The Sam McLaughlin Scholarship for the Arts was established by the family of the late William “Sam” McLaughlin III. This scholarship is to honor Sam’s lifelong commitment to and passion for the arts.

William “Sam” McLaughlin (1962-2018) was born April 7, 1962 in Parkersburg, West Virginia, but soon relocated to Fairmont, West Virginia. Sam graduated from Fairmont Senior High School in 1980 and went on to attend Shepherd University, where he would receive a bachelors degree in graphic design. After completing his post-secondary education, Sam returned to the Fairmont area where he lived until his passing. Sam cared deeply for his family, his friends, his dogs, and of course the arts. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and tending to his garden. Sam was also a very talented painter, and had quite an affinity for works of art. He painted beautiful portraits of both people and animals. Above all else, Sam enjoyed spending time with his family, whom he loved very much.

Eligibility Guidelines
Recipients must be graduates of Fairmont Senior High School. The student must be pursuing post-secondary education in fine arts and must demonstrate financial need. This is a non-renewable scholarship, you must reapply during the next scholarship cycle if you wish to be considered for funding again. Recipients are eligible to reapply for a period of up to 4 years, provided they continue to meet the eligibility requirements and are in good academic standing.

To apply, please visit www.ycfwv.org/scholarships.

How Can I Donate?
The scholarship is managed by Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc. (YCF). YCF is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization eligible to receive donations.

Any individual, organization, or business can make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund. Donations are accepted in the form of checks, credit cards, stocks and through bequests. To donate online, click on the “Donate” link on the YCF website, www.ycfwv.org. You may enter a name of a specific fund during the checkout process. Alternatively, donations by check may be made payable to "YCF" and mailed to the address below. Checks should include the name of the fund in the memo line.

For more information, call 304-296-3433 or email info@ycfwv.org.