



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Carroll Senior Bayan Yunis spent a week in Miami with other National YoungArts winners**

*Local photography student was one of 10 chosen from thousands of submissions*

**Fort Wayne, Ind. (Jan. 17, 2023)** – Carroll High School Senior Bayan Yunis, was selected as one of 10 national finalists in the photography division of the National YoungArts Competition 2023. The awarding organization, National YoungArts Foundation, is a nonprofit that focuses on identifying and supporting emerging artists across 10 disciplines.

**Media are invited to interview Yunis today at 2:45 p.m. at Carroll High School. Please meet at door 1 to be escorted to the photography classroom.**

“Applying to YoungArts was one of the best decisions that I’ve made,” said Bayan Yunis, grade 12, Carroll High School. “Being selected as a photography finalist has allowed me to meet many amazing, talented artists and be mentored by internationally recognized photographers. I’m immensely grateful for being a part of a highly supportive and creative community that will support me throughout the rest of my artistic career.”

I’d like to thank my photography teacher, Mrs. Croy, for supporting me and pushing me to becoming the artist that I am today. Without her encouragement, I would not have found my niche in photography, and for that I am greatly thankful. National YoungArts Week was the perfect combination of a challenge and encouragement. I will never forget the lessons that I learned from my peers and teachers.”

Yunis attended the National YoungArts Week from Jan. 8 through Jan. 13, 2023 (about eight to ten hours each day). This opportunity will be led by internationally recognized artists in the field of photography, and it is a lifetime opportunity for all recipients.

“Bayan is the third student in my entire teaching career to receive the prestigious award of becoming a finalist in the photography discipline for YoungArts,” said Nicole Croy, photography teacher, Carroll High School. “I have had the honor to work with Bayan through every semester of her high school career. She walked into her senior year with a large amount of work already produced and each week moving forward she began to slowly understand more and more about herself and the true meaning of what she was trying to express with her photography. Her work deals with topics such as self-identity as well as becoming content with who we are and where we come from. She is an extremely talented photographer and having the opportunity to attend YoungArts week in Miami, Florida will forever change the way she thinks about art and the work that she produces.”

(MORE)



*(CARROLL'S YOUNGARTS FINALIST, p. 2)*

The week-long intensive program entails workshops with acclaimed artists and peers, an opportunity to be nominated as a [U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts](#), and eligibility for monetary awards up to \$10,000 in each of the 10 disciplines.

Another photography student, Aubrey Barb, grade 12, was recognized with an Honorable Mention. Barb has been awarded the opportunity to participate in an in-person pilot program held in Miami, Fla. this spring.

In the coming weeks about further recognition as their work advances and will be judged and awarded merits accordingly. Their photography will also be considered for nomination in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The YoungArts competition focuses on emerging artists ages 15 to 18 through an application-based award which is selected via a blind adjudication process conducted by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists. YoungArts winners receive financial awards, creative and professional development by working with renowned mentors as well as becoming eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

According to submission requirements, each portfolio should demonstrate original thinking and a willingness to take creative risks. While it is expected that artists will consult with teachers in the selection of portfolio material, YoungArts Foundation urges students to submit work they feel best represents their personal creative interests from work ideally done outside of class.

Insight and information about the YoungArts Foundation may be found at <https://youngarts.org/winners/>. More information about Carroll High School and NACS may be found online at [nacs.k12.in.us](https://nacs.k12.in.us).

Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports, and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence. More information about NACS may be found at [nacs.k12.in.us](https://nacs.k12.in.us). NACS serves an estimated 8,137 students in 11 schools spanning three townships in Allen County, Ind.

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