



**SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS & CRITERIA:**

All applications must be complete and emailed by April 4, 2025 to be considered. All scholarship monies must be used towards school expenses. A combined total of \$30,000 may be awarded.

Confirm you qualify for a scholarship by checking the box adjacent. You may select multiple scholarships:

**AIA Rochester and Rochester Architecture Foundation (RAF) Sponsored Scholarships**

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- Applicant must be a resident of any of the seven (7) counties, or member-firm areas served by AIA Rochester.
- Applicants must be accepted and enrolled in an architecture college program for the Fall 2025 academic term. Preference will be given to students in a NAAB accredited degree program.
- Emphasis for consideration is based upon the student’s written response, which should address the primary reasons driving the decision to enter the profession, and indicate what sparks a sense of passion and dedication to improving the built environment. Additional emphasis will be placed upon the applicant’s contributions to the community via civic, academic, social, and leadership activities, as well as the strength of the letter(s) of reference.

**Myron Starks Memorial Scholarship**

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- Applicant must be a resident of any of the seven (7) counties, or member-firm areas served by AIA Rochester.
- Applicants must be accepted and enrolled in an architecture college program for the Fall 2025 academic term.

**Rochester Architecture Foundation’s Urban Scholar Award**

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- Applicant must be a resident of the City of Rochester and be a graduating senior of a high school located within the City of Rochester.
- Applicants must be accepted and enrolled in one of the following for the fall of 2025:
  - An architecture college program
  - A college program in a field related to architecture, including civil engineering, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, plumbing & fire protection engineering, urban planning, landscape architecture, construction management, and interior design.
  - OR a technical construction trade program
- Applicants must provide total cost of the program they are attending in the fall of 2025 and identify other grants/awards already received.

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**ABOUT AIA Rochester & RAF:**

**Rochester Chapter, American Institute of Architects (AIA Rochester)**

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is the largest, most influential design organization in the world—a community of 98,000+ architects and design professionals who share a passion for design, a desire to change the world, and a commitment to the highest standards of practice. We provide architects and design professionals with the community, advocacy, knowledge, and support needed to drive positive change and achieve a zero-carbon, resilient, healthy, just, and equitable built environment, for everyone.

**Rochester Architecture Foundation (RAF)**

The Rochester Architecture Foundation supports initiatives that uniquely contribute to improving our region’s quality of life. The Foundation fosters awareness of architecture and its impact on the Rochester community. We achieve this by funding outreach projects that promote the contributions of students, professionals, and quality design. Our key areas of focus are education, arts and culture, and design.

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**APPLICATION DIRECTIONS:**

- Please keep a copy of your completed application for your records.
- All material must be legible to be considered.
- Save all items in PDF format.
- Combine the Application, Applicant Statement, Student Experience Page or Resume, Acceptance Letter, and financial information (if required) in (1) PDF
- Recommendation Letter(s) and Transcripts may be emailed directly from referrers/school officials to the email provided below.
- Assemble and email the application to the email address provided below according to the following instructions.
- All signatures may be digital.

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**APPLICANT CHECKLIST:****PDF #1**

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Application (signed by applicant and high school counselor), Applicant Statement (double spaced and typed), Resume if including in lieu of the tables on pages 5 and 6, College Acceptance Letter (or trade program acceptance letter for the Urban Scholar Award), and financial information (if applying for the Urban Scholar Award)

**PDF #2**

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Letter(s) of Reference (sent directly from referrer in separate email)

**PDF #3**

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Certified Transcript (sent directly from school official in separate email) along with page 4 of this application. Have your Guidance Counselor include a listing of your courses for the Fall and Spring of the 12th grade, a description of the curriculum, and grading system used. Also, clearly indicate on the transcript “honors” or “advanced placement” courses with test scores and any courses completed from a college or university curriculum for which high school credit is earned.

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**EMAIL THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

Executive Director Michelle Murnane at [mmurnane@aiaroc.org](mailto:mmurnane@aiaroc.org)  
Subject Line: 2025 AIA Rochester Scholarship Application – HIGH SCHOOL  
Please include the name of the applicant in the email body

All applications must be received by April 4, 2025

Application questions can be submitted to [mmurnane@aiaroc.org](mailto:mmurnane@aiaroc.org) by March 28, 2025 and will be answered in a timely manner.

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**NOTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS:**

Scholarship recipients will be notified through the contact information provided no later than May 2, 2025.

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**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Counselor  
or Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

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**COLLEGE/TRADE SCHOOL INFORMATION:**

Please submit a copy of the acceptance letter for the college or trades program you will be attending in the fall.

Name of school(s) and/or  
program(s) applied to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Program  
Attending in Fall 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the school NAAB accredited:  Yes  No  Under consideration

Web address of program: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Program Dean or  
Trade School Director  
and Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If applying for the Rochester Architecture Foundation's Urban Scholar Award, complete the information below:

Cost of program attending  
(separately list room and board, if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

List all grants/awards  
(monetary value) received  
to date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPLICANT STATEMENT:**

Prepare a DOUBLE-SPACED, TYPEWRITTEN essay (Arial 11 font) of approximately 500 words.

- If applying to an architecture program, write on the topic of “Why I Chose Architecture.”
  - Clearly describe how you became interested in architecture, your motivation for pursuing architecture as a career, your hopeful future in architecture, as well as how you believe the program you will be attending will help you reach your goals in architecture.
- If applying for the Rochester Architecture Foundation’s Urban Scholar Award please provide a written response to the following prompt:
  - “Describe how your chosen education/career path relates to and reinforces the mission of the Rochester Architecture Foundation. If awarded, what impact will this scholarship have for you?”

Summarize with a brief paragraph indicating why you should be selected to receive a scholarship. Place the title of your essay and your name, right-hand justified, at the top of your essay.

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**LETTER OF REFERENCE:**

Provide one or more original letter(s) from a guidance counselor, teacher, mentor, employer, supervisor, or some other person that has been involved with your architecture and/or related experiences. This person may not be a relative or guardian. Letter(s) should be written to the attention of “2025 AIA Rochester Scholarship Committee” and emailed from the referrer directly to Executive Director Michelle Murnane at [mmurnane@aiaroc.org](mailto:mmurnane@aiaroc.org).

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**ACADEMIC INFORMATION:**

Please complete the following section. Instruct your school official or guidance counselor to submit this page and an official transcript via email directly to Executive Director Michelle Murnane at [mmurnane@aiaroc.org](mailto:mmurnane@aiaroc.org).

Name of Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor’s Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor’s Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_ (calculated from your transcript)

Transcript: Certified with explanation of grading system and curriculum and signed or e-signed by counselor or principal.

**STUDENT EXPERIENCE:**

(may attach current resume in substitute of this page.)

**NON-SCHOOL COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES**

Month/Year to Month/Year (most recent first)	Activity (note whether volunteer based)	Leadership/ Most Significant Contribution	Annual Participation (Y/N or Total Hours)
to			
to			
to			

**WORK EXPERIENCE OR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Month/Year to Month/Year (most recent first)	Activity or Place of Employment (note whether volunteer based)	Supervisor (if applicable)	Duties	Weeks worked & avg. hours/week
to				
to				
to				

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**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

May or may not be academically related. (May attach current resume in substitute of this section)

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Name of Award</b>	<b>Reason for Receipt</b>

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**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE or E-SIGNATURE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(by signing above, you agree that all information provided is accurate and complete)

**END OF APPLICATION**