



2026 TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

- All scholarship applicants are required to complete the Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation Scholarship application. It is an easy to use, fillable form that can be saved.
- Once you have completed the TAA Foundation Scholarship application, you will find instructions below if you wish to apply for additional content specific scholarships.
- When finished, please email the completed application to taa@tnartsacademy.org along with any additional application materials. If you prefer to complete by hand, please do so legibly and mail (Tennessee Arts Academy, 801 2nd Avenue North, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37201), or scan and email (taa@tnartsacademy.org).

TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

GENDER: Male Female EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

SCHOOL WHERE YOU CURRENTLY TEACH: _____

PRINCIPAL'S NAME: _____ PRINCIPAL'S EMAIL: _____

THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED IN: East Tennessee Middle Tennessee West Tennessee

Not in Tennessee If not in Tennessee, city and state where you currently teach: _____

TYPE OF SCHOOL: Public Private Charter ASD Other

WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SCHOOL AS: Rural Urban Suburban Other

GRADE LEVELS YOU CURRENTLY TEACH:

(Choose the category that most closely aligns with your current teaching situation.)

K-2 K-5 K-8 5-8 9-12 K-12

TEACHING ASSIGNMENT OR DESIGNATION:

(Check all that apply.)

General Music Instrumental Music Vocal Music

Drama/Theatre Specialist Speech Teacher Dance Instructor

Visual Art Teacher Media Teacher Arts Integration Instructor

School Supervisor or Administrator District Level Supervisor or Administrator

Teaching Artist Pre-Service University Student University Faculty Retired

Other If other, please state: _____

YEARS TEACHING EXPERIENCE: 0 1 2 3-5 6-10 11-20 20-30 30+

NUMBER OF TIMES YOU HAVE ATTENDED THE TAA SUMMER INSTITUTE IN THE PAST:

0 1 2 3-4 5 or more times

MOST RECENT YEAR YOU ATTENDED THE TAA SUMMER INSTITUTE: _____

HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR SCHOOL SYSTEM / SCHOOL PRINCIPAL / SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR FUNDING SUPPORT?
(TAA scholarships are for those whose schools / systems cannot help with funding.)

YES NO

HAVE YOU CONTACTED OTHER SOURCES?

(These sources might include PTA/PTO, local businesses/banks, community/civic groups, e.g. Rotary Club, Lions Club, etc.)

YES NO

IF YES TO EITHER OF THE TWO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS, WHO HAVE YOU CONTACTED?

AMOUNT YOU ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON YOUR OWN FOR REGISTRATION: \$ _____

AMOUNT COMING FROM YOUR SCHOOL OR YOUR SYSTEM: \$ _____

AMOUNT COMING FROM OTHER SOURCES: \$ _____

AMOUNT YOU ARE REQUESTING FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION: \$ _____

(The registration fee for in-state K-12 educators is \$489. Scholarship awards are based on need.)

HAVE YOU HAD A TAA SCHOLARSHIP BEFORE? YES NO

IF YES TO THE ABOVE, WHEN? _____

HOW MUCH WAS THE AMOUNT YOU RECEIVED: \$ _____

HOW MUCH DID YOU OR OTHER SOURCES PROVIDE: \$ _____

WILL YOU NEED ON-CAMPUS HOUSING? YES NO

(Housing scholarships are limited to a private sleeping room in an MTSU dorm. Participants may request scholarship assistance only for on-campus housing option #1 (private room with a shared community bathroom) which is a maximum request of \$175. Scholarship awards are based on need.)

AMOUNT YOU ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON YOUR OWN FOR HOUSING: \$ _____

IN THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW, PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF WHY YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE 2026 TAA SUMMER INSTITUTE. BE SURE TO INCLUDE WHY YOU NEED FUNDING SUPPORT.

Eligibility: All TAA applicants are eligible based on need for the Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation Scholarship.

Number of Scholarships Available: Numerous scholarships will be awarded until the TAAF Scholarship Fund is depleted.

Scholarship Benefits: Scholarships vary and may include partial TAA tuition or full TAA tuition (\$489), and/or partial or full on-campus housing costs (up to \$175).

Award Period Information: The eligibility period for scholarship submission shall be through June 1 or until funds are depleted. A committee will choose the recipients and will base their decision on the scholarship application materials, merit and need. Scholarships shall be awarded no later than June 15th.

PLEASE NOTE: The TAAF Scholarship Committee meets on a regular basis. You will be notified when the committee has reached a decision regarding your scholarship request. Not all scholarship requests are honored and not all are fully funded.

TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE

I warrant the truthfulness of the information I provided in this application, both for the above general information and for any information I may provide below in connection with the specialized scholarship applications.

Electronic Signature

Please Type Your First And Last Name

FIRST NAME:

LAST NAME:

Acceptance Checkbox

I understand that checking here constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the Terms Of Acceptance stated throughout all of the scholarship documents as stated on this form. I further certify that all of my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information in any part of this application may result in forfeit of the scholarship(s).

If you are only applying for the Tennessee Arts Academy Foundation Scholarship, then you are finished.

Please read over your information, save this document and then submit it to taa@tnartsacademy.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE (Please Read):

If you also wish to apply for one of the additional three specialized scholarships offered by TAA, you may do so by completing the additional information requested below. Applying for one of the three specialized scholarships will not impact your chances to receive a TAAF Scholarship; however, please note you will only be selected for one of the specialized scholarships or the TAAF Scholarship (whichever is the larger).

If you are interested in applying for one of these ADDITIONAL scholarships (you may only apply for ONE additional scholarship), please check which one of the three you would like to submit for consideration and then proceed to complete the additional required information for that scholarship. The three specialized scholarships are:

- COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CMA) FOUNDATIONMUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
- THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE (TRW) THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP
- DOROTHY M. GILLESPIE TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY VISUAL ART SCHOLARSHIP

On the following pages, please locate the scholarship for which you wish to apply, complete the requested additional information, save this form, and submit the entire application (including any other requested information) to taa@tnartsacademy.org.

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CMA) FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Donor: This scholarship is provided to the Tennessee Arts Academy through the generosity of the Country Music Foundation (CMA) Foundation and will be annually awarded to numerous music teachers to attend the upcoming TAA Summer Institute on the Middle Tennessee State University campus in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (or virtually if the need arises).

Eligibility: CMA Foundation scholarship funding will be awarded to full-time K-12 music educators. Consideration will be given to all applicants. Special consideration will be given to applicants who 1) are first time Summer Institute attendees; and 2) can show need. The committee values those applicants who are able to provide some funding support on their own — from their school or school system and/or from other sources (PTA/PTO, local businesses/banks, community/civic groups, etc.) — in order to help stretch the available scholarship funds; however, matching money is not a requirement of this scholarship. All requests, from supplemental assistance to a full scholarship, will be given equal consideration.

Number of Scholarships Available: The scholarship fund currently has \$2,500 available. Numerous scholarships will be awarded until the fund is depleted.

Scholarship Benefits: Scholarships vary and may include partial TAA Summer Institute tuition, full TAA Summer Institute tuition (\$489), and/or partial or full on-campus housing costs.

Award Period Information: The eligibility period for scholarship submission ends on May 1 or until funds are depleted. A committee will choose the recipients and will base their decision on the scholarship application materials, merit and need. The scholarship shall be awarded no later than June 1st.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CMA) FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

1. PLEASE LET US KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOURSELF: YOUR TEACHING BACKGROUND, THE MUSIC YOU ENJOY, AND THE PROGRAM AND STUDENTS YOU TEACH. (OPTIONAL: PLEASE INCLUDE ANY HONORS YOU, YOUR STUDENTS, AND/OR YOUR PROGRAM HAVE RECEIVED.)

Once you have completed the required CMA question and the general question section at the top of the application, you are finished. Please read over your information, save this document and then submit it to taa@tnartsacademy.org.

THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE (TRW) THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP

Donor: This scholarship is provided to the Tennessee Arts Academy through the generosity the Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) and is annually awarded to two theatre teachers to attend the upcoming Tennessee Arts Academy on the Middle Tennessee State University campus in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (or virtually if the need arises).

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) Scholarship, candidates:

- Must be a Theatre Arts teacher and/or Theatre Director in a public, private or charter school (K-12th).
- Must confirm you plan to teach theatre in a public, private or charter school (K-12th) setting the year commencing the TAA Summer Institute.
- Must submit a 100-word essay describing how attending the TAA Summer Institute will benefit your musical theatre program at your school.
- May submit awards and/or honors received to date.

Number of Scholarships Available: Two Full Scholarships with On-Campus Housing (as needed)

Scholarship Benefits: Full TAA Summer Institute tuition (\$489). For those winners who live outside of the Greater Murfreesboro area, the scholarship will also include (as needed): on-campus housing and a \$150 stipend for travel and meals not provided during the TAA Summer Institute week.

Award Period Information: The eligibility period for scholarship submission ends March 27. A committee will choose the recipients and will base their decision on the scholarship application materials, merit and need. The scholarships shall be awarded no later than April 17, 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE TAA FOUNDATION THEATRE SCHOLARSHIP

PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU FULFILL THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION:

- ✓ You are a Theatre Arts teacher and/or Theatre Director in a public, private or charter school (K-12)
- ✓ You plan to teach theatre in a public, private, or charter school for the 2026-2027 school year

YES, I FULFILL THE ABOVE CRITERIA AND AM THEREFORE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

1. PLEASE LIST ANYTHING RELEVANT ABOUT YOUR CURRENT TEACHING ENVIRONMENT (CLASSROOM TEACHER, ARTS SPECIALIST, FLOAT BETWEEN SCHOOLS, ETC.):

2. PLEASE LIST ANY TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS YOU HAVE EARNED:

3. PLEASE LIST ANY TEACHING, COMMUNITY AND/OR ARTS AWARDS AND HONORS YOU HAVE RECEIVED:

4. DO YOU HAVE ANY FINANCIAL OR SPECIAL NEEDS FACTORS THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER? IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

5. IF SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP, I AGREE TO ALLOW MY NAME AND/OR IMAGE TO BE USED IN RELATION WITH ALL MEDIA RELEASES INVOLVING THIS AWARD:

YES

NO

6. IF SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP, I AGREE TO COMPLETE A SIMPLE SURVEY AND/OR A BRIEF INTERVIEW FOR THE TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY, ONCE THE 2026 ACADEMY HAS CONCLUDED:

YES

NO

7. PLEASE DESCRIBE (IN 100 A WORD ESSAY) HOW ATTENDING THE ACADEMY WILL BENEFIT YOUR MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL:

Once you have completed the required TRW questions and the general question section at the top of the application, you are finished. Please read over your information, save this document and then submit it to taa@tnartsacademy.org.

DOROTHY M. GILLESPIE TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY VISUAL ART SCHOLARSHIP

Donor Information: This scholarship is provided to the Tennessee Arts Academy through the generosity of the Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation and will be annually awarded to one female visual art teacher to attend the upcoming Tennessee Arts Academy on the Middle Tennessee State University campus in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (or virtually if the need arises).

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for the Dorothy M. Gillespie Tennessee Arts Academy Visual Art Scholarship candidates must:

- Be a female, visual art teacher in a public, private, or charter school (K-12)
- Have no more than 5 years teaching experience
- Be a first time Tennessee Arts Academy attendee
- Plan to teach visual art in a public, private, or charter school for the 2026-2027 school year

Number of Scholarships Available: Minimum of One (more if funds are available)

Scholarship Benefits: Full TAA Summer Institute tuition (\$489). For those winners who live outside of the Greater Murfreesboro area, the scholarship will also include (as needed): on-campus semi-private housing, travel money, and a \$150 stipend to cover those meals not provided during the TAA Summer Institute week.

