

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Carolina García Jayaram has returned to Miami in a new role, but with the same determination to help tomorrow's artistic generation succeed.

By Riki Altman-Yee
Photography by Nick Garcia

GARCÍA JAYARAM'S HOTS

David Castillo
Gallery, beach
days, Ahana
Yoga studio

GARCÍA JAYARAM'S NOTS

Small plates,
late nights,
normcore fashion

Everything changed for Carolina García Jayaram last February when she traveled from Chicago to Miami for business. Then the CEO for United States Artists, an organization that awards adult artists with funding and support, García Jayaram was approached with an opportunity to return to our city and turn her focus toward some of this country's most accomplished young talents. The job? President and CEO of the National YoungArts Foundation, an entity that aids students interested in pursuing professional careers in the arts. The task? Setting goals that include a new building, stronger national outreach, the development of new audiences and an invaluable alumni program. Her answer? A resounding yes.

"Resources are very important, but giving young artists confidence that they are on the right track and doing the work they are meant to be doing can be more valuable in many cases," says García Jayaram, who took over the post in June. "This is what I know how to do."

In fact, championing creatives has long been her passion, dating as far back as 2003 when she co-founded LegalArt (now called Cannonball), a Miami-based resource for artists in need of affordable attorney services. In her new role, García Jayaram wears many hats, but for the last few months, her focus has been overseeing YoungArts' two Basel exhibitions: *When We Were Young* pairs contemporary masterworks from the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection with newly created works by YoungArts alumni, while *Roots* is a site-specific solo show by José Parlá. Both open Nov. 29 at different areas of the YoungArts Campus. After that, her focus will shift to National YoungArts Week, an eight-day symposium (Jan. 8 to 15) that welcomes approximately 170 high school student finalists interested in the visual, literary, design and performing arts worlds to connect them with master teachers and then share their work with the public. Said event culminates with the Backyard Ball, a performance and gala Jan. 14 that will honor the 2017 YoungArts winners.

"I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity to come back to Miami and create a space for artists to come and work here," says García Jayaram. "It's a wonderful honor." youngarts.org

ON A MISSION
As president and CEO of the National YoungArts Foundation, Carolina García Jayaram's main goal is to help young artists across the country pursue (and realize) their artistic dreams.