



Student Arts Opportunity Award Stories

“It’s not just about the art for these students. It’s about gaining confidence, understanding collaboration, feeling compassionate towards others, and how the simple act of learning new artistic traits can teach skills that are the building blocks of a promising future in any industry.”

Organizations nominated students.



St. Pete Music, Acting, and Dance is nominating Annabelle (age 12):
“Annabelle has participated in past musicals and, most recently, our holiday performance team featured at Enchant at the Tropicana. She is a hard worker who takes her stage responsibilities very seriously. Her contributions go beyond the stage, as she is very empathetic to other students and makes an effort to build up the confidence of her fellow cast members.”

Students were encouraged to apply for the award in their own words.

James/Olivia – 10th Grade

“I would like a Funding Futures grant so that I may further represent myself in a gender-safe space, such as Girls Rock St. Pete (which is for all gender-expansive youth), and so that I may build my confidence out in the community and learn life skills (and instrumental skills).”



Each student provided a letter of recommendation:

Alec – 10th grade to attend Girls Rock Camp

“Alec overcame so many obstacles at camp last year, like an injury to her leg on the 2nd day! She showed up in a cast on the 3rd day and kept going as the lead drummer in her band. She's a natural talent and has a real appetite for learning music. Alec needs to develop self-confidence right at a time when she is struggling with the pressures of girls her age to conform to unhealthy norms. I think she can go far with her music and hope she receives this financial support so she can continue in her growth as a musician and a young leader.” - Band Coach Steph Wood.

Parents were also asked to talk about their student’s interest in the arts.

Mrs. D. about Anastasia T. (age 10) attending Practically Picasso:

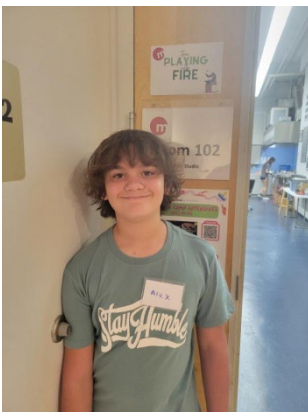
“My daughter is autistic and uses the Arts as her form of communication, and this would really benefit her.”



Mrs. O’Brien about Sophia – age 13, attended St. Pete Music, Acting, and Dance -

“My daughter is a very passionate theater student. She spends the majority of her free time singing or acting. She has big dreams and goals that she is determined to reach. She is happiest and most confident when she is in a theater production or class. This summer, St. Pete MAD is doing Mean Girls, which is a show she has been singing the music for years. The opportunity to be in this show would be really amazing for her. I am a single mom without any outside support. She attends a private school on an income-based scholarship. She is well-behaved and helpful.”

Students and organizations were asked to report on their experiences after their camp ended.



Note from parent about student Alex’s (age 11) experience at the Morean Arts Center Playing with Fire Camp

“Attached is a picture from Alex's camp and one of a ring he made. He had an amazing time and was already asking about going back next year! We greatly appreciate the opportunity he was given. Thank you!”

