



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TOP TALENT

A Foundation for Orange County Public Schools Event

LIVE 2026

Saturday, April 25
6:00 p.m.



 dr. phillips
center

Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater



FOUNDATION
FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Celebrating Central Florida's

Future Builders

Proud Supporters of
OCPS Top Talent LIVE

ORRA members believe strong schools are the foundation of strong communities. That's why we proudly partner with Orange County Public Schools to celebrate student excellence and support the future of Central Florida.

What ORRA does (and why it matters):

- ✓ Supports community growth through partnerships and local investment
- ✓ Promotes housing opportunity and stability because stable homes support strong schools

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FOUNDATION
FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Investing in Success



Top Talent LIVE returns to the stage for 2026!

Welcome to Top Talent LIVE 2026, a showcase of student talent in the performing arts. We are thrilled to return to the Dr. Phillips Center, where our student talent really shines!

This year, more than 172 marvelous acts auditioned, making the job of selecting this year's cast extremely tough. Congratulations to ALL the students whose talents are on full display this evening!

OCPS offers high-quality arts programs to every student, at every grade level. Students are actively engaged in the arts through a sequential, comprehensive standards-based curriculum that develops their personal artistry. By expanding proficiency in the arts, students develop self-esteem, confident self-expression, reflective and evaluative skills, critical-thinking skills, and appreciation of others' work.

Proceeds from today's event will support arts access for ALL students and provide post-secondary arts support for students experiencing poverty and homelessness. A small portion will also support the Foundation itself. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our sponsors and audience members who are support the Foundation's purpose: investing in our children today strengthens our entire community tomorrow.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers, staff, celebrity judges and Foundation board members who have dedicated countless hours to bring today's event to life. These selfless individuals have worked diligently to ensure the show's success.

Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

With gratitude and excitement,

Scott D. Howat

President, Foundation for Orange County Public Schools
Chief Communications Officer, Orange County Public Schools

Event Schedule

4:30 P.M. Lobby Opens
Tier 2 Rotunda Coffee Bar
VIP Reception (4:30 – 5:30 p.m.)
PNC Suite

5:30 P.M. Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater Doors Open

6:00 P.M. Act I
Intermission
Act II
Top Talent LIVE Awards

8:30 P.M. End of Show



*is proud to support the Foundation for
Orange County Public Schools and the talented
students in performing arts in our community.*

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Meet OUR HOSTS!



Ginger Gadsden & Matt Austin

Anchors, News 6 WKMG

Ginger Gadsden joined the News 6 team June 15, 2014, as an anchor/reporter. She currently co-anchors the news at 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. You can also catch Ginger on News 6 Tonight streaming live on News 6+.

Ginger's career in television began shortly after her college theater professor told her she had a unique presence that captured the attention of other students in the classroom. He advised her to pursue a career in journalism and helped her secure an internship at the local NBC television station in Columbia, SC. The moment she walked into the newsroom she fell in love with the energy of live, local news. After her internship,

Ginger's skills landed her a job at FOX 59 in Indianapolis as the weekend weather anchor and entertainment reporter. She was soon promoted to co-anchor of the 10 p.m. newscast.

She has also worked in Dallas and Washington DC, but Florida is the state where she has spent most of her career. Ginger has covered a variety of big stories including some in Florida sports. In 2007 she traveled to Arizona to cover the Florida Gators when they won the BCS Championship, and when the Tampa Bay Rays were in the World Series, Ginger was live at Tropicana Field for each home game. She also anchored live coverage of Super Bowl XLIII at Raymond James Stadium.

Matt Austin joined the News 6 team in June 2011. It has been a wild ride ever since.

Matt has covered some of Florida's biggest court cases, from Casey Anthony to George Zimmerman. From hurricanes to tragic events, Matt has seen a lot during his career.

His reporting has also changed the state of Florida. In 2019, Matt helped change Florida law, which previously kept law enforcement from pulling over texting drivers. Distracted driving crashes were becoming increasingly common. The National Association of Broadcasters awarded Matt the Service to America Award for his three-year investigation.

