Tuesday, May 24, 2022
The Newark Museum of Art

COMPOSERS OF COLOR
Celebrating Newark School of the Arts
TALENT in Bloom Annual 2022 Spring Benefit
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
The Newark Museum of Art

MUSIC | DANCE | DRAMA | VISUAL ARTS
Welcome From Our Board President Lori A. Scott-Pickens, MPA

It is with great joy and excitement that I welcome you to our Annual Talent in Bloom fundraising event this evening. It is no coincidence that this 54th year of Newark School of the Arts, we are reconvening in person for our favorite signature event and have instated a new board chair who is our first-ever female Chair– me! And what’s equally thrilling is that the Executive Board is all-female...thank you to Carmen Corrales, Denarra Simmons and Cristina Tarulli.

At Newark School of the Arts, we believe our history and tenure have provided us with the solid foundation essential to growth, enabling us to continue serving individuals of all ages, backgrounds, financial means, and physical capabilities through the programs and classes our brilliant instructors and faculty offer – right here in our own backyard of Newark, New Jersey.

This night is not only an opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of our diverse students and faculty, but also an opportunity to celebrate and recognize you, our supporters and sponsors. Without your support, 800 students per week would not receive the quality arts education and training they deserve. We are so grateful for your benevolence and unwavering generosity and thank you sincerely.

We’re also delighted to laude two champions of arts education and community empowerment who have encouraged and inspired us – this year’s “Agent of Artistic Change” Vaughn Spann, and this year’s “Pillar of Corporate Change” Curtis A. Johnson. Curtis is also a long-time Trustee and a former President of the Board! Both of these deserving honorees represent the mission of the School through their own professional and personal lives. We are all rooted in our belief in providing excellence, accepting individuals of all abilities, and the power of partnerships for the greater good. It’s an honor to recognize these two admirable leaders, and I thank you for joining me to celebrate them this evening.

We have an enchanting evening planned for you tonight and hope you enjoy reveling in the talents of our students and faculty – it’s something I know I look forward to year after year. Thank you for your support and enjoy Tomorrow’s Star Tonight.

Lori A. Scott-Pickens, President of the Board
Thank you for supporting Newark School of the Arts (NSA) in our 54th year, and welcome to our 28th annual gala—*Talent in Bloom*!

We are grateful for your support that ensures our ability to provide arts and cultural training to the community members of Greater Newark and the region as we strive to become the premiere arts training school of the future. As NSA evolves, we maintain our commitment to the School’s mission: to change lives through access to quality education in the performing and visual arts.

This evening’s Honorees have demonstrated a deep commitment to our mission. We are thrilled to celebrate their efforts. As two exceptional members of our community, Curtis A. Johnson and Vaughn Spann represent the support that is needed so that we can provide accessible arts participation and training to people of all ages, abilities and means.

Thank you for coming. We truly appreciate your philanthropic support. Together we can continue to improve our offerings and resources to ensure long-term sustainability and success for Newark School of the Arts.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Tamburri
*Executive Director*
THANK YOU
OPENING RECEPTION SPONSOR

Curtis A. Johnson, Esq and

McCarter & English
THANK YOU
GROW THE FLOWERS SPONSORS

Prudential

TURRELL FUND
THANK YOU
SOW THE SEEDS SPONSOR
THANK YOU

BOUQUET SPONSORS

Martin A. Berkowitz
C. Edward Chaplin
Mindy Cohen and David Bershad
IA Capital Group
Integrity House
Kenneth Johnson
The MCJ Amelior Foundation
Monique McRipley Ollie
Lori Scott-Pickens
Larry Tamburri
Cecilia Zalkind
THANK YOU
MARIGOLD SPONSORS

Robert Aldridge
Ann Borowiec
Carmen Corrales
Paul Gingold
Claudette Lanneaux
Alison Melick
NJM Insurance Group
Denarra Simmons
Charles Smith
Cristina Tarulli
Daniel Zanella
2022 ARTISTIC HONOREE VAUGHN SPANN
Agent of Artistic Change Award

In a body of work situated at the precipice between personal and collective experience, Vaughn Spann produces distinctly textured paintings and sculptures where form gives way to feeling. He incorporates visual and tactile references throughout his work which elicit a tension between abstraction and figuration. Never quite rendering the body, Spann suggests a human presence hidden throughout formal gestures of color and texture. The artist’s works point towards a cycle of art, politics, and personal experience as the inseparable and mutually co-created elements of contemporary existence. Spann’s bodies of work mine the histories of art, activism, and the discourses of social practice to reflect upon their inextricable relationships.

