



For The Creative and Performing Arts 2026 Application

Virginia Budge Committee Members:

Bridget Eaton Ossmann: Founder

Sarah Kimble: Co-Founder

Bekka Eaton: Artistic Director

Ex Officio Members

Armarantha Elysion-Llewellyn

Greg Ossmann

Josh Kimble

www.virginiabudgeaward.com

\$1,000 Award

Mission Statement

The Virginia Budge Award exists to create, promote, develop, sponsor, sustain, facilitate, and further the Arts within Butler County, Ohio. For the mission of the Committee, the term “Arts” shall be defined and literally construed to include the making or doing of things that have form and beauty, and to encompass all forms of Arts including the Arts of music, painting, sculpture, dance, theater, film, opera, ballet, and any other of the performing Arts requiring and exhibiting an exceptional level of creativity, skill or talent.



2026

2026 AWARD: \$1,000.00

Applicant MUST:

1. Be a student 12 years of age or older
2. Reside, take classes/workshops or be enrolled as a student in a Butler County, Ohio school, college, or university.

Applicant package must include:

1. Responses to the four (4) provided **essay questions**
2. One (1) **Recommendation letter** from a current teacher/instructor in applicant's field of Fine or Performing Arts.
3. A **Short** biography
4. Finalists will be asked to **present examples of their work or perform** for the Committee at an in-person interview/audition.
5. Candidates chosen for an interview/audition will be **contacted via email**.
6. Interviews/auditions **date and time is TBA** and will be included in the above email.

How to submit you application:

1. Mail-in submissions are no longer accepted.
2. Compile all the above forms and documents.
3. Send your application to virginiabudgetaward@gmail.com.
4. Your recommendation letter must be sent directly from you teacher/instructor. They can send their letter directly to virginiabudgetaward@gmail.com. Make sure they add your name to the subject line. Example: Smith_VBA Application_26
5. **PDF format only.**
6. Applications must be submitted until 11:59pm ET, **APRIL 4th, 2026.**
7. **NO LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.**



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✓ **CHECK LIST FOR APPLICANTS:**

_____ Student Application including completion of (4) Essay Questions

_____ Recommendation Complete (1) Teacher/Instructor ***IN*** Field of Study

_____ Proof of enrollment in Butler County, Ohio; school, college, university, class, workshops

_____ **Short Biography**



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Student Application

Special Needs Applicants Check here _____ See page 7 for accommodations.

PLEASE PRINT

Contact Information:

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ M.I. _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ ST _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE # (____) _____ CELL PHONE# (____) _____

BIRTH DATE ____ / ____ / ____ E-MAIL _____

AGE _____ FINE ARTS INTEREST _____

Preferred Contact Method (i.e. email, phone...) _____

Education:

Are you in high school? _____ If so, where? _____

Are you in college/university? _____ If so, where? _____

Full time _____ Part time _____ Not Attending _____ If you are not currently attending, please give a brief explanation of your circumstances _____

What degree are you seeking? _____

What formal classes, workshops and/or specialized training have you had in your art form?

Example: 1) type of class 2)length of study 3)name of teacher

_____ Date attended _____

_____ Date attended _____

_____ Date attended _____

Have you received any awards or special recognition for your work and accomplishments in your artform?

Example: 1) Name of award 2)Year 3)From what organization?

_____ Year received _____

_____ Year received _____

_____ Year received _____

Please list any work or volunteer activities you have participated in involving your artform. Where? What? When?



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ESSAY QUESTIONS (4) (Attach additional pages if needed)

Essay Question#1:

What are your career plans, aspirations, life goals? How will you integrate and use your artistic skills, education, and talents in your future?

Essay Question #2:

Please describe how your artistic activities benefit your community.

Example: Suppose you had spent time teaching disabled children how to draw or play the flute. How would this benefit your community?

Essay Question #3:

If you were to receive this award, how would you use it to further your growth in your artform? Past examples: 1) To attend a workshop or conference 2) To buy art supplies 3) Toward getting a better saxophone

Essay Question #4

When you look back on the study and practice of your artform thus far in your life, who has been the biggest and most pronounced influence on your work? Give a brief explanation of why this person is so important to your development – as an artist and/or a person.



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Proof of Attendance:

ATTENTION: COUNSELOR or REGISTRAR:

_____ has applied for a 2026 Virginia Budge Award offered by the Virginia Budge Award Committee. To process the application for consideration, we will need a copy of his/her **CURRENT PROOF of ATTENDANCE. ALL FURNISHED INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.** The Committee would be grateful for a prompt response to facilitate our selection.

This information must be returned to the applicant in order for it to be submitted by **APRIL 4th, 2026.** Please include the applicant's name, your name and title. **PDF** format only.

Thank you for your assistance.

Bridget Ossmann



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Student Award Recommendation Form

Current/Former Teacher/Instructor in Applicant's Field of Fine Arts

_____ has applied for an award to further his/her interest in the Field of Fine Arts. Your recommendation will be considered in evaluating the applicant's credentials. Please furnish us with YOUR personal and professional opinion on the candidate's merit. Thank you for your assistance.

Please include the applicant's name and your name and title in **PDF** format only to:

virginiabudgeaward@gmail.com

Application deadline is **APRIL 4th, 2026** for the applicant to be considered, therefore we would gratefully appreciate a prompt reply.

Thank you for your assistance.

Bridget Ossmann

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



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Special Needs Application Accommodations

_____ The **RECORD of ATTENDANCE** can be in the form of a letter from any Butler County special needs school, college, university, program, organization or online school.

OR

_____ A letter from the applicant's instructor/doctor.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MEDICAL INFORMATION.

_____ Questions can be answered in any one of the following formats:

_____ **Scribed** by another individual

Please include the name of the scribe and
his/her relationship to the applicant

_____ **Video Recording**

Please send video as an attachment to the following
email address: virginiabudgeaward@gmail.com

_____ **Audio Recording**

Please send audio recording as an attachment to the
following email address:

virginiabudgeaward@gmail.com