Matt says his goal is to give people a reliable and relatable experience when they watch the news.

But Matt's true joy comes when he arrives at home to a house full of beautiful ladies. His wife Tricia and three daughters give him added motivation to make sure Central Florida stays safe and informed.

You can watch Matt Austin weekdays at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., and 11 p.m. on News 6. Plus! You can also catch Matt on Florida's Fourth Estate Podcast now streaming on News 6+.

Meet OUR CELEBRITY JUDGES!



Amber Nadelkov

Amber is a choreographer, teacher, manager and creator in the Central Florida area. After spending many years expanding on her creative knowledge, vocabulary and experience in cities such as Tampa, New York City and Nashville, she maintained an active performing career at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL where she performed as an Actors Equity dancer on the Cinderella Castle Stage at the Magic Kingdom and *Beauty and the Beast – Live on Stage* at Disney's Hollywood Studios. She performed alongside artists such as Disney's Descendants and Meghan Trainor for nationally televised Disney Christmas specials. She has danced back-up for LeAnn Rimes, Deborah Cox, and Debbie Gibson for events and live performances. She is a choreographer,

teacher, staging specialist, and event manager for multiple production companies across the country. She has choreographed AEA productions of *Rock of Ages* and *Something Rotten!* in Winter Garden, FL with casts including Broadway veterans such as Justin Sargen, Christine Dwyer and De'Lon Grant, as well as choreographed and directed for multiple local theaters in the Central Florida area. She has transitioned into Entertainment Management at Walt Disney World where she works with performers in all areas at the parks. When she's not working on shows and events, she travels the nation as an adjudicator for multiple regional and national dance competitions, sharing her love and knowledge of dance with the future generations.



Neil Goldberg

Neil is an American theater producer, Broadway director, award-winning author and founder of Cirque Dreams, Dream Studios, Variety Arts Management and POMP, SNOW & CIRQUEumstance (PSC). He has produced shows from Broadway to Super Bowls and across 5 continents attended by over 50 million people. Over 10,000 artists from all entertainment disciplines have been cast in over 30 of his productions globally. After selling Cirque Dreams to Cirque du Soleil, he conceived and wrote POMP, SNOW & CIRQUEumstance, an illustrated children's holiday book series published and distributed world-wide. The series is now an immersive holiday stage spectacular with residencies in Orlando, Nashville and Atlantis Paradise Island.

PSC is now being developed into an animated television series and Broadway production. He has been a featured guest on The Kelly Clarkson Show, Good Morning America, and Today Show, and has been hailed by the LA Times as "One of today's leading theatrical impresarios." He founded the Neil Goldberg Dream Foundation to enrich the arts, is a sponsor of Top Talent LIVE and proudly supports arts education in our schools.



Charly Reynolds

Charly is a rising star in country music, captivating audiences with her authentic storytelling and vibrant sound. At just 25 years old, the Florida native has quickly established herself as a formidable singer-songwriter, with her debut album *Off The Record* showcasing a blend of Nashville twang and Texas dance hall charm. Released on September 20, 2024, the album features four compelling singles: "Love You Long," "Somebody In Love," "People Think," and "Visiting Hours," each offering a glimpse into Charly's relatable experiences and heartfelt lyrics. She is a proud OCPS alumna who attended Blankner K8 and Boone High School.

Before her debut album, Charly made waves with her 2023 EP, *Perfect Timing*. The six-track collection featured standout songs like "She Ain't Me," whose music video has surpassed two million views, the introspective "One Day at a Time," and the poignant ballad "Flowers." The EP's launch was celebrated with sold-out shows in both Nashville, TN, and Orlando, FL.

She has shared the stage and lineup with artists such as Cody Johnson, Lainey Wilson, Parker McCollum, Sara Evans, Maddie and Tae, Walker Hayes, JoDee Messina and more. Charly's sound is enriched by influences from country legends like Shania Twain, Carrie Underwood, and Martina McBride. Her music resonates deeply with fans, offering a mix of lively anthems and heartfelt tracks that strike an emotional chord. Her rendition of "Neon Moon" made an impactful appearance in the Season 5 finale of FOX's *The Resident*, further solidifying her presence in the industry. With plans for another headlining tour and more releases on the horizon, Charly Reynolds is an artist to watch, delivering a fresh sound and a genuine connection to her audience as she continues to carve out her niche in country music.



