

PUGLIA TRAVEL AWARD

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Established in 2014, the **John M. Puglia Endowed New York City Travel Fund for Art Students** is intended to provide full or partial support for students in the Mary Schiller Myers School of Art at The University of Akron to travel to New York City during the school's annual spring trips.

The fund honors the memory of the late John M. Puglia, a 1988 graduate of The University of Akron who died of cancer at age 48 in 2013. The fund seeks to inspire students' passion for art and New York City, just as John was inspired when he traveled to New York City as part of a student trip led by UA Art Professor Don Harvey.

John Puglia was well known in the region for his own art and his collaborations with other artists through the magazines, gallery spaces, and often elaborate events that he created. He was especially prolific in the last year of his life, with two gallery shows of new work in Akron.

Throughout his adult life, John Puglia balanced his creative ambitions with a successful professional career. He worked for 19 years at Roadway Express (later YRC), rising to the position of Director of Corporate Communications. His many accomplishments include the creation of a Roadway-sponsored traveling Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and launching one of the first successful corporate websites. His Roadway site is now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum. From 2009 until his death, John Puglia was Creative Director for WhiteSpace Creative in Akron.

John Puglia was the founder of the Millworks Galleries, which opened in 1990 in the formerly abandoned B.F. Goodrich factory space. His work, often focused on Akron themes, was exhibited at Millworks, We Gallery, and Square Records, among other venues.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible for the Puglia New York City Travel Fund are undergraduate students who:

- are confirmed applicants to the NYC bus trip by signing up in the front office and filling out the waiver and student emergency contact form.
- pay the \$50 deposit and the \$10 student art league membership fee by February 18th.
- have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.8
- are enrolled in at least 6 credits of ART:XXX coursework in the semester of travel; and
- are enrolled full-time in the semester of travel.

Funding is not available for:

- part-time students
- any student not in good standing with the Office of Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards; or
- applications that are incomplete or submitted after the **deadline**.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

All complete, eligible applications received before the deadline will be considered by the Puglia Grant Review Board. The evaluation rubric used to facilitate discussion of the applications within the Board is included in these guidelines.

APPLICATION

Application materials should be submitted to the Manager of Student Affairs by **Friday, noon, the third week of Spring Semester**. Submit a PDF of the following materials via email to the Manager of Student Affairs. Your PDF must be titled **LastName_FirstName_Puglia_Year.pdf**. No materials will be accepted if submitted in hard copy.

1. Cover sheet

The requisite cover sheet must be completely and accurately filled out; reformatted cover sheets are not permitted. If you need assistance determining your GPA or earned credit hours, please consult the Manager of Student Affairs.

The cover sheet can be found on the last page of these guidelines.

2. Letter of Interest

This should be a clear and concise document, no longer than one page in length (250 words), in which you explain how you expect to benefit as an artist/designer/historian/educator from travel to New York City. Be as detailed and specific as possible so that the committee understands how you will benefit from the learning experience.

DEADLINE

Application materials should be submitted to the Manager of Student Affairs by

Friday, noon, the third week of Spring Semester

A single PDF of the above materials should be emailed to the Manager of Student Affairs, Sofia Calderwood, sofia@uakron.edu. The PDF must be titled **LastName_FirstName_Puglia_Year.pdf**.

No materials will be accepted if submitted in hard copy.

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their Puglia New York City Travel Fund application. Recipients of the Puglia Fund will also be announced at the Myers School of Art Awards Ceremony at the end of the spring semester.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

If selected to receive an award, **you are obligated to:**

- **Thank the Puglia family.** This can take the form of a traditional thank you letter or it can be a more creative expression of your gratitude; either way, it will be presented to the family in person at the Spring Awards Ceremony and must be reviewed in advance by the Manager of Student Affairs. Failure to complete your thank you will result in forfeiture of the grant.
- **Give back to the school** by participating in school-sponsored events. Events can include high school visits, Portfolio Days, speaking to an Arts Orientation class about your award, and other events. Your participation will be coordinated by the Manager of Student Affairs, and by accepting this grant, you agree to participate in at least one event over the next two semesters.

QUESTIONS

Any questions about the **Puglia Endowed New York City Travel Fund** guidelines or application process should be directed to the Spring 2025 Committee Co-Chairs, Robert Kelemen and Brittyn Murdock..

**PUGLIA ENDOWED NEW YORK CITY TRAVEL FUND
COVER PAGE**

**Please complete this form by typing the required information and checking the boxes.
Print, sign, scan, and place it as the first page of your PDF application.**

Name: _____

Home phone: (____) ____-____ Mobile phone: (____) ____-____

Student ID #: _____ Major: _____

Minor/s (if any): _____

UA e-mail address (not your personal email): _____

Status as determined by earned credit hours: Senior Junior

ART GPA (7100) ART classes: _____ Cumulative GPA (all UA classes):

Total earned credits in the Myers School of Art (7100 courses): _____

Number of Myers School of Art credits (7100/ART courses) in current semester:

Anticipated Graduation Date/Term: _____

MYERS SCHOOL OF ART AWARDS & GRANTS DISCLOSURE

Have you previously received an award or grant through the Myers School of Art?

Yes No

If yes, list all including dates awarded, and their status (complete or in-progress):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Authorization for the Release of Information: By signing this form, you grant the Myers School of Art permission to consult with offices and units on campus as needed to administer this scholarship, including the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Office of Student Financial Aid.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOON, THE THIRD WEEK OF SPRING SEMESTER.

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON.