Chicago Women in Architecture [CWA] is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization that exists as a forum for women in Architecture and related professions. CWA is excited to announce its second scholarship recognizing strong women architecture students in their final year of study for academic achievements and a strong portfolio. The Scholarship is awarded at the annual Spring Brunch event held in April each year.

Eligibility

Applicants must be female architecture students scheduled to graduate in the 2026-2027 Academic Year (December 2026, January 2027, May/June 2027, August 2027) with a M. Arch or a five-year B.Arch Degree from a NAAB Accredited Architecture Program from the following schools. There is no limit of student submission per school.

Eligible Institutions

Illinois Institute of Technology
Judson University
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Ball State University
University of Notre Dame
Indiana University

Schedule

Registration Opens	October 27th, 2026
Submission Deadline	February 1st 2027
Winner Announcement	CWA Spring Brunch* - April 2027, date TBD

**Winners are expected to keep this date open in order to accept the award*

Jury

Applications will be reviewed by a jury including CWA Executive Committee members, officers from the CWAF Board of Directors, and other recognized architecture practitioners.

Awards

The Roula Scholarship will be awarded to one recipient, who will receive the unrestricted $5,000 award, a one-year membership to CWA and two tickets to attend the CWA Spring Brunch. The winner's credentials will be featured on the CWA website.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Registration Number
The registration form is available on the Scholarship section of the CWA website www.cwarch.org. There is no fee to register. Please submit this form before the submission deadline in order to receive your application number (ID#).

Submission requirements
Please read the following information carefully as it contains important information. The following digital materials are required from each candidate:

A. Registration Form: to be filled out online at Registration form
B. Digital Portfolio of Completed Work:
    a. This should be one digital document, no larger than 10 MB
    b. This material should bear no graphic that would identify the Applicant such as names, university logos, etc. Provide the ID# in the lower right-hand corner of each page of the portfolio.
    c. If work done with others is included, please note that the work presented must be substantially that of the Applicant. A Group Work Memorandum must be submitted from each of the team members.
        i. This form can be found on our website. If digital signatures contain a certificate, the applicant can submit the memorandum directly. If this is the case, please submit these forms as ONE pdf named #ID_XXX_GWM.pdf where XXX is the numeric ID you receive from CWA.
        ii. If not, the memorandum must be sent via email to scholarship@cwa.org by the teammate, with the name #ID_XXX_GWM_TM.pdf where where XXX is the numeric ID you receive from CWA and TM is the name of the teammate.
    d. The portfolio file should be named #ID_XXX_Portfolio.pdf where XXX is the numeric ID you receive from CWA.
    e. Submitted online, using the Google Drive folder link that will be sent to you by scholarship@cwa.org.
C. Key Image
    a. The applicant should choose and submit one Key image that they feel captures the essence of their portfolio, whether that be a rendering of a project, a photo of a model, a diagram or anything else the applicant prefers as their key image. This should be submitted separately from the portfolio but in the applicants submission folder. Please keep this key image under 10 MB. Submitted online, using the Google Drive folder link that will be sent to you by scholarship@cwa.org.
D. Resume
    a. (1-page limit) to be included as a part of the final submission with #ID at the top of the resume in place of the Applicant's name should not be included. Submitted online, using the Google Drive folder link that will be sent to you by scholarship@cwa.org.

    Please include the following:
    - Education:
        - Name of accredited university currently attending
        - Degree
        - GPA
        - Anticipated graduation date
    - Extracurricular Activities: Memberships and affiliations, public service, volunteer experience
    - Recognition: Honors and awards
    - Work Experience (if applicable)

E. Student Transcripts
   a. Transcripts are required for all degrees completed.
   b. Two options are acceptable:
      i. Official transcripts:
         1. These should be submitted online by the student as a single pdf file or sent directly from the school to scholarship@cwarch.org.
         2. Official transcripts must have a digital certificate indicating that it originated from the school.
      ii. Unofficial transcripts AND a letter of attestation (found on the CWA website) from the Dean or chair of the Department or School of Architecture
         1. The Dean of the Department or School of Architecture should send these documents as a single pdf directly to scholarship@cwarch.org with the ID# of the Applicant on the email subject line.
         2. If you have transcripts from multiple institutions, please have the relevant Deans sign and send these documents.
         3. Attestations should come before relevant transcripts in the pdf and should have the ID# in the lower right-hand corner.
   c. If transcripts are written in a foreign language and an English translation is available, please include it.
   d. The file should be named #ID_XXX_Transcript.pdf where XXX is the numeric ID you receive from CWA. If you have more than one transcript, please add a number after the word Transcript to differentiate them.

F. Two (2) Personal Letters of Recommendation (1-page limit)
   a. These letters should speak to the Applicant's leadership within the community and within architecture. They should be written by individuals who can provide insight into the applicant's character, leadership, and community
   b. involvement. They may include professors, religious leaders, community organization staff, current or previous employers, or other members of the community – family members excluded.
   c. Academic letters of recommendation should specifically address the student's scholastic and leadership performance and should specify the program and expected graduation date of the Applicant.
   d. These letters of recommendation should be named #ID_XXX_LOR_RN.pdf where XXX is the numeric ID you receive from CWA and RN is the name of the recommender.

Letters of Recommendation:

1. All letters of recommendation should be emailed to scholarship@cwarch.org with the ID# of the Applicant on the email subject line. The contents of the letters do not need to be anonymized. All digital forms of letters of recommendation must originate directly from the institution or company of the recommender and should be PDFs.

- *In the event that there is no access to internet or email, it is allowed to have the letter of recommendation mailed directly to the address below. The letter should be in a sealed envelope with the #ID on the exterior and should be mailed to the following address, postmarked no later than 02/01/2027.*

2027 CWA Roula Alakiotou Scholarship Submission Guidelines

To be addressed to:
Rachel Schulz
Perkins Eastman
The Rookery, 209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60604 | US

Submission Process

- Fill out the Registration Form on the CWA website to receive the ID number.
    - You will receive an ID number and link to upload your documents via email within 3 business days. If you have not received information after this time, please email us to ensure that your application was received.
- Each project submission should be comprised of the following pdf files:
    - Digital Portfolio
    - Key Image
    - Resume
    - Transcripts (if official transcripts are submitted directly by the Applicant)
    - Group Work Memorandums (if required)
- Unofficial transcripts and Letters of Attestation or Official school-submitted transcripts should be sent directly to scholarship@cwarch.org, using the conventions above.
- Recommenders should submit their letters directly to scholarship@cwarch.org, using the conventions above.

Submissions
Upload submission via the online link on or before 02/01/2027

Questions?
Please submit questions to scholarship@cwarch.org. For updates please visit our website www.cwarch.org or follow us on Instagram @chiwomenarchitecture and on LinkedIn.