



FY27 GUIDELINES STUDENT ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

We understand that the online application system may present a barrier to some applicants and will make reasonable efforts to accommodate specific needs on a case-by-case basis. This information can be made available in the following alternative formats: Braille, large print, and audio recording.

We can also help find a language interpreter to translate these guidelines.

To accommodate your requests, the Central MN Arts Board will need at least 10 working days.

We recommend using Chrome or Firefox as your web browser to complete the online application.

MN Relay Service 1-800-627-3529

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320-968-4290 | 1-866-825-1471 | fax: 320-968-4291

www.centralmnartsboard.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Student Arts Scholarships of **\$2,000** are awarded to individuals seeking their first undergraduate degree in an arts-related field. Applicants must be residents of Region 7W - but may attend college or university anywhere. Scholarship funds can be used for education costs that can be charged directly to the institution such as tuition, room and board, books, etc. **Individuals may apply each year and receive four Student Arts Scholarships in a lifetime.**

Funding for this program is made possible by the Minnesota State General Arts Fund.

CMAB Program Outcomes

1. Regional artists expand and improve their work and the way they create it.
2. Regional residents learn new arts skills & techniques.
3. Regional artists build their capacity through professional development.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Individuals planning to attend an accredited institution **full-time** and major in an **arts-related** field
- A current Minnesota resident of Benton Sherburne, Stearns or Wright County for a minimum of six months prior to application who will remain a resident during the scholarship period. Recipients may attend a school outside the region, but must maintain residence within Region 7W
- US Citizens or individuals with permanent resident alien status

APPLICANTS NOT ELIGIBLE

- Applicants who do not maintain residence in Region 7W
- Applicants who have previously completed an undergraduate degree
- CMAB grant recipients with any overdue final reports
- Applicants who have already received four Students Arts Scholarships in a lifetime
- Applications with excessive AI-generated content may be deemed ineligible.

HOW TO APPLY

Click the Manage GRANTS button in the upper right corner of the CMAB homepage. First-time applicants need to create an account using an email address and a password.

SUBMIT an online application and include:

- Most recent high school transcript, unofficial college transcript or equivalent document
- Artist Work Samples with descriptions
- Three (3) References – from instructors, employers or other non-family references

Applications must be submitted by **11:59 PM on the deadline date.**

Applications received after the deadlines are ineligible. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

ADVICE FOR APPLICANTS

The Student Arts Scholarship is scored using two criteria: Artistic Merit & Quality, and Applicant Ability.

Each criterion has a series of statements that reviewers are asked to consider when reviewing and scoring an application. When completing an application, refer to the criteria statements listed. For more resources, watch the [CMAB Student Arts Scholarship](#) video!

ARTISTIC MERIT/QUALITY - 15 of 30 points

Evaluators use the following statements when reviewing this section of the application:

1. The applicant's work exhibits originality, technical skill, and a personal artistic vision or voice relative to their level of experience.
2. Applicant work samples evoke emotion, intellectual inquiry, or other responses from an audience.
3. Demonstrated skills relate to chosen arts field.

1. Intended Major – indicate your arts-related major.

2. Explain why you have chosen to pursue this arts-related field.

3. List the skills and experience you possess that relate to this field of study.

4. Artist Statement - Provide a brief statement about you and your art.

An artist statement should help readers understand what you believe to be the most important aspects of your art and the process or techniques you use to make it.

Suggestions:

- Write in the first person using I, me, my phrasing.
- Statements should be 1-2 paragraphs
- Explain why you are an artist, what influences or inspires you, and why you chose your artform
- Avoid overly technical or obscure references. Do not refer to other artists

5. Artist Work Samples and Description- Choose the format you would like to submit your work samples. A

description area is provided to include the title, medium(s), date, and additional context to better understand your creative practice. Work samples must be created within the past five years and must not violate any copyright.