Steve MacKinnon

Steve is a dynamic theatre artist and creative leader dedicated to crafting transformational entertainment and educational experiences that inspire, challenge, and shape the world around us. Recognized by the Orlando Sentinel as "Central Florida's go-to guy for musical theatre," Steve has made a significant impact across some of the region's most respected arts institutions, including Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Orlando Family Stage (Orlando REP), Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, and Theatre Downtown.

Nationally, Steve's work spans a wide range of disciplines as a director, teaching artist, music director, conductor, and vocal coach. His diverse portfolio includes collaborations with Disney Theatrical Group, Theatreworks USA, Radio City Entertainment, Telsey Casting, Virgin Voyages, Universal Creative, SeaWorld Orlando, MTV, and beyond—demonstrating a unique ability to bridge commercial entertainment, professional theatre, and arts education at the highest levels.

For the past 18 years, Steve has served as a resident teaching artist for Disney Imagination Campus's Broadway Magic workshops at Walt Disney World, in partnership with Disney Theatrical Group, Disney on Broadway, and Disney Cruise Line. Through this work, he has helped shape the artistic journeys of students from around the globe, with programs reaching participants from South Korea, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Kenya, and across the United States.

In his role as Senior Artistic Director for Theatre at St. Luke's and St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Steve leads innovative community arts initiatives that prioritize accessibility, intergenerational collaboration, and meaningful arts education. His work is rooted in the belief that the arts can serve as a powerful connector—bringing together professionals, emerging artists, students, volunteers, and first-time performers to grow, create, and build lasting relationships. Under his leadership, Theatre at St. Luke's has become a renowned, vibrant creative hub in Central Florida, fostering both artistic excellence and a deeply connected community.

The Neil Goldberg Dream Foundation is a proud sponsor of Top Talent LIVE 2026



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phenomenon"

~SiriusXM

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Meet OUR FINALISTS!

Run OF SHOW

GROUP



Aerith Otero De Anca Freedom HS
Brianna Buchholz Freedom HS
Cooper Terrell Freedom HS
Jordan Rivera Freedom HS
Kanak Sonje Freedom HS
Kira Broome Freedom HS
Kylie Scardino Freedom HS
Madison Kelley Freedom HS
Mia Delgrosso Freedom HS
Olivia Costa Freedom HS
Samuel Salazar Freedom HS
Tristan Quintero Freedom HS
Zariya Brooks Freedom HS

DUET



Ana Zabala Perez University HS
Keila Zabala Perez University HS

GROUP



Benjamin McCormack Boone HS
Caleb Cuevas Boone HS
Jonah Quito Boone HS
Kaitlynn Peacock Boone HS
Makayla Morton Boone HS
Manuel Landaeta Calderon Boone HS
Mia Basso Boone HS
Paxton Burke Boone HS
Sierra Adams Boone HS
Tessa Biuso Boone HS

QUARTET



Andrew Rockefeller Windermere HS
Chandler Hall Windermere HS
Connor Kelly Windermere HS
George Kudmani Windermere HS

TRIO



Aurelia Taylor Vozella Innovation MS
Camila Alejandra Rugeles Innovation HS
Daiara Benitez Gonzalez Innovation HS

TRIO



Eben Ge Timber Springs MS
Gabriel Perez Timber Creek HS
Zion Napier East River HS



Benjamin Ellis Apopka HS



Caroline Brett Edgewater HS



Chloe Renner West Orange HS



Emma Winter Tildenville ES



Jaeden Hooks Oak Ridge HS



Jordyn Cohen Lake Buena Vista HS



Madison Perez Lake Nona HS



Marquise Bloom Horizon HS



Sophia Taylor Chain Of Lakes MS



Sophie Neves Independence ES



Xiaoyu Tang Glenridge MS



Yug Patel University HS

Rising Stars



Avery Coombs Cypress Springs ES
★



Oliver Ledbetter Laureate Park ES
★

OPENING ACT: Rodeo by Special Guest, Charly Reynolds!

