



Cecil County Arts Council

**Cecil County Arts
Council Arts Scholarship
2026 Application
Calendar:**

Deadline to submit application:	August 7, 2026, 4 p.m.
Announcement of scholarship recipients:	Sept - Oct, 2026
Public recognition of scholarship recipient: **	Sept 4 or Oct 2, 6:00 p.m.

** Recipient MUST attend at least one of these receptions

The Arts Council staff is available to assist with completion of this scholarship application, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 410-392-5740.

Submissions by email are preferred, but paper copies will also be accepted.

The Cecil County Arts Council is supported by membership donations, private and corporate sponsorship, and a grant from the MD State Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of MD and the National Endowment for the Arts.

General Information: The Cecil County Arts Council is a private, non-profit organization committed to presenting, promoting and sustaining the arts in Cecil County. In keeping with its mission, the arts council established a scholarship fund to provide opportunities for emerging artists to develop and practice their art. The goals of the Scholarship Program are to:

- Encourage students to pursue a career in the arts
- Assist students with tuition costs and fees

Eligibility: Applicant must be a legal resident of Cecil County. Applicant must be a graduating senior who plans to enroll in a full-time (12+ credits per semester) undergraduate degree program in the arts, or a student currently enrolled in an art program at an undergraduate level. Past or present employees, board members of CCAC and their immediate families are not eligible. Scholarship funds must be used primarily for tuition and fees.

Deadline: Submit the signed application in person, by mail, or by email no later than **August 7, 2026**. If using email, send the application to info@cecilarts.org. If hand-delivered, it must be submitted

during regular business hours. Include one copy of support materials. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Review Process: There will be a two-step review process. The arts council staff will review applications for eligibility, completeness, and accuracy. In August, the Scholarship Committee (including the arts council director, artists and educators) will review the applications and select the scholarship recipients.

Review Criteria: Each applicant will be reviewed based upon the following criteria as demonstrated in work samples and other materials submitted:

- Artistic merit/excellence
- Demonstrated understanding of artistic discipline
- Ability of the student to articulate artistic concepts
- Commitment to a career in the arts
- A successful record in an academic setting (minimum 3.0 GPA)

Notification: Applicants will be notified in writing by Sept/Oct 2026 as to the disposition of their application. Scholarship recipients will receive public recognition during the September or October gallery reception.

Disbursement of Funds: After the arts council receives verification that the applicant is enrolled, full-time, in an arts degree program at an accredited school, scholarship funds will be sent directly to the Registrar's Office. After receipt of the initial award letter, it becomes the recipient's responsibility to maintain contact with the arts council and to adhere to all reporting requirements and responsibilities. The Scholarship Committee is not required to award all of the scholarship monies available and reserves the right to forward any un-awarded monies to the following year's fund.

Application Guidelines: Only complete applications will be considered. An application which is incomplete, unclear, conditional, or contains irregularities will be rejected without evaluation. **Paper applications must NOT be handwritten. Those that are will not be accepted.** Attach materials with paperclips and place completed application in a large envelope. Do not staple or submit materials in binders or plastic sheets. Do not send materials other than those required. Additional items will not be included in the review process. All application materials must be USPS postmarked by August 7, 2026 if being sent by mail. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee and the Cecil County Arts Council are final. Submission of an application constitutes an understanding and agreement of the conditions set forth in these guidelines.

Cecil County Arts Council 410-392-5740
135 E. Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921
CECIL COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL - Arts Scholarship 2024

1. Applicant Name: _____

2. Applicant Address: _____

3. Telephone: _____

4. Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

5. Parent/Guardian Telephone (if different than above) _____

6. Parent/Guardian Address (if different than above)

7. Artistic discipline(s) in which you work (e.g. music, theater, visual art, dance, writing), and specific areas of interest, media, or instruments in that discipline.

8. Do you intend to pursue a career in the Arts? _____

9. ____ 2026 Graduating Senior? ____ College Student?

10. Name and address of high school or college you are currently attending:

11. Expected graduation date: _____

12. If currently attending college, what is your major or degree program?

Office Use Only

Rec'd.

App. #

Action

13. List below the names and contact information for all art teachers with whom you have studied in the last 4 years.

Teacher Name & Contact Info	Discipline Studied	Years of Study	Private Study or School Program

14. List any extra-curricular activities you're involved in (both arts and non-arts).

15. List any school or community honors or awards you have received.

16. List acceptance and participation in special arts programs.

17. If currently in high school, list the institution to which you have applied or plan to apply.

Institution	Application Date	Notification Date – Accepted?

18. Tell the Scholarship Committee about your artwork and its importance to you. Include information about what type of career you plan to pursue and how you feel your education will prepare you for that career.

19. Submit 1 copy of the required support materials for your discipline as indicated below and complete the corresponding script provided at the back of this application. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage for the return of your materials. Materials will not be returned without proper postage.

Performing Arts (dance, choreography, music performance, music composition, theater, musical theater and other performance-based art). Submit up to a 10 minute audio or visual DVD or digital audio or movie file of your best performance/composition demonstrating a range of abilities. Complete and include the Performing Arts Audio/DVD Script found in this application. Sample must be accurately cued. Only 10 minutes of recording will be reviewed.

Visual Arts (2 or 3-dimensional work, graphic design, installation or other visual art). Submit no more than 20 high resolution digital images on a flash drive or via email of your best work demonstrating a range of abilities. Complete the Visual Arts Script found in this application. Label each image with a number that corresponds to the script.

