



CONNECTICUT ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

A Program With A *Mission*: Assistance For Future Architects

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The Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF), established in 1978, continues to encourage public understanding and community involvement in the design and construction processes of our built environment. Through the leadership of the members of the CAF board of directors, multiple pathways serve to achieve this including grants, publications, videos, presentations and lectures, gala events, exhibitions, and various education/profession related programs. In particular, the scholarship program serves as the heart of CAF's mission, providing financial assistance to college students pursuing an architectural education.

Well over \$500,000 in scholarships have been awarded to student recipients from two memorial funds, the Charles DuBose Memorial Scholarship and the Suzanne Sheng Memorial Scholarship, and from the proceeds of the annual CAF Distinguished Leadership Award Gala (a collaboration with the University of Hartford's Department of Architecture), fundraising efforts, and sponsors. Last year, CAF announced the birth of the Allan Dehar Memorial Scholarship Fund focusing on assisting students in architectural programs at Connecticut Community Colleges with distribution planned for 2022.

Each year, the scholarship program involves a sequence of steps as administered by the scholarship committee consisting of Kermit

Thompson, FAIA Emeritus; Tanya Cutolo, AIA; and George Fellner, AIA. Initially, colleges are contacted with announcements about the scholarship program. Prospective applicants must have a Connecticut connection through residence, education or work. The required application material includes the application form, letter describing goals and accomplishments, resume, financial aid form, and an exemplary project. In addition, two letters of reference need to be submitted.

The application submissions are forwarded to CAF, checked for completeness, and the final group of submissions are then ready for review. The scholarship committee along with a few members of the CAF board of directors form the annual review/selection jury. Each member of this jury then independently reviews the application material from each candidate. This year's jury consisted of Kermit Thompson, FAIA Emeritus; Tanya Cutolo, AIA; John Franzen, FAIA; Ilona Prosol, PE; Randy Anway, AIA; and George Fellner, AIA. There were 19 application submissions for review. The scholarship application review/selection meeting involves the jury's coordinated effort to review each one and to share dialogue. Due to the present pandemic period, this meeting has been handled virtually in 2020 and



2021. In turn, each member of the jury uses their criteria to assess the submitted information and to determine a score. Once the total values are tallied, the selected recipients are identified, along with deciding upon the memorial scholarship allocations. There were eight recipients this year, awarded \$5,000 each.

It is certainly a rewarding experience to review the submitted material and to select the award recipients for these important scholarships. In a sense, the CAF scholarship program helps to perpetuate the ongoing development for sustaining future generations of architects. Next month's Architype will announce the 2021 recipients along with a presentation of their backgrounds, projects, and aspirations.