



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Laurel Arts League Announces 2026 Scholarship Applications Now Open

**Deadline: April 3, 2026**

**Laurel, Miss.** — The Laurel Arts League is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the **2026 Mandy Buchanan Creative Arts Scholarship Program**, a competitive scholarship designed to recognize and encourage artistic excellence among local high school seniors.

The Mandy Buchanan Creative Arts Scholarship is open to graduating seniors who attend school in or reside in Laurel or Jones County, including students from public, private and homeschool programs. While applicants are not required to pursue a college major in the visual or performing arts, all applicants must demonstrate artistic talent through the submission of an original work portfolio and letters of recommendation.

This scholarship honors the life and legacy of Mandy Buchanan, a beloved artist and arts educator who also served as a dedicated member of the Laurel Arts League. She is remembered fondly for her passion that enriched the Jones County community, inspired students to explore their creativity and helped develop confidence in their artistic abilities.

“Mandy’s years as an educator at Laurel High School and Jones College allowed her to shape and encourage countless young artists,” said Hope Staples, president of the Laurel Arts League. “Through this scholarship, we celebrate her enduring influence while encouraging students to continue sharing their talents at this formative stage in their academic and creative journeys.”

Applicants may submit original work in a wide range of artistic disciplines. Visual art submissions may include, but are not limited to, drawings, paintings, design work, ceramics, printmaking and photography. Students applying in the performing arts—including dance, voice, instrumental and acting—are encouraged to apply. Detailed submission requirements for both visual and performance-based work are outlined in the scholarship application packet available on the Laurel Arts League website at <https://laurelartsleague.com/scholarships>.

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, and all submitted work must be original in concept and execution. Completed application materials must be submitted via email to [artsleaguescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:artsleaguescholarship@gmail.com) no later than **Friday, April 3, 2026**.

Through programs like the Mandy Buchanan Creative Arts Scholarship, the Laurel Arts League remains committed to fostering creativity, supporting arts education, and investing in the next generation of artists. The League encourages all eligible students to apply and to share their creative voices—strengthening the vibrant arts community that continues to thrive in Laurel and Jones County.

**About the Laurel Arts League:**

Founded in 1969, the mission of the Laurel Arts League is to support and celebrate the visual and performing arts through public education and events in Jones County. The Laurel Arts League is a non-profit organization and maintains 501(c)(3) status. More information about events, sponsorship opportunities, and ways to get involved can be found at the website: <https://laurelartsleague.com>.

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