

IIDA Mid–America Chapter Scholarship

2026 chapter awards application

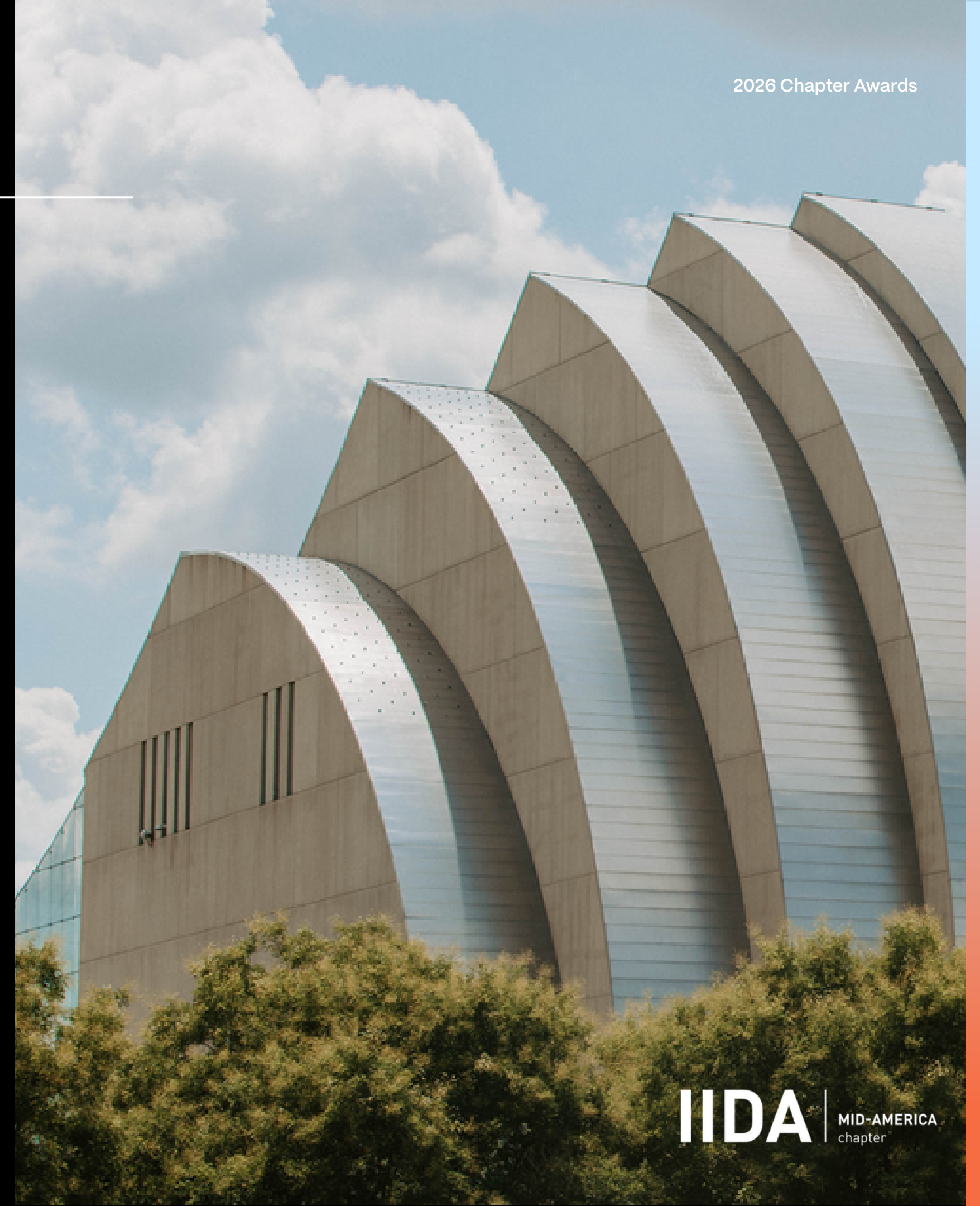
Our vision

Every year, the Mid-America chapter spends quality time reflecting on our goals as a board. In 2024, these discussions shone a light on a desire to invest meaningfully in our design community. Through our generous sponsors and engaged membership, our chapter had enough funds to achieve our yearly programming with excess. As a board, we chose to spend the money on a valuable part of our membership: students.

Mid-America's four campus centers and six active campuses form a rich talent pool that grows into our cities' emerging designers. We found it only fitting to create a program that could support these students during their education while preparing them to grow into professionals.

The Mid-America Chapter Scholarship was born from this idea; the program provides a direct way to make an impact on a future interior designer.

