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## **Arts Commission Accepting 2012 Scholarship Applications**

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission is accepting Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Program applications. The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.

Led by Honorary Chair Tift Merritt, a Raleigh-born musician and songwriter, and former Arts Commission member Jim Baldwin, the program offers scholarships to Wake County high school seniors pursuing full-time higher educational study in the fields of dance, theater and musical theater, literature, music or visual arts. Funded through individual and business contributions, scholarships are paid directly to an accredited post-secondary institution and may be used to pay for student expenses, including tuition, fees, books or room and board.

“I always think about Nina Simone as a middle-school student in North Carolina. I wonder if anyone lent her a hand, gave her solid advice, turned her onto a great record,” said Ms. Merritt, whose career was born in Raleigh. “I’m pretty sure there’s a sort of Nina Simone of some kind in a Wake County high school right now. I wouldn’t want her to feel like a stranger.”

Nina Simone was a famous singer, songwriter, arranger and pianist born in Tryon.

Graduating high school seniors interested in applying for an Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship must download and complete an application at [www.raleighnc.gov/arts](http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts) (click on Awards). All completed applications should be mailed to the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, N.C. 27602 or delivered to 127 W. Hargett St., Room 408, Raleigh, N.C. 27601. Applications sent by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Applications must be delivered or postmarked no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 1.

“Art gave me the chance to be myself, to share my soul with the world,” said Adaria Coulter, a 2011 recipient of the Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship and a freshman at the College of Design at North Carolina State University. “By getting an arts education, I hope to make it easier for young artists to thrive and grow by giving them the resources they need to be successful. I’m going to give back to the community that helped me grow.”

For more information, contact Belva Parker, interim executive director of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, at 966-3610 or email [belva.parker@raleighnc.gov](mailto:belva.parker@raleighnc.gov). Interested parties may also visit the City’s website at [www.raleighnc.gov/arts](http://www.raleighnc.gov/arts).

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission, established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission's myriad activities foster, support and promote the arts in the Capital City.

{**NOTE:** Attached is photo of Adaria Coulter, a 2011 recipient of the Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship.}