- **Two or Three Dimensional:** SUBMIT 5 IMAGES - up to 2MIB each. One image 1800 pixels wide maximum per upload in JPG or PDF formats accepted. Painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, ceramics, fiber arts, multimedia, mixed-media, digital and all fine crafts. Description must include the dimensions, and year created with each sample.
- **Literary:** SUBMIT 7 PAGES - up to 3MIB in PDF format typed and readable. Original poetry, prose (fiction and creative nonfiction), playwriting and screenwriting. Scholarly manuscripts, standard journalism, and translations are not accepted. A BRIEF summary or context can be provided for longer work. Description must include the title, type and year created with each sample.
- **Performance:** SUBMIT 7 MINUTES - Formats accepted MP3, MOV or MP4 or provide a website URL link to a video or audio example. Dancers, choreographers; Theatre performers, spoken word; composers, musicians. Artists can perform the work of others, panel members will be looking for the applicant's unique interpretation, or originality. If your sample includes more than one performer, indicate which performer is you. If the File is too large for the upload, provide a URL link to an example with instructions for reviewers (i.e. - view from 1:16 to 5:06 and then from 18:04 to 20:00).
 - Image Upload – 5 (2 MIB) uploads
 - Literary Upload – 1 (3 MIB) uploads
 - Video Upload – 1 (12MIB) upload
 - Website URL address – 4 URL address fields

The CMAB is not responsible for samples that do not upload or display correctly. If you need assistance attaching work samples to your application, contact media@centralmnartsboard.org or call 320-968-4290 ext. 2

APPLICANT ABILITY - 15 of 30 points

Evaluators use the following statements when reviewing this section of the application:

1. Applicant has clearly stated arts-related educational goals.
2. Applicant has demonstrated the ability to reach their art-related educational goals (consider grades, references, achievements, etc.)
3. College(s) listed provide programs that support the student's arts-related educational goals.

6) Educational Goals - Describe three arts-related educational goals you have for your undergraduate education. What are the steps you will take to meet them?

7) Achievements – list artistic, academic, or other achievements that support your educational goals.

8) Intended Post-Secondary Institution - Indicate the college you will attend next year. If undecided, indicate the college you are considering.

- Address, City, State, Zip
- Phone
- Website URL

9) Explain why you've chosen or are considering this school to pursue your arts-related degree.

10) Is the college you have chosen accredited? - Applicants must be planning to attend an accredited institution.

11) Will you be enrolled as a full-time student during the coming school year? - Scholarship recipients must be enrolled full-time.

12) TRANSCRIPTS - Attach your most recent high school transcript, unofficial college transcript, or equivalent form. [2 MB(s) allowed]

13) REFERENCES

Three references completed by non-relatives who can speak to your creative and/or academic abilities must be included. Applicants send an email request link to their reference form from within the online application. This provides your reference with a link to the form that they can complete and submit directly to the application.

- The applicant is responsible for confirming that references are completed no later than **January 30, 2027**, before submitting the application.
- The first three reference forms completed will be reviewed with your application.
- Applications submitted without three completed reference forms are ineligible for review.

DATA COLLECTION

The following questions are required for data collection by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the MN Legislature and help CMAB determine the reach of our programs and the equity in our grant making. The information is not visible to reviewers or considered during review. Definitions of the [DATA CODES](#) are found on page 7 or online [HERE](#).

- **How did you learn about this program?**
- **Discipline** – Select the code that best describes the applicant’s primary area of interest in the arts.
- **Applicant Address Changed? Please check your account address and provide any changes here.**
 - **Street Address** – Enter the street address (No P.O. Box), City and Zip Code where the applicant is located.
- **Publicity** – If an alternate name other than the legal name is used for publicity purposes, list it here. (or indicate N/A)
- **Applicant Ethnicity** - Select any combination (**optional**). **N** = American Indian/Native American; **A** = Asian; **P** = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; **B** = Black/African American; **H** = Hispanic/Latino; **M** = Middle Eastern/North African; **W** = White; **R** = Multiracial or Biracial; **O** = Other; **99** = when no single group applies
- **Applicant Groups**- Indicate if you identify as a member of any of the following demographics: **I** = Individuals with Disabilities; **S** = Adults older than 65; **V** = Military Veterans; **A** = Adult (25 – 64 years); **Y** = Young Adult (19 – 24 years); **99** = None of the above
- **Additional Information** (optional) - Data collection questions do not always provide options to accurately describe the racial or ethnic identity of applicants. Include any additional information you want to provide about your race or ethnicity here.

CERTIFICATION

14) Electronic signature

Your signature indicates that all the information in the application is true and complete.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

- 15) Parent/Guardian Signature - If you are under 18 years of age** - include the name, your relationship, phone and email address of parent or guardian

CMAB SERVICES AND GRANTING PROCESS

AI POLICY

CMAB recognizes the growing use of artificial intelligence as an assistance tool for the grant application process. ai should not be used to fully generate art, application answers, or proposals. applications with excessive ai-generated content may be deemed ineligible.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be made available to the CMAB Board of Directors or a review panel at least two weeks prior to the review date. All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision in writing.

