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Rhode Island Foundation

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## Press Releases, Articles, and Ads

June 5, 2007

### High school 'artists' to attend RISD Youth Program thanks to vision, memory of Rhode Island woman

Four high school students will participate in the Young Artist Program at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) this year thanks to an endowment fund created by a Rhode Island woman and her husband, Patricia and Rob Edwards, 18 years ago at The Rhode Island Foundation.

With the award, each student can attend an art course at RISD, enabling them to "use art as a means for creative self-expression, thus increasing their skill level as well as their maturity."

Recipients of art scholarships are:

- Michelle Mancona, a resident of North Providence and a student at Broad Street Studio. In her application, she says, "When painting, I find myself lost....finding beauty in most outlandish urban settings is most fun for me and inspires me most to create for my own enjoyment."
- Alicyn Murphy, a resident of Riverside and a sophomore at LaSalle Academy. She shares, "I have taken RISD summer courses before and... I especially love being in an environment with other young adults that are as passionate about developing their art as I am."
- Jennifer Ramos, a resident of Providence and a junior at Hope High School. She notes in her application her previous positive experiences with RISD's after school programs and says, "I can bring my unique perspective and strong sense of self to the critiques and I can't wait to learn more technical and conceptual skills."
- Jose Suero, a resident of Pawtucket and a freshman at Tolman High School. He explains, "I always like to draw and I never get bored of it... [and] I think that going to RISD might help me draw better."

The Fund's namesake, the late Patricia Edwards, was an Ohio native who relocated to Rhode Island with her husband, local attorney Rob Edwards. She had studied art as a youngster, and in Providence continued her studies at RISD and with neighbor Tom Sgouris, a RISD teacher and a nationally prominent artist. She shared a Pawtucket studio with three or four other artists and became a member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society.

"She was a serious artist," says husband Rob. "She wasn't much interested in talking about herself or why she did things. But she loved working with her hands. She would sit with a cup full of clay and would make something while you were talking with her."

It was only weeks after her 45th birthday, in late January 1989, that Patricia Edwards learned that she had irreversible cancer. Just days before she died, the couple discussed a lasting memorial to what she believed in: a fund at The Rhode Island Foundation that would support high school students to pursue art studies.

The Patricia Edwards Memorial Scholarship Fund will seek applicants again in Spring 2008. A complete list of the nearly 150 scholarship opportunities available through The Rhode Island Foundation is available at the Receive/Scholarships section of the Foundation's website, [www.rifoundation.org](http://www.rifoundation.org).