

Miami's Best and Brightest

culturedmag.com/national-youngarts-backyard-ball-2020

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Parties



YoungArts alumni cast and John Heginbotham. Photo by WRE.

On Saturday, January 11th, the National YoungArts Foundation welcomed more than 800 guests and raised more than \$1.7 million at its annual Backyard Ball performance and gala. The event honored jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard (1980 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music) and contemporary artist [Teresita Fernández](#) with the Arison Alumni Award and Arison Award, respectively. At the event, the Jorge M. Pérez Award was given to New York-based sculptor and installation artist [Ilana Harris-Babou](#) (2009 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts) and Miami-based sculptor and painter Mateo Nava (2013 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts). In attendance were newly-appointed YoungArts board members [Derrick Adams](#), Doug Blush, Natalie Diggins, Glenda Pedroso and Jim Shreve, as well as many renowned artists and alumni like [Zoë Buckman](#), Claire Chase, Khirma Eliazov, Dr. Ron McCurdy, Dr. Joan Morgan, José Parlá, Vernon Scott, Michael Trusnovc (1992 YoungArts Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts) and Betty Wright. A number of local museum figures were also present, including ICA Miami Artistic Director Alex Gartenfeld, curator Rosie Gordon-Wallace, and Pérez Art Museum Miami Director Franklin Sirmans. Palm trees and monstera leaves abounded, as guests enjoyed performances including a percussive and tap battle between Goldbas and Rodriguez on the drums, dance by Diadhiou and May as well as Parupudi, and music by Kogen, Stravelli, Ferreira-Dias.



Teresita Ferndandez accepts the Arison Award. Photo by WRE.