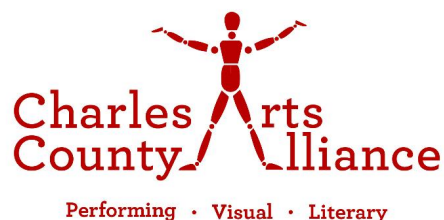


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Charles County Arts Alliance Awards Arts Scholarships

Four Students Receive \$1000 Awards

For over 15 years, the Charles County Arts Alliance has offered arts scholarships to one qualifying graduating senior from each Charles County public high school and a student from the College of Southern Maryland. These individual scholarships will help students continue their visual, performing and/or literary arts college education.

The scholarship recipients have each earned a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA). Each student's application included a detailed resume, a 500-word essay about his or her artistic and academic accomplishments and goals, letters of recommendation, and an official transcript of grades.

The Charles County Arts Alliance is proud to announce the recipients for this year's arts scholarship awards. They represent the highest level of artistic talent and academic achievement in Charles County schools. The 2015 scholarship recipients are as follows: Lauren Bodamer of North Point High School, Kimberly Boenig of Maurice J. McDonough High School, Ryan Burton of La Plata High School, and Heather Monaghan of the College of Southern Maryland.

Lauren Bodamer from North Point High School is a highly accomplished student. Her GPA was 4.437 on a weighted scale which included rigorous Honors and Advanced Placement courses. She was a member of the National Art Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society and was on the Principal's Honor Roll. In addition to her excellent academic record, she was a stellar athlete having played on the varsity girls' lacrosse, field hockey, and golf teams and earned recognition as a Scholar Athlete. The high school newspaper and local Sheriff's



Office have already benefitted from her graphic design skills. Volunteer activities included the Charles County Lacrosse Club, Skills USA fundraisers, and playing for and raising funds for the Southern Maryland Revolution Lacrosse.

Lauren Bodamer plans to pursue a degree in Art with a concentration in Graphic Design and Convergent Communication at Lynchburg College.



This year's recipient from Maurice J. McDonough High School is the truly deserving Kimberly Boenig. Her GPA stood at 4.00 on a weighted scale which included several rigorous Advanced Placement courses and the achievement of high academic honors. She participated in extensive extracurricular activities, including Chamber Choir, Advanced Women's Choir, All-County Honor Choir, Tri-County Honor Choir, and the All-State Mixed Choir.

As a member of the Drama Club, she served as its Treasurer, participated in several theater productions, and was recognized as an All-State Thespian. As a Girl Scout, she had extensive experiences which included being a camp counselor, participating in charity drives, and touring Europe.

Kimberly Boenig plans to pursue a double major in English and Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. After college, she plans pursue a career in publishing as a novelist.



Ryan Burton from La Plata High School is an outstanding student, artist, and athlete. His GPA was 3.50 on a weighted scale which included multiple advanced courses and excelling in Arts courses. He was a member of the National Art Honor Society, Student Government Association, and was the Senior Class President. His international experience included participation in the 2011 People to People Student Ambassador Program. He balanced his academic and artistic activities as the captain of the varsity soccer team and a member of the All County Soccer First Team. He joined a variety of community and volunteer activities, notably: the Key Club, Boy Scouts of America, the Special Olympics Winter and Spring Games, Vacations for Vets, and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Ryan Burton intends to earn a degree in Film and Video at the selective Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design at Drexel University.



Having shown a great passion for the arts and academics, Heather Monaghan is this year's recipient from the College of Southern Maryland (CSM). Overcoming several years of illness and medical issues, she rallied by applying herself to the visual arts. After enrolling in the Arts and Humanities program, she proceeded to prove herself as an excellent student by making the Dean's list in four successive semesters. Professor Andrew Wodzianski says, "Her dedication to art has been impressive in our short time together, and I'm confident her skill set will only expand further."

Heather Monaghan will transfer to Bowling Green State University to work toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Arts. With her strong work ethic and established academic and artistic skills honed at CSM, she will, in her words, "...continue to strive to be the best possible artist I can be."

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) was founded in 1987. Its mission is to promote the performing, visual and literary arts in Charles County. The CCAA is the official arts council of Charles County and is recognized as such by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency of the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) of the State of Maryland. In this capacity, the CCAA serves as the "umbrella" organization for the arts community in Charles County. The CCAA promotes Charles County arts organizations and individuals, provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and the schools through its annual arts grant programs, sponsors the creation and presentation of new, diverse cultural activities and special events for the community, provides arts scholarships, and ensures the Charles County's under-served population, people with disabilities, residents with limited income, minorities, and senior citizens have access to the arts. The CCAA builds partnerships with local government, the business community and the educational community, in an effort to enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens of Charles County.

For more information, contact the CCAA office at 301-392-5900 or info@charlescountyarts.org.

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