2026 Chapter Awards



Vision to reality

A key element in our decision to create a scholarship is our proximity to the Kansas City Architectural Foundation. “Since being founded in 1984, KCAF has awarded more than 170 architectural scholarships amounting to over \$400,000 granted to students from the metropolitan area... KCAF is a charitable corporation (501 (c) 3).”

This valuable and established resource provided us a way to host our scholarship while sharing it with students beyond our typical platforms. Additionally, it strengthened our relationship with other industry organizations with whom we work with frequently through our involvement with the Center for Architecture and Design.

Once we began conversations with KCAF, we learned that through an endowment we could create a scholarship that would be awarded annually alongside all other foundation donors’ awards.

2026 Chapter Awards



Taking action

2026 Chapter Awards

With the support of KCAF and our accumulated excess sponsorship dollars, IIDA Mid-America was able to **fully endow an annual scholarship in a single investment.**

Through our donation, KCAF would award our inaugural scholarship in August of 2025. The IIDA Mid-America Chapter Scholarship would become the **first and only KCAF scholarship dedicated to solely supporting interior design students.**

While there had been opportunities for interior design students to qualify for scholarships from KCAF, they were also open to other design disciplines or open only to women. IIDAMA felt strongly that our scholarship addressed **an opportunity gap in scholarships for interior design students.**

Timeline

2026 Chapter Awards

January 2024

Board allocates excess funding to invest back into the chapter. Brainstorming for this investment begins.

Spring 2024

Conversations with KCAF begin; an opportunity gap for interior design specific scholarship is identified.

Summer 2024

IIDAMA completes the **full endowment investment of \$38,000.**

Fall 2024

KCAF begins administration process for the IIDAMA scholarship. Management fees, application process, and awards ceremony timeline are presented to IIDAMA.

The completed scholarship endowment is announced to the membership at large at the 2024 member luncheon.

Winter 2024

IIDAMA officially forms the Scholarship Management Committee to create an application, marketing materials, and review applications.

February 2025

The scholarship application goes live on February 10th, 2025.

Student members in good standing, who are enrolled in full time degrees pursuing a bachelor or master's in ID or IA, and have completed at least 3 years of school are eligible.

IIDAMA shares our scholarship via newsletter, KCAF channels, social media, university design expos, and campus center contacts.

April 2025

The first annual scholarship recipient is selected from 8 applicants. IIDAMA awards Sammie Skinner, 3rd year Interior Design Student at Kansas State University, a total of \$1,500.

January 2025

The Scholarship Management Committee (Past-President, President, VP of Campus Relations, VP of Advocacy, & VP of Communications) share application requirements with the board for review.

August 2025

Sammie Skinner attends the 2025 KCAF scholarship reception to receive her award in Kansas City.

Megan Blackledge, past IIDAMA president and current KCAF president presents the award.

Reception

Left: IIDA member and KCAF board member Abby Steinlage
Center: Scholarship recipient, Sammie Skinner
Right: IIDAMA and KCAF past president, Megan Blackledge



Alongside the recipients of the other KCAF awards, Sammie Skinner was recognized for her achievement.

The IIDA Mid-America Chapter Scholarship received exposure amongst all reception attendees and across all participant's social medias.

We are proud to be acting on our goal to be pillars in our community and empower emerging talent to succeed. Our endowment will continue this goal for years to come.

Sammie Skinner Featured Work



With the help of IIDA Mid America, Sammie was able to complete her 4th year of her degree with support.

She has shared the following work with our board to summarize her creative endeavors for the year.



Financial overview

Endowment Investment \$38,000

The initial investment allowed IIDAMA to use excess funds in a way that would continue to support interior design students in our community for years to come. Future boards would only be responsible for future management fees.

Management Fees \$500

Through our involvement with KCAF, our management fees covered advertising the scholarship, the awards ceremony with all other donors, and management of investment dollars.

