of work derived from Latin themes, flamenco, salsa, merengue, bachata, and Bomba dancing, and performances of songs like "La Vida Es Un Carnaval," "Yo No Sé Mañana," and "Paloma Negra" with accompaniment by ChiArts musicians. All aspects of the show, from the curation of the visual arts exhibit to the selection of performers, the emcees, the lighting, the direction, and the sound, were managed by scholar-artists from all conservatories.

The show was met with tremendous support from the performers' audience of peers, as each number received deafening waves of cheers and applause from the packed auditorium of students who had as much fun encouraging their friends as their friends had performing.

The Hispanic Heritage Celebration is an example of ChiArts putting into practice all that it preaches, by providing pre-professional artistic opportunities for a diverse group of students to express themselves in a supportive environment and share the heritage that fundamentally makes them who they are. This series will continue in February with the second annual Black Culture Showcase, a celebration of heritage that nearly half of our students share.

> Top: Robert Torres ('17) sings "Yo No Sé Mañana." Middle: Liannah Foster ('19) dances Bomba. Bottom: Javier Quintana ('20) plays along on conga.













OUTREACH CONTINUES WITH Tour of *Schoolhouse Rock LIVE!, JR.*

As part of an increased outreach and recruitment effort to elementary schools throughout the city, ChiArts has developed a touring theatrical production to introduce future scholar-artists to our school and its mission.

Since October, two casts of students have traveled to auditoriums and school gymnasiums to entertain young audiences with performances of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Jr.*, a stage version of the beloved educational TV program. The stage version includes several of the iconic numbers from the original show, like "I'm Just A Bill," "Interjections!," "Do The Circulation," "Interplanet Janet," and "Elbow Room."

After a recent performance at Humboldt Community Christian School, ChiArts was flooded with positive reviews. One teacher at the school wrote, "We are so thankful for the performance. Thank you so much for displaying your gifts and talents and for helping our students learn! We will continue singing and singing them!"

Schoolhouse has given our scholarartists the valuable professional experience of traveling to perform



and adapting to new venues and audiences, and it has engaged hundreds of Chicago's youngest students with the mission of ChiArts. The tour will go on next semester and is still booking shows.

Top: Clare Sheedy ('18) sings "Interplanet Janet". Middle: Luke Steadman ('19). Bottom: Alejandro Partida (left, '18) and Isis Graham ('17).

SAVE THE DATES

Two of ChiArts' favorite events, the Parent Support Organization's silent auction and our annual benefit Kerfuffle!, return early next year for the second and sixth time, respectively.

PSO SILENT AUCTION

ChiArti Gras, the PSO-run silent auction fundraiser will be held Saturday, February 4th at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture. Last year's ChiArti Gras featured a silent auction with over fifty donated items, a 50/50 raffle, catered food and drinks, and dozens of live performances by ChiArts scholar-artists. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of ChiArts' friends and parents, the event raised over \$15,000 for the school.

This year, guests can expect all that and more at our New Orleans-inspired, Cajun-style, BourbonStreet-inflectedparty.Weanticipate donations of sports memorabilia, artwork, arts supplies, dining and entertainment

packages, and much more on which guests can bid. To buy a ticket, donate an item, or volunteer at ChiArti Gras 2017, visit bit.ly/ChiArtiGras.

Kerfuffle!

On April 27th, the sixth annual *Kerfuffle!* gala and benefit will be held at the Chicago History Museum, co-chaired by Neal



Zucker, Pam Strobel, and John Hart of the ChiArts Board of Directors. Last year's Kerfuffle! included the premiere of ChiArts' docu-short "We Are ChiArts" and a new format for our gala in which guests were encouraged to explore the event space and interact with ChiArts scholar-artists as they wrote poetry, worked on paintings, or mingled in between performances.

Kerfuffle! 2017 will feature the unveiling of a children's book written and illustrated by ChiArts scholar-artists telling the story of our school and its impact on hundreds of diverse, artistically driven Chicago students each year.

To get involved with *Kerfuffle!* as a sponsor or to purchase a ticket, visit bit.ly/Kerfuffle2017.



The Chicago High School for the Arts ChiArti Gras

brought to you by the ChiArts Parent Support Organization

February 4th, 2017 ring hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, e

> Ysobel Gallo (above, '19) "open typewriter" station at Kerfuffle! this past April.

works on a poem at her



scholar-artists danced, sang, drew, painted, wrote, and played for 300 guests at Kerfuffle! 2016.

CHIARTS WRITERS PUBLISHED IN 826CHI'S BIENNIAL ANTHOLOGY

This October, several Creative Writing majors had work included in the anthology of student work published every other year by 826CHI, a Chicago non-profit co-founded by author Dave Eggers that encourages school-aged children to write and develop their creative and expository writing schools.

Compendium, Volume 5 features the best of 826CHI's student work from the past two years. At the release party on October 16th, sophomore Haley Cao and juniors Noire Lin and Ace Hobfoll read their pieces from Compendium aloud for attendees.

