

New York Summer Conservatory

I am applying for the J. Sanford Miller Family Arts Scholars Arts Award to help aid the tuition and housing expenses for my attendance at either the Stella Adler Summer Conservatory Program from June 9 to August 8 or The Barrow Group Summer Conservatory from July 7 to August 14.

Proposed Project

The main objectives of this experience would be to further diversify my formal performance training through working with new instructors of various backgrounds and to give me a unique opportunity to meet and connect with a multitude of artists in the New York City area, where I intend to move following my graduation at UVA.

Both Stella Adler and The Barrow Group provide unique training experiences, whether that be using Adler acting techniques or utilizing more barebones, natural acting styles that replicate true human behavior. Both of these are areas in which I lack expertise and have a passion to improve in. They would diversify the tools available to me as an actor and allow me to bring more to the table in my remaining time with UVA acting classes. Learning closely with working professionals in the environment and location in which I aspire to work in will provide me opportunities to learn and understand what lays ahead of me and what I will need to prepare for as an actor. I will also get firsthand acting experience in new styles of acting in a challenging environment outside of my comfort zone.

A further goal to be achieved with this program is meeting and connecting with other like-minded artists in the New York City area. These programs only attract those who want to pursue performance art to a professional or more elevated level, which will provide chances for me to meet and grow from actors with the same goals as me and I believe New York City is the perfect location for me to relocate to, given the opportunities in this area are nearly unmatched.

While I have visited the city many times, I have never truly “lived” there and thus I have not gotten to experience what that may be like. I currently believe I love the city and would have no issue living there, but I do find value in “testing the waters” before making any large, long-term decisions. These weeks in the city would allow me to do exactly that and would let me make a more informed decision later down the line while I still have the time to change my direction if I were to not enjoy it.

Furthermore, I would be able to use this time to meet other artists in/around the program that could become valuable connections to bolster my growth and development as an artist and would allow for a smoother transition into the city when I move there full-time. While Charlottesville has some New York connections, there are limited opportunities to meet individuals that are active working members in the city. Every chance I have been given to make one of these connections I have taken, but once again, they are limited, and I hope to lean into this aspect of my time in the city.

Regarding potential limitations for this project, determining my housing is the greatest one. I have zero experience researching city housing and therefore must reach out to those who do. I plan to connect with individuals I already know living in New York for advice as well as

reaching out to my sister who lives full-time in Chicago for any generalized advice in city searching. I do not expect this limitation to be very challenging to overcome, however it is the one I must keep in mind the most as we get closer to summer and potential locations fill up.

I also intend to work closely with my department mentor, Dave Dalton, for any advice on this and other limitations. As someone who lived and worked in the city for many years, I am aware of his knowledge and experience with projects very similar and related to mine as well as his extensive knowledge of the industry and city.

If I am awarded this grant, I have many ideas as to how I would present my learnings to the Miller Arts Greater Community. The first would be to talk about any major takeaways I found from the instructors I worked under. Anything that would be possible to verbalize and explain to other potential actors that might be interested would be included. I would also want to speak in length about the process of applying, finding housing, etc, as I know it can be quite an intimidating process (it was for me!). I would love to shed light on this process for other actors in the UVA community that would seek the same program in their future. These would be my two focuses and could be achieved through a trifold display and verbal presentation of what I learned.

Project Timeline

The timeline for this project is as follows: Find Housing, Attend Program, Summarize Findings, Present Project. The first two would take place this Spring and Summer, with the latter two happening during the school year.

I need to spend the next few weeks searching for housing options that would work well with the program. While something nearby would be preferable, Manhattan is a difficult and confusing location to look for housing in, so I am also considering looking in Brooklyn or other boroughs for housing with the knowledge that I will need to potentially incorporate more transportation fees if this is the case.

I would spend the greater part of my summer in attendance at [NAME]. I would attend classes five days a week for [X] weeks. This is where the bulk of my project would occur. I would prioritize my education and connections during this time, and capture anything of importance in writing to remember it for my later presentation on it.

Following my time in New York, I would spend time working both alone and with my faculty mentor, Dave Dalton, in wrapping up my findings. I would summarize everything I learned and ensure that I absorbed everything I was given over the summer. Furthermore, I would spend this time writing down any findings I may forget that could be useful information for my presentation in the Spring about the program and grant.

In the Spring of 2026, I would assemble my presentation and prepare to speak about this experience as a whole, covering the topics listed above (takeaways and the application process).