ACT 1

- AERITH OTERO DE ANCA, BRIANNA BUCHHOLZ, COOPER TERRELL, JORDAN RIVERA, KANAK SONJE, KIRA BROOME, KYLIE SCARDINO, MADISON KELLEY, MIA DELGROSSO, OLIVIA COSTA, SAMUEL SALAZAR, TRISTAN QUINTERO & ZARIYA BROOKS**
VOCAL GROUP
"A Wild, Wild Party"
- JAEDEN HOOKS**
INSTRUMENTAL PIANO
"Prelude in B minor" by F. Chopin
- EBEN GE, GABRIEL PEREZ & ZION NAPIER**
INSTRUMENTAL TRIO
"Lost" (Orchestral Version)
- ANA ZABALA PEREZ & KEILA ZABALA PEREZ**
VOCAL DUET
"Let Me Be Your Star"
- YUG PATEL**
DANCE SOLO
"Gujarati Raas Solo"
- AVERY COOMBS** ★ (RISING STAR)
DANCE SOLO
"I See The Light"
- JORDYN COHEN**
INSTRUMENTAL PIANO
Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, 3rd Mvt, Presto Agitato
- EMMA WINTER**
INSTRUMENTAL/VOCAL SOLO
"Paper Rings / Stay Stay Stay"
- SOPHIA TAYLOR**
DANCE SOLO
"Dangerous"
- MARQUISE BLOOM**
INSTRUMENTAL PIANO
"Beauty and the Beast"

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

- BENJAMIN MCCORMACK, CALEB CUEVAS, JONAH QUITOS, KAITLYNN PEACOCK, MAKAYLA MORTON, MANUEL LANDAETA CALDERON, MIA BASSO, PAXTON BURKE, SIERRA ADAMS & TESSA BIUSO**
INSTRUMENTAL/VOCAL GROUP
"Hit the Road Jack"
- CAROLINE BRETT**
VOCAL SOLO
"I Put A Spell On You"
- SOPHIE NEVES**
DANCE SOLO
"Moonlight"
- ANDREW ROCKEFELLER, CHANDLER HALL, CONNOR KELLY & GEORGE KUDMANI**
VOCAL QUARTET
"A Good Old Barbershop Song"
- OLIVER LEDBETTER** ★ (RISING STAR)
INSTRUMENTAL PIANO
"Tarantella" - Faber
- XIAOYU TANG (SHEE-OW YOO TANG)**
INSTRUMENTAL PIANO
Mozart, Piano Sonata No. 9 in D major, K. 311, I. Allegro con spirito
- CHLOE RENNER**
DANCE SOLO
"On My Own"
- BENJAMIN ELLIS**
INSTRUMENTAL GUITAR
"Blinding Lights"
- MADISON PEREZ**
VOCAL SOLO
"I Have Nothing"
- AURELIA TAYLOR VOZELLA, CAMILA ALEJANDRA RUGELES & DAIARA BENITEZ GONZALEZ**
DANCE TRIO
"Money"



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2026 Finalist Acts



BACK ROW: Aerith Otero De Anca, Brianna Buchholz, Cooper Terrell, Jordan Rivera

MIDDLE ROW: Kanak Sonje, Kira Broome, Kylie Scardino, Madison Kelley, Mia Delgrosso

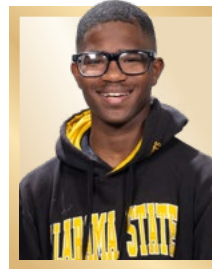
FRONT ROW: Olivia Costa, Samuel Salazar, Tristan Quintero, Zariya Brooks

Ages: 15-18

School: Freedom HS

Talent Category: Vocal Group

Performance: "A Wild, Wild Party"



