woodberry forest school Graham Kenan Endowment for the Arts



HISTORY

The Graham Kenan Endowment for the Arts, established through a gift from Thomas S. Kenan III '55, is intended to provide a permanent source of funding for students interested in the visual and performing arts, along with support for fine arts faculty and arts programming.

Mr. Kenan was inspired to establish this fund in honor of his great-aunt, Sarah Graham Kenan, a musician and passionate lifelong supporter of the arts. Mr. Kenan has the same passion and interest.

"Every boy should be exposed to the arts. The impact can last a lifetime," Mr. Kenan says. He recalls that in the '50s, Woodberry's arts offerings "were a mere foreshadowing of the vibrant programming our boys enjoy today. I am proud to play a role in making our arts programs even better."

ELIGIBILITY

Rising fourth, fifth, and sixth formers are eligible to receive a Kenan grant, though older students are given priority. Serious and talented students of visual art, music, or drama are invited to make proposals. Applicants should have a carefully considered idea in mind for pursuing this work along with a faculty advisor or sponsor who is willing to guide and collaborate.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Interested students should contact Julia Hixson to confirm interest. Proposals are due February 1. Members of the fine arts department can field questions and suggest ideas for summer work. Students will then ask a faculty member to work with them as a sponsor. The student and sponsor will collaborate on a proposal: 1) outlining the idea in detail, 2) describing why the student wishes to do this work and how it will benefit the community, and 3) suggesting a budget for the activity (arrived at in careful consultation with the sponsor). The proposal should be accompanied by a brief letter of recommendation from the faculty sponsor.

SELECTION

All proposals will be reviewed by a faculty selection committee. Students will be apprised of acceptance(s) in late February.

COMPLETION

At the end of their work and during the next academic year, Kenan summer scholars will share a substantial report on their work with faculty and students. When appropriate, the work should be exhibited or performed before an assembly of the full community.

NATE STEIN '24

Nate received support to learn about the casting and tuning process for a rare instrument, the carillon. Nate also visited several schools and churches throughout the summer to learn more about the carillon and take lessons with regional carillon experts.



WILLIS HE '21

Willis studied the art form of cyberpunk and how social perceptions of advanced technology and its perceived direction are influenced by cyberpunk. During his study, Willis compiled a photography portfolio of images consistent with these themes.