KOHLER FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

2027 RUTH DEYOUNG KOHLER SCHOLARSHIP FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Scholarship Overview

The Ruth DeYoung Kohler (RDK) Scholarship for Artistic Excellence recognizes exceptional young artists who demonstrate outstanding talent, creativity, dedication, and potential in their chosen artistic disciplines. Scholarship awards of up to $150,000 are available to support recipients as they pursue post-secondary education and careers in the arts.

Graduating seniors from Sheboygan County high schools, as well as homeschooled students residing in Sheboygan County, who intend to pursue a career in the arts are encouraged to apply.

Kohler Foundation welcomes applications from students working in a wide range of artistic disciplines, including performing arts, visual arts, film and video, photography, and creative writing. Selection is based primarily on the quality of artistic work submitted. Academic achievement and test scores are secondary considerations.

A portfolio is required as part of the application process. Because portfolio quality is essential to a fair evaluation, Kohler Foundation offers video recording assistance at no cost to students whose submissions require video documentation.

Application Instructions

Applicants must submit all required materials electronically through the Kohler Foundation scholarship portal at: kohlerfoundation.org/scholarships

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicants should be prepared to submit:

- Student Information Form
- High School Transcript
- Portfolio Materials
- Two Letters of Recommendation:
    - One from a teacher, counselor, or principal
    - One from a coach, advisor, employer, community leader, mentor, or other adult familiar with the applicant's artistic abilities and character

KOHLER FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application Submission

All application materials must be submitted by February 18, 2027.

2. Portfolio Review

The Kohler Foundation Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications and artistic portfolios.

3. Finalist Interviews

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in an in-person interview and discussion of their work. Applicants may bring recent additions to their portfolio that were not included in their original submission.

4. Award Notification

Award recipients will be communicated through the student's school counselor, designated school representative, or homeschool educator. Scholarship awards are traditionally presented during school scholarship ceremonies and remain confidential until that time.

Questions regarding the Ruth DeYoung Kohler Scholarship for Artistic Excellence may be directed to Eva Stokes, Program Manager at eva.stokes@kohler.com

KOHLER FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

PERFORMING ARTS

Evaluation Criteria
The Scholarship Committee evaluates applicants based on artistic ability, technical proficiency, creative expression, and potential for future achievement.

Instrumental Music
Evaluation may include tone quality and production, technical proficiency, rhythm and accuracy, intonation, musical interpretation, phrasing and expression, and original composition when applicable
Applicants are encouraged to select repertoire that demonstrates range, artistry, and musical maturity.

Voice and Theatre
Evaluation may include vocal quality and technique, diction and communication, interpretation and expression, stage presence, flexibility and versatility, character development, and command of material
Applicants should select contrasting works that showcase both technical skill and artistic range.

Dance and Movement
Evaluation may include technical proficiency, musicality, interpretation, performance quality, artistic expression and overall presentation

Required Materials
Applicants must submit:

- A video portfolio not exceeding eight (8) minutes total
- Multiple selections demonstrating a range of artistic abilities and performance styles is recommended
- High-quality video recordings that clearly showcase performance skills

Videos may be submitted through the online scholarship portal.

Video recording assistance is available through Kohler Foundation at no charge. Applicants are encouraged to utilize this service to ensure their work is presented at its highest quality. To request recording assistance, contact Eva Stokes, Program Manager at eva.stokes@kohler.com

Applicants must also submit a document listing the following information for each performance included in the portfolio:

- Title of work
- Composer, playwright, choreographer, or artist
- Length of performance

KOHLER FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

VISUAL ARTS

Evaluation Criteria
The Scholarship Committee evaluates artistic work based on:

Visual Arts and Photography
Evaluation may include originality and creativity, artistic skill and technical execution, personal artistic voice, visual storytelling and emotional impact, commitment to artistic growth and willingness to explore new ideas and take creative risks
Strong portfolios communicate a unique perspective and demonstrate both skill and artistic curiosity.

Film and Video
Evaluation may include artistic vision, storytelling ability, technical production quality, creative use of visual media, communication of ideas and emotions, and originality and risk-taking

Required Materials: Visual Arts and Photography
Applicants must submit digital images of their work through the scholarship portal.
Requirements:

- Maximum of 8 portfolio submissions
- Work should represent the applicant's strongest original artistic work
- Images should be high-quality and professionally presented
- Files should be clearly labeled using the applicant's last name and artwork title or number

Applicants must also submit a document listing the following information for each submission in the portfolio:

- Title of work
- Date completed
- Medium
- Dimensions, if applicable

Required Materials: Film and Video
Applicants should submit:

- A minimum of two works is recommended
- Individual video samples should not exceed four (4) minutes
- Files must be submitted electronically through the scholarship portal or as directed by the Foundation

Applicants must also submit a document listing the following information for each submission in the portfolio:

- Title of work
- Date completed
- Running time

KOHLER FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

CREATIVE WRITING

Evaluation Criteria
The Scholarship Committee evaluates submissions based on:

- Originality and creativity
- Quality of language and style
- Imagination and insight
- Strength of voice
- Command of the chosen form
- Organization and clarity
- Emotional or intellectual impact
- Potential for future artistic achievement

Strong submissions demonstrate both technical skill and a distinctive personal perspective.

Required Materials
Applicants may submit a portfolio containing one or more of the following:

Poetry
Up to six (6) poems

Short Fiction
Up to three (3) short stories or excerpts

Novel
An excerpt accompanied by a brief description of the larger work

Play or Screenplay
Up to two (2) scripts or excerpts

Expository or Creative Nonfiction
Up to three (3) essays

Submission Guidelines

- All materials must be submitted electronically through the scholarship portal.
- The applicant's name should appear in the upper-right corner of each page.
- Total portfolio length may not exceed 20 pages.
- All prose submissions should be double-spaced.
- Poetry may be single-spaced as appropriate to the form.
- Use a readable 12-point font (sans serif preferred)