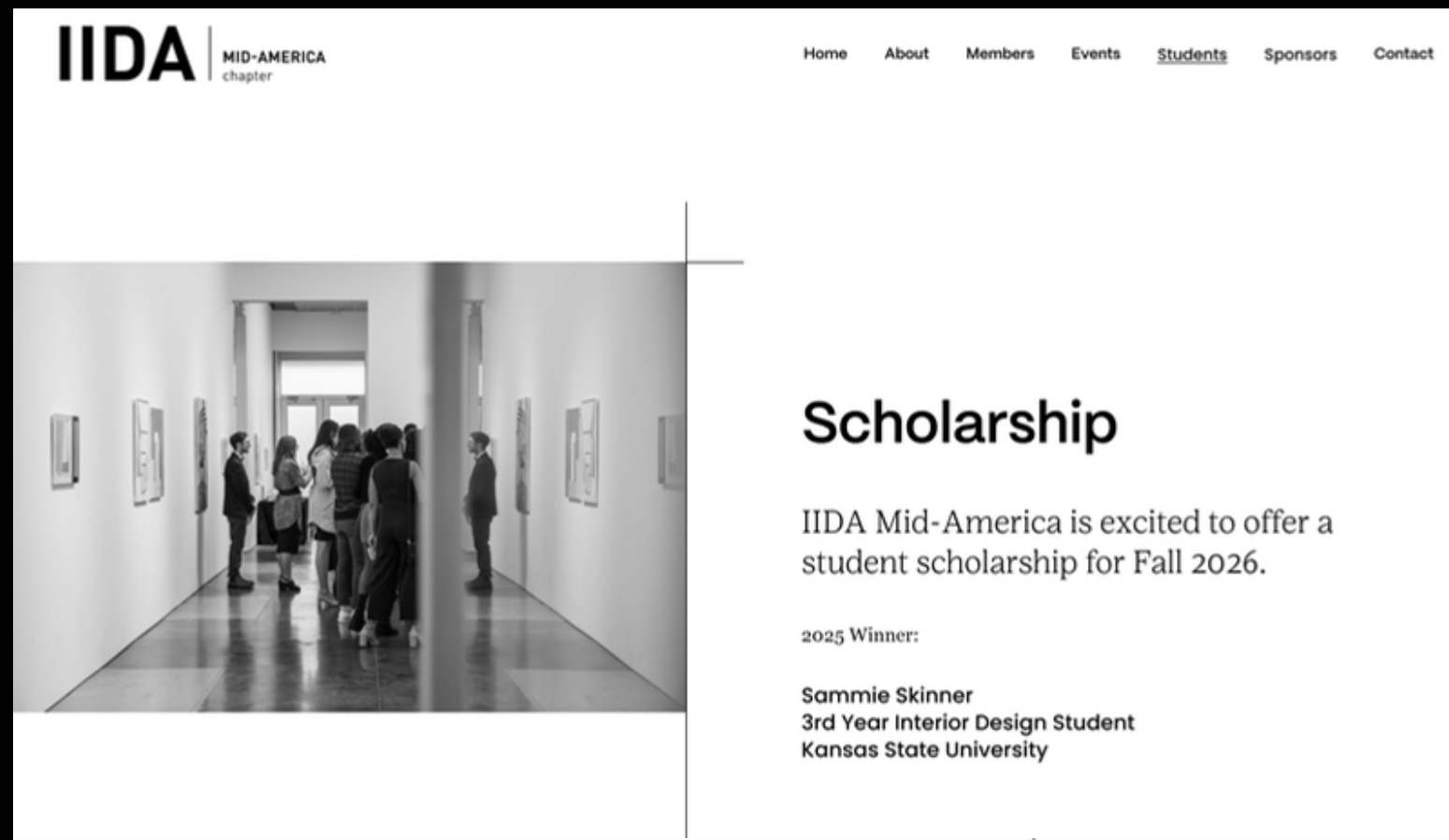
2025 Award \$1,500

Due to market volatility in 2025, our funds were held by KCAF rather than being invested up front. Our endowed dollars have been investment to award for 2026, but our chapter fronted a sum for our first award in the amount of \$1,500.



Using Our Resources

2026 Chapter Awards



Application Open Below!

A screenshot of the "Application" form. The title "Application" is at the top left. Below it is a paragraph: "Please fill out the application below in order to be considered for the IIDA Mid-America Chapter Scholarship. You must utilize our Template for Work Examples which you can access at the link below. Once opened in Adobe, click on the edit tab to populate the fields." followed by a link "Work Examples Template". On the right side, there are several input fields: "Applicant's Name" (split into "First Name (required)" and "Last Name (required)"), "Applicant's Email (required)", "Applicant's Phone Number (required)", "IIDA Student Member Number (required)", "Applicant's Preferred Mailing Address (required)", "Country" (a dropdown menu with "United States" selected), and "Address Line 1 (required)".

We were able to keep our scholarship management fees low thanks to the use of our 2025 Catalyst Grant Award.

As IIDAMA completed a brand and website refresh, we asked our hired designers (Hello Big Idea) to include an easy-to-use and visually appealing application tab on our website.

This page is easy for our communications team to edit and update yearly as we follow the KCAF awards schedule.

Looking Forward

IIDAMA is thrilled that our endowed scholarship will continue to support emerging designers in our region for years to come.

With the support of chapter sponsors, active leaders in our community (KCAF), and headquarters (through the Catalyst Grant for our website), we were able to create a meaningful and sustainable program for our chapter.

As the IIDAMA board shifts to new leadership in the future, board members can continue to award emerging designers with scholarship funds with the groundwork laid in 2025.

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thank you!