Tuition + Fees		THE BARROW GROUP		ADLER	
Item	Description	Subtotal	Total	Subtotal	Total
Tuition	Full cost of summer term + materials	-	\$ 2,250.00	-	\$ 4,300.00
SUBTOTAL			\$ 2,250.00		\$ 4,300.00
Housing		THE BARROW GROUP		ADLER	
Item	Description	Subtotal	Total	Subtotal	Total
Rent	Rent expense for a shared apartment in Brooklyn	\$2200 per month for 1.25 months	\$ 2,750.00	\$2200 per month for 2.5 months	\$ 5,500.00
Utilities	Utilities expense (Internet, water, electricity, etc)	\$150 per month for 1.25 months	\$ 187.50	\$150 per month for 2.5 months	\$ 375.00
SUBTOTAL			\$ 2,937.50		\$ 5,875.00
Per Diem		THE BARROW GROUP		ADLER	
Item	Description	Cost	Total	Cost	Total
Meals	Daily cost of groceries and daily meals	\$30 per day for 38 days	\$ 1,140.00	\$30 per day for 60 days	\$ 1,800.00
Incidentals	Daily cost of miscellaneous, small expenses throughout the day	\$10 per day for 38 days	\$ 380.00	\$10 per day for 60 days	\$ 600.00
Transportation	Weekly cost of transportation (Subway Weekly Card)	\$34 per week for 5 weeks	\$ 190.00	\$34 per week for 9 weeks	\$ 306.00
SUBTOTAL			\$ 1,710.00		\$ 2,706.00
Other		THE BARROW GROUP		ADLER	
Item	Description	Subtotal	Total	Subtotal	Total
Travel	Train/airfare expenses to get to and from NYC	\$80 per Train	\$ 160.00	\$80 per Train	\$ 160.00
Emergency	Financial buffer in case of emergency	-	\$ 200.00	-	\$ 200.00
Tickets & Events	Costs of tickets & other events (Broadway tickets, tours, museums, etc)	\$100 per week for 5 weeks	\$ 500.00	\$100 per week for 9 weeks	\$ 900.00
SUBTOTAL			\$ 860.00		\$ 1,260.00
TOTAL			\$ 7,757.50		\$ 14,141.00
AWARD COVERAGE			\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION			\$ 4,757.50		\$ 11,141.00

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

I participate in a wide variety of arts experiences on grounds, both CIO and Department related. These include three shows I have done with the Drama Department, a show with First Year Players, various positions in First Year Players, helping create the foundation for the Great Big Arts Calendar, and working with the Department Box Office and social media.

In the Spring and Fall 2024 department mainstage productions, I played the major male protagonist of the show, committing many hours each week to these roles. Additionally, I am currently playing the principal character Andy in the department musical *As You Like It* through the department. Each of these productions were the main part of my semester and allowed me to deeply engage with the arts community here at UVA.

Outside of the department, I am a deeply involved member of the student CIO First Year Players (FYP), who put on a musical every semester. In addition to performing in their Fall 2023 musical *9 to 5*, I have also served as their Assistant Stage Manager, Run Crew, Carpentry Member, and Social Chair since I joined in my first semester. FYP is a host to a myriad of student artists, with a huge population of acapella singers, writers, and digital artists. Through my various positions I have gotten the opportunity to meet many of these people and learn about their crafts, enhancing my involvement with all of them.

Along with my time acting in the department, I am also a current employee of the Box Office and have worked as the department social media assistant for the past 6 months. Both of these jobs have shown me parts of the department and community that I hadn't seen as an actor. These include the resources and time invested into managing and administrating a theatre as well as the complexity and layers that come with needing to capture all the happenings of the department on social media.

Through Miller Arts, I have worked closely with six individuals to create the foundation for the Great Big Arts Calendar (GBAC), a soon-to-be student CIO that would act as a "one stop shop" for anything and everything student arts on grounds. This has connected me with quite literally every arts CIO on grounds as we have been reaching out and connecting with members from all of them for information and event news.

I first learned about Miller Arts late in my first semester through two current members at the time. I was immediately interested and continued to follow up, hearing all about the spring initiatives they were taking on (especially the Adobe Cloud one!). This drove me to go to the MAS Showcase that semester where I went around and heard from every Arts Award Scholar about what they were able to do with the money.

Now that I have spent nearly two semesters in the Miller Arts community, I have been shocked with how helpful and supportive everyone has been. I have made special efforts to support those in the community, knowing that they would do the same for me (I know quite a few came to see Labyrinth last Fall!). A prime example of this is when Will Conrad and I both attended Maxwell Mitchell's album release party as a way of showing support for the work he put into that piece. It's truly been an invaluable opportunity and I am thrilled to be able to spend two more years involved with this community!

Monologue One

Red by John Logan

This monologue centers on a pivotal moment for Ken and his relationship with the famous artist Mark Rothko, to whom he is an assistant. In it, he finally expresses his frustrations with being undervalued and challenges Rothko's arrogance, asserting himself as his equal for the first time. This situational conflict, and Ken's key character development through this speech, make it a dynamic and engaging audition piece.

<https://youtu.be/yVb5mL-HZDM>

Monologue Two - *A Woman Killed With Kindness* by Thomas Haywood

Wendoll is torn between pursuing Anne and doing right by Frankford. He says it's bad enough to think about sleeping with another man's wife—but actually attempting it will send him straight to hell. He tries to “drive away” his passion, first with song, then with prayer, and then by resolving to forget her. However, all he can think of is Anne. By the end, he is resigned to seducing her, and he asks for his punishment from the gods not to come too quickly.

**The slate was removed from this video in order to reach the required length of 90 seconds for this audition*

<https://youtu.be/sME-YvQsPtg>