Literary Arts (creative writing, prose, poetry, scripts). Submit paper or digital copies of no more than 8 pages of your best, original text. The pages may consist of one work, excerpts from works, a series of short works or any combination demonstrating a range of abilities. Complete the Literary Arts Cover Sheet found in this application.

**IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT MATERIALS TO PROVIDE, CONTACT
THE ARTS COUNCIL AT 410-392-5740**

20. Submit 2 signed, sealed and completed recommendation forms from teachers or artists familiar with your work.

21. Submit 1 official copy of your school transcript, sealed by the school.

I/We certify that the information in this application and all related attachments is true and accurate.

X

Student Signature

X

Parent Signature (for those under 18)

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Date: _____

HOW TO SUBMIT SUPPORT MATERIALS

- ✓ Submit samples that reflect your best work and range of ability and prepare them in a well-organized manner using the required forms.
- ✓ Submit no more than a total of 10 minutes of audio/video recording (performers) or pictures of 20 works (visual). These can be on a DVD or flash drive, or emailed to info@cecilarts.org along with your application. Submit one copy of these materials and keep another copy for your records.
- ✓ Do not submit original copies of artworks, television news reports, reviews, or press packets.
- ✓ All support materials should be labeled with applicant's name.
- ✓ Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope of sufficient size with required postage for the return of any support materials you submitted physically (i.e. flash drive, DVD).
- ✓ Every effort will be made to ensure the safe handling of materials submitted, however, the Cecil County Arts Council and the Scholarship Committee assume no responsibility for any loss or damage to materials. CCAC will retain all submitted materials of winning applicants, only rejected support materials will be returned.

**Cecil County Arts Council
Arts Scholarship 2026
Performance Artist Script**

Each sample must be accurately cued. Only 10 minutes of audio/video will be reviewed. Include the information requested below for each selection. You may make additional copies of this sheet. **This form may not be handwritten.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Selection _____ out of _____

Title of work: _____

Performance site: _____ Performance Date: _____

Type of recording: _____ Live _____ Home _____ Studio

Role of applicant represented on sample:

Brief description of work (include credits of other principal artists):

Cecil County Arts Council
Arts Scholarship 2026
Visual Artist Script

Include this script with your images. **This form may not be handwritten.** You may make additional copies of this sheet. Submit 20 examples maximum and number each to correspond with the proper number on the script.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

1. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

2. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

3. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

4. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

5. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

6. Title: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____ Date: _____

Brief description:

Cecil County Arts Council
Arts Scholarship 2026
Literary Arts

Submit a completed copy of this cover sheet with each writing sample. You may submit up to 8 pages of text, excluding cover sheets. You may make copies of this sheet. **This form cannot be handwritten.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title of Work: _____

Date Completed: _____

Description of the work:

Cecil County Arts Council - Arts Scholarship 1 Recommendation Form 1

To be completed by a teacher or professional artist familiar with the applicant's work. Return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature over the seal. Recommendations will be held in confidence and will not be returned to students. Your candid evaluation of this student's ability and potential is appreciated. The deadline for scholarship entries is **4 p.m., August 7, 2026.**

This section to be completed by applicant

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Artistic Media/Discipline: _____

This section to be completed by teacher/artist

Name: _____ Phone: _____

1. Please briefly explain your relationship with the applicant including years known and in what capacity.

2. Please rate the applicant in the following areas by checkmark:

Demonstrates potential in the media/discipline identified above

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

Has a fundamental grasp of the media/discipline

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

Has exhibited a commitment to the study and practice of the media/discipline

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

3. Please use this space to comment on your experience with this student and your perception of their potential in their selected discipline.

Signature of teacher: _____

Date: _____

Signature of artist: _____

Date: _____

Cecil County Arts Council - Arts Scholarship 2026 Recommendation Form 2

To be completed by a teacher or professional artist familiar with the applicant's work. Return this form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature over the seal. Recommendations will be held in confidence and will not be returned to students. Your candid evaluation of this student's ability and potential is appreciated. The deadline for scholarship entries is **4 p.m., August 7, 2026.**

This section to be completed by applicant

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Artistic Media/Discipline: _____

This section to be completed by teacher/artist

Name: _____ Phone: _____

1. Please briefly explain your relationship with the applicant including years known and in what capacity.

2. Please rate the applicant in the following areas by checkmark:

Demonstrates potential in the media/discipline identified above

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

Has a fundamental grasp of the media/discipline

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

Has exhibited a commitment to the study and practice of the media/discipline

____ Great ____ Moderate ____ Limited

3. Please use this space to comment on your experience with this student and your perception of their potential in their selected discipline.

Signature of teacher: _____ Date: _____

Signature of artist: _____ Date: _____

Cecil County Arts Council - Arts Scholarship 2026

Application Checklist

Please include with your application materials.

Make sure that your application package includes the following:

- _____ Completed Application
- _____ Required supporting materials
- _____ Official, sealed academic transcript
- _____ 2 signed, sealed, recommendation forms
- _____ Self-addressed, stamped envelope with postage for return of materials

All application materials must be USPS postmarked, hand-delivered or emailed by **4:00 p.m., August 7, 2026**. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted. Do not send materials other than those required. Additional items will not be included in the review process.

Mail completed application materials to:
Cecil County Arts Council
135 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
Attn: Arts Scholarship 2026

Email completed application materials to:
info@cecilarts.org