Jaeden Hooks

Age: 18

School: Oak Ridge HS

Talent Category: Instrumental Piano

Performance: "Prelude in B minor" by F. Chopin



Eben Ge, Gabriel Perez,
& Zion Napier

Age: 13-17

Schools: Timber Springs MS, Timber Creek HS,
East River HS

Talent Category: Instrumental Trio

Performance: "Lost" (Orchestral Version)



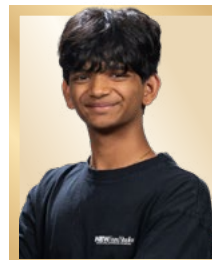
Keila Zabala Perez &
Ana Zabala Perez

Age: 17 & 15

School: University HS

Talent Category: Vocal Duet

Performance: "Let Me Be Your Star"



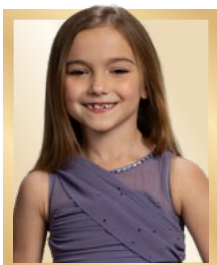
Yug Patel

Age: 18

School: University HS

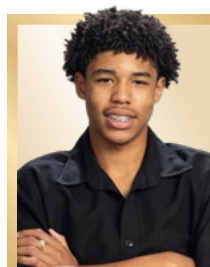
Talent Category: Dance Solo

Performance: Gujarati Raas



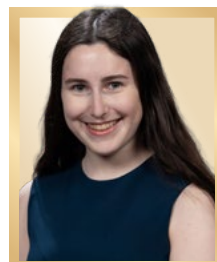
Avery Coombs ★ (Rising Star)

Age: 7
School: Cypress Springs ES
Talent Category: Dance Solo
Performance: "I See the Light"



Marquise Bloom

Age: 15
School: Horizon HS
Talent Category: Instrumental Piano
Performance: "Beauty and the Beast"



Jordyn Cohen

Age: 18
School: Lake Buena Vista HS
Talent Category: Instrumental Piano
Performance: Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, 3rd Mvt, Presto Agitato



BACK ROW: Benjamin McCormack, Caleb Cuevas, Jonah Quito, Kaitlynn Peacock, Makayla Morton

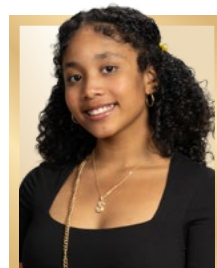
FRONT ROW: Manuel Landaeta Calderon, Mia Basso, Paxton Burke, Sierra Adams, Tessa Biuso

Ages: 16–18
School: Boone HS
Talent Category: Instrumental/Vocal Group
Performance: "Hit the Road Jack"



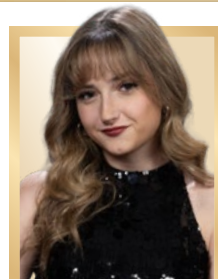
Emma Winter

Age: 11
School: Tildenville ES
Talent Category: Instrumental/Vocal
Performance: "Paper Rings / Stay Stay Stay"



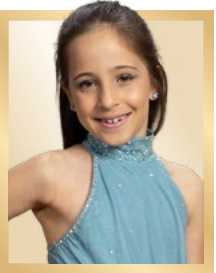
Sophia Taylor

Age: 12
School: Chain of Lakes MS
Talent Category: Dance Solo
Performance: "Dangerous"



Caroline Brett

Age: 18
School: Edgewater HS
Talent Category: Vocal Solo
Performance: "I Put a Spell on You"



Sophie Neves

Age: 9
School: Independence ES
Talent Category: Dance Solo
Performance: "Moonlight"



Chloe Renner

Age: 16
School: West Orange HS
Talent Category: Dance Solo
Performance: "On My Own"



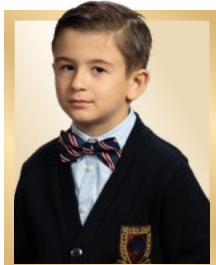
Andrew Rockefeller, George Kudmani, Connor Kelly & Chandler Hall

