



**Arts Scholars 2016-2017 Mission**  
**First Draft, December 16, 2013**  
**Michael Rasbury, Director**  
**University of Virginia**

The Miller Arts Scholars Program is an interdisciplinary collective of active artists supported by grants and a creative community that serves to embolden their art. It is an interdisciplinary arts program comprised of student researchers, creators, interpreters, collaborators and advocates actively engaged in the arts and beyond within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia.

The collective vision for the Miller Arts Scholars Program, forged through several years of conversations between students, faculty, administrators, and fundraisers, has produced a tangible foundational structure. This document outlines a structure we hope will attract and entice students to embed themselves in the arts at the University of Virginia. Our hope is the College will seek additional financial support, possibly as much as a matching gift, so we may consider a future layer of enhancement that will enable members to regularly travel in groups to witness art, support in bringing recognized artists to the University, and enhanced monetary support for award proposals, and mini-grants.

This structure is arranged and budgeted to support all levels of Arts Scholars in their academic artistic pursuits. Research support amounts are determined with an objective to keep a majority of participants engaged throughout their entire undergraduate experience. The design of the program benefits students through enriched discussions and experiences during the first year of participation and promises greater support for larger projects during the third and fourth years. As long as core requirements are met, each student should feel confident in applying for support during their third and fourth years regardless of their chosen field of study. Students fully committed to this program will receive as evidence of completion what we hope to be the coveted designation of "Miller Arts Scholar" on transcripts and diplomas. Measurable outcomes toward receiving the designation of "Miller Arts Scholar" will include formal presentations of scholarly research at an annual Arts Scholars Awards Outcomes Event before the public.

The following bullet points are the fundamental aspects of the Miller Arts Scholars Program as it has actively developed over the past several years combined with ideas gathered from the program's current collaborators. Our current Miller Arts Scholars play key roles in this development and should forever be remembered for their dedication in the face of potentially not receiving the same benefits future participants are likely to receive.

**Arts Scholars Selection**

- The Miller Arts Scholars program will include 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> year students. Students may either apply to Miller Arts Scholars in late February during their first or second year of study, or be nominated by an arts faculty. Each cycle of Miller Arts Scholars will include approximately fourteen students of different numbers from Studio Art, Drama, Music, and Dance. Therefore, in each three-year cycle, there will be a maximum of forty-two students in the program. An appointed Faculty Advisory Committee will select Miller Arts Scholars from submitted applications each spring. This structure fully deploys our endowment's recurring capital to a continual, fixed amount of students. During the third and fourth years of each cycle, those few students who cannot complete the program's requirements will result in yearly budgetary

savings. We are not likely to replace students who cannot complete the program especially during the fourth year and possibly the third.

### **Arts Scholars Director**

The Miller Arts Scholars will be overseen and led by the Director.

- The Director will be responsible for coordinating evaluations and recruiting of prospective, rising second and third-year Arts Scholars with the Departments of Music, Art, and Drama (including the minor program in Dance.)
- The Director will serve as lower-division advisor for those participants not already assigned to a major-specific advisor.
- The Director will organize and lead CASS 1010, Arts Scholars Seminar, each fall.
- The Director will oversee CASS 1011, Arts Scholars Discussion, each spring and will supervise an elected student official in leading discussion meetings.
- The Director will maintain oversight and be responsible for all required assessment, reporting, and budgeting for Miller Arts Scholars.
- The Director will attend outcome presentations and/or performances resulting from Miller Arts Scholars funding of student projects when possible.
- The Director will chair a faculty advisory committee of Directors of Undergraduate Programs or appointed faculty members from Music, Dance, Drama, and Studio Art.
- The Director will facilitate the award process for eligible participants between their third and fourth years of study.
- The Director will oversee an elected student committee of Miller Arts Scholars student leaders who will regularly advise the Director of student activity within the program.
- The Director will maintain publicity for the program and website.
- The Director will report directly to the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- The Director will serve three-year terms and receive a negotiated summer stipend and research account each year.

### **Student Advisory Committee**

The participants of the program will elect a Miller Arts Scholars Student Advisory Committee. Students may serve no more than two consecutive academic years in these positions. This committee will meet a minimum of twice per semester outside of scheduled meetings.