Vaughn Spann was born in Florida (1992) and lives and works in Newark, New Jersey. He received his BFA from Rutgers University (2014) and his MFA from Yale University (2018). Spann’s work has been exhibited at the Newark Museum, Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, Pérez Art Museum in Miami, and the Rubell Museum of Art. Recent press includes Artnet, Blouin Artinfo, ARTnews, The New York Times, Bloomberg, Galerie Magazine, Vice, and W Magazine. Spann’s works are part of major contemporary art collections including public collections such as High Museum of Art in Atlanta and Perez Art Museum Miami. Recent exhibitions include Scorched Earth and The Weeping Sun at Takashi Murakami’s Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo. Among his awards is an Alice Kimball traveling fellowship (2017) and among his residencies is NXTHVN in New Haven, CT.
McCarter & English

we proudly support the

Newark School of the Arts
Talent in Bloom Spring Benefit

and we congratulate our friend
and partner

Curtis Johnson
on receiving the Pillar of Support Award
and all of the 2022 honorees

Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07102
www.mccarter.com
Curtis Johnson advises clients with respect to complex financings and other business and capital transactions, including syndicated loan facilities, asset-based loans, mezzanine financing and equity investments. He serves as primary counsel to a major financial institution with respect to its impact investments. Recently, he also has represented lenders in various transactions financing renewable energy facilities.

Prior to joining McCarter, Curtis was Associate Deputy General Counsel to First Fidelity Bancorporation, providing legal services for commercial lending business units in New Jersey. After joining the firm, Curtis represented several commercial banking institutions in the collection and restructuring of distressed debt obligations and defense of lender liability claims, including enforcement of such obligations through litigation in state, federal district and bankruptcy courts. This credit administration and recovery experience enables him to provide practical guidance to clients involved in complex transactions.

Curtis is a co-author of the treatise “Secured Transactions Under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code” as enacted in the State of New Jersey and served as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School teaching a course on sales, payments and secured transactions under the UCC. Some recent examples of transactions handled by Curtis include: Senior secured revolving and term loan facility provided to a recycling company in the Northeast by a syndicate of banks; Senior leverage loan for New Market Tax Credit transaction to finance purchase equipment for an aeroponic urban farm facility; Senior secured facility to finance purchase of Qualified School Construction Bonds in connection with acquisition of property and construction of facility for a charter school HUD guaranteed loan refinancing term loan debt of assisted living facility; Asset based loan facility secured by healthcare receivables with related mezzanine financing Credit facility to warehouse PACE bonds used to finance renewable energy improvements pending proposed syndication.
Seeing life through each other's eyes gives us all better perspective.

Everyone benefits from diversity and inclusion. By promoting a culture of support and collaboration, the best and most innovative ideas fuel our business.

A place to work, grow, and be your true self. We hire people with different identities and backgrounds, and encourage everyone to bring their authentic self to work.

When every voice is heard, we are all better for it. We come from different perspectives, but share the belief that diversity and inclusion make us stronger together.

Prudential is a proud supporter of the Newark School of the Arts

Visit prudential.com

© 2022 Prudential Financial, Inc. and its related entities. Prudential, the Prudential logo and the Rock symbol are service marks of Prudential Financial, Inc. and its related entities, registered in many jurisdictions worldwide.
THANK YOU TO OUR DINNER HOST

Natalie B. McKenzie

Philanthropist, health advocate, lifestyle coach and entrepreneur, on a mission to help women live their lives authentically and completely.
Congratulations
Newark School of the Arts
Host of the 2022 Talent in Bloom Gala
Spring Benefit

Thank you for your continued commitment to children, families, and education.
Program | Highlighting the Music of Black & Latinx Composers

Sonata in E Minor, First Movement, Andante-Allegro
Florence Price (1887-1953)
Aadhitya Ashok, piano
Dr. Patricio Molina, instructor

Legends
Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)
Chideha Osondu, flute
Dr. Patricio Molina, accompanist
Vic Ortiz, instructor

Deep River
H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Angel Martinez, Baritone
Dr. Margarita Rovenskaya, accompanist
Nadine Herman, instructor

Celeste y Blanco (Aire de Cielito)
Hector Ayala (1914-1990)
Ahern Dixit, guitar
Joao Kouyoumdjian, instructor

Estrellita
Manuel Ponce (1882-1948)
Sayuri Deshmukh, instructor
Dr. Patricio Molina, accompanist and instructor

Billie’s Song
Valerie Capers (b. 1935)
Eva Kukreja, piano
Dr. Margarita Rovenskaya, instructor

God Bless the Child
Billie Holiday (1930-1959) &
Arthur Herzog Jr. (1900-1983)
Raneka Williams, Soprano
Dr. Ryan Tomski, accompanist
Antoinette Montague, instructor

Total Praise
Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)

