



2026

VISUAL ARTS AND GRAPHIC ARTS

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Wilkes Art Gallery is now accepting scholarship applications from graduating Wilkes County high school seniors who are pursuing postsecondary education in visual and/or graphic arts. The Wilkes Art Gallery Scholarship awards up to \$1,500 to qualifying applicants. The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize and encourage students who demonstrate exceptional potential and ability in visual arts, as well as academic achievement. The awarding process for this scholarship includes: **a completed application, official high school transcript, two letters of recommendation, four images of work from your art portfolio** (can be printed and attached to your application or emailed), and if necessary, a panel interview. **The deadline for the completed application is April 10th, 2026.** Applications submitted after this date or incomplete applications will not be considered. Once finalists are selected, the Gallery will contact you to schedule an interview if the panel requests a further portfolio review. The scholarship winners will be announced at their senior awards assembly.

A few important notes for graduating seniors:

1. Sealed academic transcripts should be sent or delivered to the address below:
Wilkes Art Gallery
c/o Scholarship Committee
913 C Street
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
2. Ask two people who know you and your work to complete the form on page 3 and send it to the address above. At least one person should be familiar with and be able to evaluate your artwork.
3. The completed applications and reference forms need to be sent to the above address on or before April 10th, 2026. Applications and/or reference forms received after that date will not be considered.
4. Panel Interview: Finalists who are invited for a panel interview will be asked to present a physical portfolio of work for review. This portfolio should include five to seven examples of your best artwork in visual or graphic arts. Every piece does not have to be in a "finished" state. Photographs of large works are acceptable, as are art journals and sketchbooks. Graphic arts students who would like to present a digital portfolio may do so if we are given notice prior to your interview.



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APPLICATION

Please answer the attached questions (with a minimum of 150 words per question) in a separately typed document and email to Brooke Horn at director@wilkesartgallery.org or deliver to the Gallery Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Personal Email: _____

Mobile #: _____ Home #: _____

High School: _____

Senior Awards Ceremony Date: _____

1. Describe your higher education plans and career goals. Please include the colleges or universities you have applied to and the one you are most likely to attend if accepted.
2. If awarded, how would this scholarship be applied to your plans to help further your goals?
3. What artist(s) have you interned with and how has this experience shaped your art? If you have not had an internship under an artist, which present-day artist would you like to intern with, why and how has this artist influenced your art?
4. Which style of art and period of art inspires you and how has it impacted your art and portfolio? Explain.
5. How have you applied your personal art abilities to impact areas of the community (outside of your school studies/assignments)?
6. Imagine you were given an opportunity to create an art series without limitations. You may choose the subject, size, medium, number of pieces, etc. Describe this project in detail including why you chose the subject, size, medium and quantity to convey the series. Share where you would want this series to be viewed, who is your target audience and how you would want to impact the viewer.



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RECOMMENDATION REFERENCE FORM

You have received this form because you have been selected by a prospective applicant for the Wilkes Art Gallery Scholarship. This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors in Wilkes County who demonstrate success in the visual arts and plan to attend a higher education institution and major in visual arts or graphic arts post-high school. A one-time scholarship will be awarded to chosen applicants. The applicant has indicated you have knowledge of his/her qualifications.

Please answer the questions below in a separately typed letter and send your completed recommendation on or before April 10th, 2026 to:

Wilkes Art Gallery
c/o Scholarship Committee
913 C Street
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Or email to: Brooke Horn at director@wilkesartgallery.org

In your letter, please provide your name and contact information, the scholarship applicant's name, how you know the applicant and for how long.

Why are you recommending the applicant to receive this scholarship?

Please include information about the student's overall artistic potential, work ethic, academic success, extracurricular involvements, self-discipline and any other information in support of the applicant.