Responsibilities will include:

- Planning
- Outreach
- This committee will report twice per semester to the director on the status of student activity.
- Attendance to outcome presentations by fellow third and fourth year Miller Arts Scholars

The Student Committee shall consist of:

- Arts Scholars President
  - Lead Discussion Seminars
  - Delegate Tasks
  - Be in contact with Miller Arts Scholars Director
  - Coordinate with other Student Committee members
  - Be easily accessible to all Arts Scholars and the UVA community
- Secretary
  - Notates all discussions and meetings within and outside of seminar
  - Helps manage correspondence between President and Chairs
- Marketing Chair

- Continually update social media. They will also maintain credentials of these sites.
- Maintain a record of events through various media (photographs, audio, video etc.)
- Spread knowledge about the Arts Scholars Program around grounds and in community
- Design and create posters for events
- Collect and preserve all recorded material for future generations of Arts Scholars
- Artistic oversight of event advertisements
- Arts Scholars Social Chair(s)
  - Plan and organize educational trips, social gatherings, retreats etc.
  - Foster a sense of community within the group – especially among first-years
  - Seek and organize volunteer opportunities for Arts Scholars as a whole
- Arts Scholars Area Representatives (one for drama, studio art, music, and dance)
  - Establish strong relationships with professors and faculty within area of study
  - Will remind artists in their disciplines to add their status as a Miller Arts Scholars in credits for arts events on grounds.
  - Update the calendar with events occurring within each department
  - Help connect new Arts Scholars with appropriate faculty members and opportunities within each department

In May 2013, our Miller Arts Scholars held elections and the following positions/students were identified as our first Student Committee:

- President: Elena Dimitri, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Dance
- Vice President: Olivia Bona, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Music (Eliminated this position in 2015)
- Historians: Ava Lonergan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Studio Art; Keith Wilson 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Music (Merged into Marketing Chair title in 2015)
- Social Chairs: Gabrielle Jehle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Dance; Henry Peltz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Studio Art (Merged into Marketing Chair title in 2015)
- Dance Rep: Rebecca Galt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Dance
- Drama Rep: Alex Rafala, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Drama
- Studio Art Rep: Julia Pedrick, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Studio Art
- Music Rep: Rachel Mink, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Music

In May 2014, our Miller Arts Scholars held elections and the following positions/students were identified as our second Student Committee:

- President: Cameron Mankin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Studio Art
- Vice President: Natalie May, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Music (Eliminated this position in 2015)
- Publicity/Marketing Chair: Erica Ruth, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, Studio Art (Merged into Marketing Chair title in 2015)
- Blogger: Margaret Via, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Studio Art (One-time appointment)
- Secretary: Inez Lieber. 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Studio Art
- Social Chairs: Olivia Bona, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, Music, and Elena Dimitri, (4<sup>th</sup> Year, Dance)
- Visual Art Rep: Julia Pedrick, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, Studio Art
- Drama Rep: Alex Rafala, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, Drama
- Music Rep: George Schwartz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Music
- Dance Rep: Becky Galt, 4<sup>th</sup> Year, Dance

In May 2015, our Miller Arts Scholars held elections and the following positions/students were identified as our third Student Committee:

- President - Michael Giovinco
- Marketing - Elena Anderson

- Social - Rachel Mink
- Dance Rep - Elyssa Fonicello
- Drama Rep - Tim Lewis
- Music Rep - Brigid McDonald
- Visual Art Rep - Susan Xie

In May 2016, our Miller Arts Scholars held elections and the following positions/students were identified as our third Student Committee:

- President: Aspen Miller
- Social Chair: Gabrielle Struckell
- Marketing Co-Chairs (Will later split into Marketing and Social Media): Kingston Liu and Susan Xie
- Drama Representative: Micah Watson
- Studio Art Representative: Emma Lewis
- Music Representative: Wesley Diener
- Dance Representative: Vivien Fergusson

### **Faculty Advisory Committee**

An Arts Scholars Faculty Advisory Committee will consist of the Director of Undergraduate Programs or an appointed, dedicated faculty member from Music, Studio Art, Drama, and Dance. This committee will work in tandem with the Director and Student Committee and will report directly to the Associate Dean for the Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences.

- This committee will serve as an advisory committee to the director and each member will report back to their respective chair and to their colleagues in departmental faculty meetings on matters regarding this program.
- This committee will select new Miller Arts Scholars from faculty nominations and student applications during the spring semester.
- This committee will be responsible for adjudicating grant proposals from rising third and fourth-year Miller Arts Scholars during the spring semester.
- The members of this committee will serve as departmental contacts/advisors to Miller Arts Scholars selected by their department.
- These committee members will attend key CASS 1010 Fall meetings as their presence is vital to first-year students seeking connection to the department and faculty responsible for identifying them as Miller Arts Scholars.
- Each committee member will schedule a welcome meeting in the early fall for students identified as Miller Arts Scholars by their department.
- Each member will attend outcome presentations of projects funded by Miller Arts Scholars.
- Members will receive a research account to use at their discretion for service to the committee.