In addition to this publication, the Creative Writing program hosted the second ChiArts Open Mic and held the first Spoken Word Team auditions this fall, selecting eight ChiArts students from across the school to compete in Louder Than A Bomb this year.

DANCE WORKSHOPS ENCOURAGE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS

In order to provide additional instruction for ChiArts dancers, the Dance Conservatory has provided extra opportunities for instruction through after-school workshops held on-site for interested students. So far, over twenty dancers have enrolled in six-week African Dance and Tap workshops led by two impressive teaching artists from Chicago.

T. "Ayo" Alston of Ayodele Drum & Dance led the African Dance workshop that met for six weeks beginning in October.

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BY DAVE EGGERS

Left: Martin Bronson, instructor for ChiArts Tap Workshop. Right: T. "Ayo" Alston, instructor for ChiArts African Dance

Ms. Alston was also an instructor at the ChiArts Summer Intensive earlier this year. Martin Bronson, a company member of BAM! at Chicago Human Rhythm Project, choreographer, and dance educator, leads the Tap Workshop that is ongoing at ChiArts.

These workshops offer opportunities for dancers to explore their artistic interests in a comfortable and convenient environment and at an affordable price. Workshops of this caliber can cost hundreds of dollars and place an extra burden on dancers and parents coordinating transportation and payment. By hosting the workshops at school and charging only ten dollars per session, ChiArts hopes to entice students to seek further training after classes to help them discover their dance strengths and passions.







OPERA LEGEND VISITS MUSIC CONSERVATORY STUDENTS

Through our partnership with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the support of the Caerus Foundation, vocalists from the ChiArts Music Conservatory were given the lifechanging opportunity to sing with legendary opera singer Reneé Fleming, currently serving as Creative Consultant for the Lyric.

On October 13th, Ms. Fleming and the Lyric Opera visited ChiArts as part of the Lyric's "Chicago Voices Sing: School Slam" program which highlights the city's vibrant music culture by visiting Chicago schools and encouraging students to express themselves through song.

Nearly thirty ChiArts vocalists met Ms. Fleming, sang with her ("Lean on Me"), and asked her questions about her career. She spent more than an hour with them, offering advice on how to be artistically curious, how to develop their talents and how to pursue their own decades-long career in music. After the Q&A, several students sang for School Slam, expressing themselves with their favorite classical, gospel, and original songs. Recordings of their performances are available to view now on ChiArts' YouTube page.

CHIARTS WEBSITE RECEIVES AN UPDATE

After a year-long transition, ChiArts has updated its website with a brand new layout and look more in line with the organization's identity. On the new site, visitors will find many of the same features to which they've grown accustomed, organized in a more



Thank you to the Efroymson Family Fund for underwriting this

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is undeniable that the political events of this past year have forced us all to reconsider the people and systems in which we have placed our trust. The constant negative messaging has drawn lines through our communities, placing neighbors at odds and contributing to a cultural climate in which people view their fellow man with suspicion and fear rather than love and respect.

As an organization founded in large part on

Our recent exhibit at SOFA Chicago shared the celebration of our differences, it pains us space with artists and galleries from all to know that our differences in race, religion, around the world and was part of an expo and nationality have been exploited for that attracted 30,000 guests. The school's political capital--that the same people who are touring production of Schoolhouse Rock Live! expected to be leaders for all have pandered to has already reached hundreds of Chicago's the paranoid and the hateful at the expense of elementary school students looking for a high those most vulnerable. school that will accept them and help them follow their passion. ChiArts served as a visit The Chicago High School for the Arts is a home site for the National Guild for Community to hundreds of those vulnerable people who Arts Education's annual conference, and have been unfairly characterized. Immigrants, members of the leadership team traveled to the the economically disadvantaged, the racial Arts Schools Network's annual conference in and religious minorities, those seeking refuge-Dallas to learn from fellow attendees. Through -these are our students and our students' their Hispanic Heritage Celebration, our families. We promise to uphold their rights, scholar-artists demonstrated to leading defend their dignity, and support their growth members of our Humboldt Park community as active citizens who will strive to build a that ChiArts defends tradition, culture, and better world for all. identity.

For so long, we have directed our attention to our fractures, rather than to those values and beliefs which bind us, no matter our politics, ethnicity, or class. One of those is a dedication to our children. Another is a respect and admiration for the arts. At the intersection of these commonalities, ChiArts stands with a continued commitment to providing opportunity in the arts for all of Chicago's students. Through this mission, it is my hope that ChiArts will contribute to the healing of our divisions and rebuild a community of equal voices.

In recent months, ChiArts has shared its mission with ever broader audiences, reaching out to new minds across Chicago and beyond.



losé Ochoa **Executive & Artistic Director** The Chicago High School for the Arts

We will continue to spread a message of collaboration through the arts. I believe that the arts can unite, and ChiArts will be at the forefront of that effort.

