

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(773) 534-9729

CONTACT: Jessica Ramirez

jramirez@chiarts.org

ChiArts STUDENTS ADVANCE TO NATIONALS IN PRESTIGIOUS DANCE COMPETITION

Chicago, Illinois – Alexander Roy and Kayla A. Taylor, current dance majors at [The Chicago High School for the Arts \(ChiArts\)](#)[®], have advanced to the national competition for the [Youth America Grand Prix](#) (YAGP) in New York and will be competing in the finals for the Senior Division under the Pas de Deux/Ensembles category. They will join 1,200 of the world's most promising dancers to receive in-depth mentoring and greater scholarship, professional, and performance opportunities.

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is the world's largest global network of dance providing scholarship auditions, performance and education opportunities, culminating in the week-long New York Finals each season. This will be the students' second time participating in the YAGP semi-finals and the second time ChiArts is placing students in the New York Finals. Through the generous support of the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation, Roy and Taylor have had the opportunity to receive one-on-one coaching from Kyle Seguin to participate in the YAGP regional competition here in Chicago, and will be sponsored for their participation in the New York finals from April 22-29. The Dan J. Epstein Foundation, established in 2010 by lifelong Chicago resident Dan Epstein, is committed to providing financial assistance to exceptionally talented young artists to enable them to realize their full potential.

"As an emerging arts high school, we are proud to have advanced our dancers to this level in such a short time," said **José Ochoa, ChiArts Executive and Artistic Director**. *"Through their participation in the Youth America Grand Prix, Kayla and Alexander will have the opportunity to truly launch their careers through the mentorship and visibility the program provides."*

Roy and Taylor will perform throughout the week at venues such as the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, Mark Morris Dance Center, and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Their YAGP experience will conclude with the Closing Night Gala performance entitled "Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

About ChiArts



ChiArts is Chicago's first and only public high school for the arts. With disciplines in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, ChiArts provides its students with a pre-professional arts training program paired with a college-preparatory academic curriculum. While Chicago Public Schools provides per-pupil support for the academic program, the arts conservatories at ChiArts are wholly funded by individual, corporate and foundation donors. ChiArts opened its doors in 2009 and has graduated three classes of "scholar-artists" at a rate between 92-95% each year. ChiArts was recently ranked in the top 6% of high schools nation-wide and will graduate its fourth senior class in June 2016.

For more information about ChiArts, visit chiarts.org.

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