### **Arts Scholars Requirements and Awards**

Participants of the Miller Arts Scholars program are expected to meet certain requirements during their first year of participation to be eligible for third and fourth-year research support. During their first year of Miller Arts Scholars participation, students must attend our fall seminar meetings, [College Art Scholars Seminar \(CASS 1010\)](#). Participants are also expected to attend our spring discussion meetings, [Miller Arts Scholars Discussion \(CASS 1011\)](#). After that, participants are expected to attend one seminar or discussion course each academic year. Our scholars should prove measurable engagement with the arts at the University and within their discipline throughout their academic career. Scholars will attend outcome presentations/performances by fellow third and fourth-year Miller Arts Scholars. Additionally, students are required to enroll in a minimum of four, credit-bearing art courses within their respective

nominating department between their second and fourth year of study. A minimum GPA of 3.4 in all arts classes and a minimum of 3.2 for the University will be maintained.

### **First Year of Participation**

- Participants will familiarize themselves with the guidelines as listed in this document.
- Students will receive priority enrollment and reserved seats in most cases for necessary Arts courses.
- Students will provide a headshot and short bio for inclusion on our website.
- Students will attend CASS 1010 during the fall and CASS 1011 during the spring.
- Students will be engaged with the Arts at the University and within their discipline.
- Students will attend yearly outcome presentations/performances by fellow Miller Arts Scholars.
- A minimum GPA of 3.4 will be maintained in discipline specific classes.
- A minimum GPA of 3.2 will be maintained in all university classes.
- List Miller Arts Scholars in all Arts related University bios.
- Students will immediately have access to our Artist Minigrant Program.
- Students will provide a year-end report to the director outlining progress and participation in the arts.

Students maintaining good standing are encouraged to continue participation during remaining academic years through applying for [rising-third year, Arts Scholars Arts Awards](#) to support research for arts related projects. These projects may be single research projects or collaborations and should be conservative in scope compared to possible [fourth-year Arts Scholars Awards](#). Formal written proposals are required to apply for this support. All projects require identification of a discipline specific faculty advisor. Projects will be selected by our faculty advisory committee (MASFAC) during the spring semester and students will complete work through summer, fall, and the following spring semester. The outcomes of these projects will be presented approximately one academic year later before the public. Those receiving awards will have both their original written proposal and outcome report, complete with examples and/or links to media published at <http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/artsscholars/currentawards.html>.

### **Remaining Academic Years**

- The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is required to continue attending CASS 1010 and CASS 1011. Other students are required to enroll in either CASS 1010 or CASS 1011 once per academic year until graduation.
- Students will continue to have access to the Artist Minigrant Program
- Students will update website headshot and bios.
- A minimum GPA of 3.4 will be maintained in discipline specific classes.
- A minimum GPA of 3.2 will be maintained in all university classes.
- List Miller Arts Scholars in all Arts related University bios.
- Participants meeting first-year of participation may apply as a rising 3<sup>rd</sup> year or rising 4<sup>th</sup> year during the spring semester for an Arts Scholars Arts Award to support research for arts related project. A maximum of 14, third-year students and 14, fourth-year projects will receive research support.
  - These projects may be single research projects or collaborations.
  - Rising third-year proposals should be conservative in scope compared to possible fourth-year Arts Scholars proposals.
  - No single rising third-year project will be awarded more than \$1500.00. No single rising fourth-year project will be awarded more than \$3000.00.
  - Formal written proposals meeting universal standards for grant writing will be required

- to apply for this support.
- All projects require a faculty advisor recommendation from the discipline related to the scope of request, as part of the application process. Faculty mentors will read and recommend proposals and then support the execution of funded proposals. Each will be identified as a “Miller Arts Scholar Mentor” for dedicated participation and will receive research funds for providing their assistance with funded proposals. This way, a community of faculty Miller Arts Scholars mentors will develop and the pool of resources will expand for our students.
  - The outcomes of these scholarly research projects in the arts will be shared with the public and at an outcome presentation in April during the following academic year.
  - Written outcome reports, complete with examples and/or links to media will be required and published at <http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/artsscholars/currentawards.html>.

Most J. Sanford Miller Family Arts Scholars choose to major in the Arts although the program encourages multidisciplinary study. Regardless of the major ultimately chosen, students involved with our program will always be part of the Arts Scholar community.

**We are seeking approval for “Miller Arts Scholars” designations on transcripts for those students meeting all requirements. Our Faculty Advisory Committee (MASFAC) will grant the designation on a case-by-case basis.**