Sincerely,

José Ochoa Executive & Artistic Director The Chicago High School for the Arts

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

In November, six Visual Arts students from ChiArts' inaugural graduating class in 2013 had new work included in our special exhibit at SOFA Chicago (see page 14).

Jonathan Herrera (pictured, far left) is finishing his BFA in Fine Arts with a concentration in Print, Paper, and Book at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) this year. He has been awarded two merit scholarships from MCAD and exhibited work in 10 shows since 2015. (jonathanherrerastudio.com)

Miguel Ontiveros (second from left) is a fourth-year student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His photography and collage have been published in Fotografiamagazine and earned him scholarships to Oxbow School of Art's Summer Residency program and work experience photographing for musicians, lifestyle blogs, non-profits, and fellow visual artists. (behance.net/miguel0ntiveros)

Shaquita Reed (third from left) is a Fashion Design student at Columbia College Chicago. She has exhibited work in seven shows since 2014 and served as an intern for the Cheryl Pope, the Chicago Cultural Center's Public Studio Artist in Residence.

Marie Sommers (not pictured) is a visual display artist in Madison, Wisconsin who has had work exhibited in Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York City. She currently works as a set designer for a commercial and industrial printing company, devising sets for in-house photoshoots and preparing and styling product for display. (mariesommers.carbonmade.com)

Harlan Ballogg (second from right) is a Painting student at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, New York. He has been included in exhibitions in Chicago, Manhattan, and Brooklyn, NY, and worked extensively with muralists since 2012. (harlanballoggart.com)

Cris R Hernandez (not pictured) is a designer and illustrator pursuing his BFA in graphic design from the California Institute of the Arts. He has interned with various design and marketing firms since 2012, creating and managing brand identities for clients like Northwestern University, FGM Architects, and Denco Chicago. crisrhernandez.com



ChiArts at SOFA Chicago: (from left to right) Jonathan Herrera, Miguel Ontiveros, Shaquita Reed, Executive & Artistic Director José Ochoa, Visual Arts Department Head Whitney Bradshaw, Natalia White (Dance, '13), Harlan Ballogg, and ChiArts Visual Arts faculty Chris Lin. Photo by Mark Ballogg. (balloggphoto.com)



THEATRE CONSERVATORY STAGES FIRST CLASSICAL MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION

In November, ChiArts' production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* premiered in the ChiArts Auditorium as the school's first classical production to appear on the Main Stage. The cast and crew staged four performances over the course of the November 4th weekend.

Midsummer, one of Shakespeare's most well-known and frequently produced plays, tells the story of four young lovers whose affections are manipulated by the fairies of the forest, set against the backdrop of an impending royal Athenian wedding.

ChiArts' production was an immensely collaborative affair. Many of the Theatre Conservatory's teaching artists were involved as designers, director, producer, stage manager, and in a variety of other roles. Several of the artists enlisted ChiArts students as assistants, and a number of theatre artists from outside of the organization also participated in the creation of another successful ChiArts production, lending their talents to build an enriching educational theatre experience for our students and produce an entertaining show for our audiences.

Through their involvement in *Midsummer*, the cast and student crew, consisting of students from the Dance, Music, and Theatre Conservatories and spanning all four grade levels, gained valuable experience with elaborate costuming, makeup, movement and set design at a pre-professional level.

Previous Main Stage shows include *Sweet Charity* in 2015, *Working: The Musical* in 2014, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* in 2013.

Top: Destiny Mack and Steven Cooper ('17) as Oberon and Titania. Middle: Catherine Wilson ('18) as Puck. Bottom: The fairies play with a bewitched Nick Bottom.

SIX VISUAL ARTS Alumni exhibit Work at sofa Chicago

sculpture objects functional art and design Nov. 3-6 Navy Pier

This fall, ChiArts was invited to join November's SOFA Chicago expo as a special exhibitor. SOFA is one of the world's premier art fairs held annually at Navy Pier that boasts an average attendance of 35,000 people and representation from 80 galleries worldwide.

ChiArts' exhibit, "Four Years Later: New Work by Six ChiArts Alumni", featured art by members of the school's first class of scholar-artists who graduated in 2013. The show was curated by Visual Arts Department Head Whitney Bradshaw and included photography, collage, illustration and paintings, graphic design, and fashion design from our six alumni, five of whom are currently continuing their artistic education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia College Chicago, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, New York, and the California Institute of the Arts.

Additionally, five of the six young artists were in Chicago for the show and were involved in SOFA's lecture series by participating in a live critique of their work led by Tricia Van Eck, former associate curator of the MCA and artistic director of the communal art space 6018NORTH, now in its fifth year.

Over the course of four days, thousands of people visited our exhibit and our alumni had countless opportunities to discuss their art and make valuable connections with fellow artists, gallerists, and members of the art world.

To learn more about ChiArts' SOFA exhibit, read our essay, "ChiArts: Shaping the Unique and Diverse Voices of Chicago's Young Artists" at sofaexpo.com.



exhibitions have included work from these six alumni prior to SOFA.