Applications are assigned final scores at an in-person review meeting. Each application will receive a score on a scale from 1 (low) to 30 (high). **An applicant must attain an average of 15.0 or higher to be considered for funding.** All review meetings are open to the public; see CMAB website for board and panel review dates.

GRANT CONTRACT & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Awarded applicants will receive a Scholarship Contract to be returned within 30 days. Once the applicant agrees to the contract, a Registration Confirmation must be submitted before the scholar award will be issued to the post-secondary institution within 30 days.

Failure to provide any required documents may result in the cancellation of a scholarship.

GRANT APPEAL PROCESS

Any applicant who can show cause that established grant review procedures were not followed, or that the policies of the program were not equitable to all applicants, may file an appeal in writing within ten (15) business days of being notified of the CMAB's decision.

The Executive Committee will determine if there exists sufficient cause for an appeal and if further investigation is warranted. If the Executive Committee finds that there is cause for an appeal, they will bring the matter before the full board for a final decision. There is no right of appeal to dispute decisions in respect to artistic quality or merit, ability or need. Contact the CMAB office to view a copy of the complete appeal policy.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Central Minnesota Arts Board reserves the right to use art samples for promotional purposes with the artist retaining full copyright.

DEFINITIONS

Appeal: an official request by the applicant for the CMAB Board of Directors to reexamine the application review process for procedural errors that do not follow policy.

Applicant: an individual, group, organization, or local government organizing and implementing the proposal. (If two are involved, select one to be the lead/applicant.)

Artistic Merit: one's ability and dedication to expressing original thought and improving or demonstrating technical skill within a chosen artform

Eligible: something that is permitted as part of the proposal or budget

Goal: Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-targeted objectives that allow people to identify and work towards outcomes.

Lawful Permanent Resident: an individual of foreign birth legally living and working in the United States, usually with a Green Card or similar documentation

Permanent Resident Alien: an individual of foreign birth legally living within the United States without citizenship

Reference- a professional individual, such as a teacher or employer, who can speak to one's work ethic, skills, or other abilities within a relevant area of study or focus

Resident: Someone who resides in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, or Benton counties for at least six months prior to application submission. This will be the location of your legally established and permanent residence.

For more information on Central MN Arts Board programs and services visit our website at www.centralmnartsboard.org or call 320.968.4290 or 1.866.825-1471.

Art discipline codes

DIS1/PDIS1	DISCIPLINE	DIS1/PDIS1	DISCIPLINE
01	Dance	07	Crafts
01A	Dance, ballet	07A	Crafts, clay
01B	Dance, ethnic/jazz	07B	Crafts, fiber
01C	Dance, modern	07C	Crafts, glass
02	Music	07D	Crafts, leather
02A	Music, band	07E	Crafts, metal
02B	Music, chamber	07F	Crafts, paper
02C	Music, choral	07G	Crafts, plastic
02D	Music, new-experimental, elec	07H	Crafts, wood
02E	Music, ethnic	07I	Crafts, mixed media
02F	Music, jazz	08	Photography
02G	Music, popular	09	Media Arts
02H	Music, solo/recital	09A	Media Arts, film
02I	Music, orchestral	09B	Media Arts, audio
03	Opera/Musical Theater	09C	Media Arts, video
03A	Opera	09D	Media Arts, tech/experimental
03B	Opera, musical theater	09E	Media Arts, screen/scriptwriting
04	Theater	10	Literature
04A	Theater, general	10A	Literature, fiction
04B	Theater, mime	10B	Literature, non-fiction
04C	Theater, puppetry	10C	Theater, playwriting
04D	Theater for young audiences	10D	Literature, poetry
04E	Theater, storytelling	11	Interdisciplinary
05	Visual arts	12	Folk/Traditional Arts
05A	Visual arts, experimental	12A	Folk/Traditional dance
05B	Visual arts, graphics	12B	Folk/Traditional music
05D	Visual arts, painting	12C	Folk/Traditional crafts/vis arts
05F	Visual arts, sculpture	12D	Folk/Traditional storytelling
06	Design arts	13	Humanities
06A	Design arts, architecture	14	Multidisciplinary
06B	Design arts, fashion	15	Non-arts/Non-humanities
06C	Design arts, graphic	98	Not provided
06D	Design arts, industrial		
06E	Design arts, interior		
06F	Design arts, landscape arch		
06G	Design arts, urban/metro		