Vivir mi Vida
Marc Anthony (b. 1968)
Gabriel De los Santos, Baritone
Nadine Herman, instructor

Deh Vieni Non Tardar
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Abigail Pukin, Mezzo Soprano

NSA Dance Students
Steve Lovell, Voice (NSA Alum)
Nyla Gordon Crocker
Kaelyn Chung
Saniya Holmes
Taliah Holmes,
Aaliyah-Janae Kendall
Grace Smith
Heaven Brooks
Tristen Dudley
Ny’zaiha François
Jamaya Gordon

Mary Grice
Synai Haskins
Naryah Simmons
Faith Smith
Clarissa Newby-Philips, instructor

Drummers
Asaad Majuta
Azariah Folkes-Bowden
Canye Culver
Gabriel Williams

Visual Art Students
Rosemary Kearney
Jessica Sucuzhanay
AhMath Tate
Ishyra Tate

Media Lab
Dereck Dasilva
Jesana Jules

Program Host
Samiyah Britton
Arts High School, Class of 2023
This isn’t just insurance. It’s NJM.

NJM Insurance Group
is proud to support the

Newark School of the Arts
Annual Spring Benefit
*Talent in Bloom 2022*

and congratulates this year’s honorees

njm.com | 1-800-232-6600
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center proudly supports

Newark School of the Arts

Talent in Bloom 2022

and congratulates the honorees.
Thank You to Our Staff

**Administrative Staff**

Larry Tamburri  
*Executive Director*

Carmen Santos-Robson  
*Associate Director*

Patricio Molina  
*Mark and Kathy Grier Conservatory Director*

John Prall  
*Finance Director*

Richard Marshall  
*Director of Program Operations*

Lidiane Francisco  
*Registrar*

Doris Martinez  
*Office Manager*

Frederick Tambwe  
*Facility Manager*

**Artistic Directors**

Nadine Herman, *Music*
Beatrice East, *Visual Arts*
Jasmine Henry, *Media Lab*
Uton Onyejekwe, *Drama*
Clarissa Newby-Phillips, *Dance*

**Faculty**

Abiola R. Balogun  
Artie Bressler  
Pablo Concha  
Michael Costantino  
Beatrice East  
Dr. Grace Hackett Faroul  
Eugene Feigin  
Dr. Jasmine Henry  
Nadine Herman  
Daryl Hester  
Ray Horner, Jr.  
Edgar Jadan  
João Kouyoumdjian  
Leslie Lucy  
Kevin Maa  
Angela Manso  
Richard Marshall  
Beatriz de Mello

**Patricio Molina**  
Antoinette Montague  
Clarissa Newby-Phillips  
Uton Onyejekwe  
Wendy Palacios  
Dr. Margarita Rovenskaya  
Carmen Santos-Robson  
Dr. Ryan Tomski  
Joseph Tornquist
The Whole Woman & Fighting Atrocities Against Women Worldwide Congratulate The Newark School of the Arts "Talent in Bloom" 2022 Honorees.
Thank you to Yamaha for donating and tuning the piano for today’s performances.
Newark School of the Arts 2022 Board of Trustees

Lori A. Scott-Pickens, MPA, President
Carmen A. Corrales, Vice President
Cristina M. Tarulli, Treasurer
Denarra Simmons, Secretary

Kamala D. Allen, MHS
Martin A. Berkowitz
Naydene Brickus
Robert Budsock
Barbara Caramés
Heather Won Choi
Curtis A. Johnson, Esq.
Kevin Maynor
Natalie B. McKenzie
Monique McRipley Ollie, Ph.D
Divad L. Sanders
Robert ‘Bob’ Simmons
Charles Smith
Cecilia Zalkind

EMERITUS TRUSTEES
C. Edward Chaplin
Hervé Gouraige, Esq.
Henry Rinder, CPA

ADVISORY BOARD
Robert Aldridge
Kim Hawthorne
Savion Glover
Jeremy V. Johnson
Kevin Maynor*
Mary Sue Sweeney Price
Jeffrey Swann
Junius Williams, Esq.
Xian Zhang

*Trustee Liaison

CO-FOUNDERS
Saunders Davis
Stella Lass
Thank you for joining us in
Celebrating Newark School of the Arts
LEARN. CREATE. EXPRESS YOURSELF!

newarkschoolofthearts.org
Newark School of the Arts is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mission Statement
Newark School of the Arts (NSA) changes the lives of youth through access to quality education in the performing and visual arts. We accomplish this by providing excellence in sequential education and training, offering an emerging state-of-the-art learning environment, accepting students of all ages and abilities, and partnering with other successful arts educators while maintaining affordability and accessibility. NSA is a family and community-oriented school that has served 46,000 individuals since its inception and provides education for up to 800 students each week.