Age: 17-18
School: Windermere HS
Talent Category: Vocal Quartet
Performance: "A Good Old Barbershop Song"



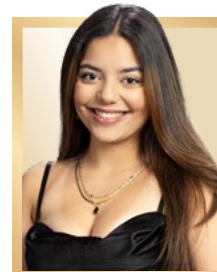
Benjamin Ellis

Age: 18
School: Apopka HS
Talent Category: Instrumental Guitar
Performance: "Blinding Lights"



Oliver Ledbetter ★ (Rising Star)

Age: 7
School: Laureate Park ES
Talent Category: Instrumental Piano
Performance: "Tarantella" - Faber



Madison Perez

Age: 17
School: Lake Nona HS
Talent Category: Vocal Solo
Performance: "I Have Nothing" - Madison Perez



Xiaoyu Tang

Age: 14
School: Glenridge MS
Talent Category: Instrumental Piano
Performance: Mozart, Piano Sonata No. 9 in D Major,
K.311, I. Allegro con spirito



Daiara Benitez Gonzalez, Camila Alejandra Rugeles & Aurelia Taylor Vozella

Age: 14-15 | Schools: Innovation MS & Innovation HS
Talent Category: Dance Trio
Performance: "Money"

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ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TOP TALENT

A Foundation for Orange County Public Schools Event

LIVE 2026

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Saturday, February 6, 2027

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FOUNDATION FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Cadre Principal Leaders

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Rob McCloe Elementary Schools Cadre 2	Lukeshia Miller Elementary Schools Cadre 8	Todd Trimble Middle Schools Cadre 3	Shelia Windom School Transformation Office Cadre 1
Charles Lindlau Elementary Schools Cadre 3	Michelle Carralero Elementary Schools Cadre 9	Kelly Steinke Middle Schools Cadre 4	Raquel Flores School Transformation Office Cadre 2
Lino Rodriguez Elementary Schools Cadre 4	Mindi Smith Elementary Schools Cadre 10	James Leslie K-8 Schools Cadre 1	Carol Tingley Career and Technical Education Cadre 1
Meredith Leftakis Elementary Schools Cadre 5	Kimberly Hankerson Elementary Schools Cadre 11	Martha Chang High Schools Cadre 1	Ian Gesundheit Exceptional Student Education Cadre 1
Alyson Muse Elementary Schools Cadre 6	Jenny Gibson Middle Schools Cadre 1	Matthew Turner High Schools Cadre 2	

2025-26 Board of Directors

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Special thanks to our 2025-26 Top Talent Committee

Melaney Douglass Committee Chair	Greg Dotson Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts	Debi Pedraza Executive Director	Keely Kenney Manager, Grants
Brooke Axtell Senior Manager, Events & Engagement	Jeff Carter Charles Perry Partners, Inc.	Pam Carson Assistant Director	Joie Cadle Consultant
Danielle Griffiths Events Coordinator, Events & Engagement	Don Mascheri Diacom Productions	Margaux Cruz-Colon Senior Administrator, Philanthropic Strategy	Mackenzie King Consultant, Social Media
	Jason Locker Senior Director, VPA		

VOTE

FAN FAVORITE
(most dollars)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
(most voters)

WHEN YOU VOTE for your favorite Top Talent LIVE act, you'll help him or her win a \$500 gift card. More importantly, you'll help provide arts enrichment for students experiencing poverty or homelessness. That's an investment in our students today that will strengthen the entire community tomorrow!

VOTING IS EASY:



SCAN — OR — TEXT

FFSTAGE
to **41444**

*Click the link in the
reply that follows*

THEN...

Simply fill out the form to give \$1.00 per vote to our cause.
(You may vote as many times as you like, for as many performers as you like.)

Be sure to vote early and often for YOUR favorite!

A final tally of votes will determine the 2026 winners.

Proceeds from Top Talent help support the Foundation and provide arts enrichment for students experiencing poverty and homelessness. We are grateful to all of our generous sponsors and audience members!

All contributions are tax deductible.

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Sponsor

Addition
FINANCIAL

People's Choice
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