Award Period Information: The eligibility period for scholarship submission ends on March 27. A committee will choose the recipient and will base their decision on the scholarship application materials, merit and need. The scholarship shall be awarded no later than April 17, 2026.

About Dorothy M. Gillespie: Dorothy M. Gillespie (1920–2012) was an American painter and sculptor who enjoyed an artistic career spanning more than seventy years. Born in Roanoke, Virginia, Gillespie studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art and the Art Students League in New York City. During her lifetime, she created, exhibited, and sold her artwork nationally and internationally. Early in her career and during her time in New York City, Gillespie contributed to the women’s art movement through her work. Gillespie was well known as a painter, sculptor, and installation artist. Her work encompassed many significant twentieth-century trends in art, including abstract expressionism, decorative abstraction, site-specific installations, the women’s movement, and art in public spaces. She pioneered joyful new directions for metal sculpture and is best known for her large-scale, colorfully painted arrangements of cut aluminum strips that radiate, undulate, or curl like giant arrangements of ribbon, enchanted towers, or bursting fireworks. Her work can be found all over the country in both public and private spaces. In 1997, Gillespie was a celebrity muser at the Tennessee Arts Academy. In 2017, a retrospective exhibition of her work was mounted and displayed during the Arts Academy in Belmont University’s Leu Art Gallery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR DOROTHY GILLESPIE SCHOLARSHIP

PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU FULFILL THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION:

- ✓ You are a female
- ✓ You are a visual art teacher in a public, private, or charter school (K-12)
- ✓ You have no more than 5 years teaching experience
- ✓ You are a first time Tennessee Arts Academy Summer Institute attendee
- ✓ You plan to teach visual art in a public, private, or charter school for the 2026-2027 school year

YES, I FULFILL THE ABOVE CRITERIA AND AM THEREFORE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

(Continued . . .)

1. PLEASE LIST ANYTHING RELEVANT ABOUT YOUR CURRENT TEACHING ENVIRONMENT (CLASSROOM TEACHER, ARTS SPECIALIST, FLOAT BETWEEN SCHOOLS, ETC.):

2. DO YOU HAVE STATE LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION AS AN ART TEACHER?

YES

NO

3. WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU NEED AND/OR DESERVE THE DOROTHY M. GILLESPIE TENNESSEE ARTS ACADEMY VISUAL ART SCHOLARSHIP?

4. PLEASE LIST ANY TEACHING, COMMUNITY AND/OR ARTS AWARDS AND HONORS YOU HAVE RECEIVED:

5. IF YOU HAVE FINANCIAL OR SPECIAL NEEDS FACTORS THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER, PLEASE DESCRIBE:

6. DO YOU HAVE OTHER ARTISTIC PURSUITS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM? PLEASE DESCRIBE:

7. IF SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP, I AGREE TO ALLOW MY NAME AND IMAGE TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH ALL MEDIA RELEASES INVOLVING THIS AWARD. I ALSO AGREE TO ANY FOLLOW-UP PAPERWORK AND INTERVIEWS AS REQUIRED, ONCE THE TAA SUMMER INSTITUTE HAS CONCLUDED.

YES

NO

(Continued . . .)

8. PLEASE PROVIDE A RESEARCH STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF DOROTHY M. GILLESPIE THAT DESCRIBES HOW YOU FEEL DOROTHY'S WORK AS A PAINTER, SCULPTOR, EDUCATOR, MENTOR, FEMINIST, ETC. MAY EMBODY YOUR OWN WORK AS A TEACHER, ARTIST OR MEMBER OF YOUR OWN COMMUNITY:

(Continued . . .)

9. PLEASE COPY AND PASTE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL, SUPERVISOR OR OTHER TEACHING ASSOCIATE INTO THE BOX BELOW. MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THEIR TITLE, AND EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE MAY CONTACT THEM IF NEEDED.

Once you have completed the required Dorothy M. Gillespie questions and the general question section at the top of the application, you are finished. Please read over your information, save this document and then submit it to taa@tnartsacademy.org.