



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach  
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204  
443.809.5908 (English) 443.809.1250 (Español) [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org)

FOR RELEASE: December 5, 2023

[BCPS press releases are available online](#)

## 5 BCPS students named among the 700 YoungArts award winners for 2024

Towson, MD – Five Baltimore County Public Schools students have been named [2024 YoungArts winners](#) by the YoungArts organization. This year nearly 700 young visual, literary, and performing artists earned this national recognition through a highly competitive application process and rigorous reviews by panels of esteemed artists.

The BCPS students named 2024 YoungArts winners are:

- **Chiara Adjoh-Davoh**, film/experimental, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology (Carver Center)
- **Jada McAliley**, photography, Carver Center
- **Jenna Nesky**, writing/poetry, Carver Center
- **Tehya Shapiro**, classical music/trumpet, Towson High School
- **Akili Williams**, writing/non-fiction, Carver Center

The 2024 winners were selected from more than 9,000 applications across 10 artistic categories – classical music, dance, design, film, jazz, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. Each award winner will receive an award of \$250. YoungArts award winners are eligible for exclusive lifelong creative and professional development support; microgrants and financial awards; presentation opportunities nationwide; and a private online platform to connect with other YoungArts artists. The 2024 YoungArts winners also can participate in YoungArts Labs, all-expenses paid learning experiences with acclaimed artists in New York and Los Angeles.

Quoted in a [press release](#), YoungArts President Clive Chang said, “It is an extraordinary privilege to welcome these brilliant young artists into the YoungArts community. We’re honored to recognize and encourage these artists at this critical stage in their careers, and we’re looking forward to playing an active, ongoing role in what will no doubt be an incredible artistic journey for each of them.”

Past YoungArts award winners include contemporary artists Daniel Arsham, Grammy award-winning trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard, dancer/choreographer Camille A. Brown, Golden Globe-winning actor Timothée Chalamet, Academy Award-winning actress and producer Viola Davis, former National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, singer-songwriter Judith Hill, violinist Jennifer Koh, Academy Award-winning screenwriter and playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney, Grammy Award-winning actor Andrew Rannells, dancer/artistic director Desmond Richardson, model/actress/activist Hunter Schafer, and portrait painter Kehinde Wiley.

###

---

[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 22nd largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).