GSA APPLICANT GUIDE

Architecture + Design

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I. Program Description

GSA's Architecture + Design program introduces students to ideas, processes, and techniques applied in many design fields. The goal of the program is to provide the framework within which students can explore the social, cultural, spatial, environmental, and abstract concepts that affect design. Project assignments focus on developing creative and analytical thought that is adaptable after GSA. Design thinking is introduced through a series of projects which include drawing, sculpture, and model-building exercises as part of an iterative process. Projects cross boundaries between traditional and contemporary techniques throughout the program. The studio curriculum is supplemented with discussions, critiques, notable examples, cross disciplinary works, and field trips - allowing students to observe and discuss architecture and design critically. Student work is curated for a public exhibition on the final day of GSA.

II. Preliminary Round Application Requirements (due January 10th)

Submit the materials in this section through the online platform Acceptd no later than January 10th. NOTE: Applicants will be prompted to pay a $30 application fee when submitting their materials (or $35 if applying in two art forms). Students on free/reduced lunch may opt to have this fee waived when payment is requested.

For the Preliminary Round, submit the following (*see below for more detail*):

      a. Two Recommendation Forms
      b. Personal Short Essay
      c. Personal Question Video
      d. Portfolio Images
      e. Portfolio Cover Sheet

a. Recommendation Forms (*do this first!*)

Identify two people to fill out recommendation forms for you: a school administrator (e.g. counselor) and a teacher/instructor (see below if those do not apply). Enter their names and email addresses in your online application, and the individuals will receive emails instructing them on how to complete the recommendation process.

- Before submitting your recommenders' information, contact them to ask for their permission to use them as a reference and explain why you

want to attend GSA. Confirm with them when you submit their email addresses to ensure they receive the recommender email. Initiate this process as soon as possible so your recommenders have time to complete the forms before the application deadline.

- *Your teacher/instructor recommender does not have to teach at your high school, nor do they have to teach you in your art form of focus (although we recommend you choose someone who is familiar with your creative work, if possible).*
- *You do not need to submit letters of recommendation. Recommenders will receive an online form to fill out, which will serve as their recommendation for you.*

- *If you are home schooled, and/or you otherwise do not have a school administrator or teacher/instructor who can fill out your recommendation forms, please seek out another adult who can speak to your qualities/character/abilities in one way or another; this could include a mentor, a youth minister, a coach, etc.*

- *Applicants' parents/immediate family may <u>not</u> fill out their recommendation forms.*

b. Personal Short Essay (250-word max)
Provide an answer to the following question in essay form:
As you envision yourself attending GSA, describe to us one thing you will bring to/offer the community, and one thing that you know will challenge you.

Be open, honest, and authentic in your response – let us learn something about you. Upload this essay response as a document file; type out the question at the top of your response, so the question and answer are both in the document (the question restatement does not count toward the word count limit). When uploading your essay, title the file "Personal Short Essay."

c. Personal Question Video (90-second max)
Provide an answer to the following question in video form:
Artists play a vital role in society, ranging from sparking large cultural movements, to facilitating meaningful interpersonal connections. What impact do you seek to make on your community/world as an artist, and why is that an important impact to make? How will GSA help you achieve this?

- <u>Be open, honest, and authentic in your response – let us learn something about you</u>. While you are encouraged to prepare your thoughts before shooting the video and you may consult notes as you speak, please do not just read off a transcript. We want to get a sense of your personality.

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- Record your answer in an interior space that is free from interruptions, noise, etc. Do not edit or splice the video. You do not need to include an introductory frame or any effects such as fades, etc.

- Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location. Review the video to ensure you can be seen AND heard. Ensure the video plays all the way to the end.

- When uploading your Personal Question Video, title the file "Personal Question Video."

d. Portfolio Images and/or Files

Your Architecture + Design portfolio should consist of **9 total works.**

Upload your portfolio pieces into the application under "Upload Portfolio."

(NOTE: many Architecture + Design applicants choose to also apply for Visual Art; please note there are similarities AND differences between these two art forms. Use these instructions as listed here only when applying to Architecture + Design. Consult the separate Visual Art guidelines when applying for Visual Art. Call the GSA Helpline with questions.)

Five Required Portfolio Pieces
The following three pieces are required:

- an object study (still life)
- a portrait or self-portrait
- an environment (landscape)
- two 3D pieces (made of any material; however, do not submit more than one piece made from clay)

For these five required pieces:

- The self-portrait can be 3D as long as it is still done from direct observation.

- Drawing/working from photographs is not recommended for these pieces; if you did use a photograph for reference, please also upload an image of the reference materials, crediting the original artists (where applicable).

- Digital illustrations and photographs may NOT be submitted for the three required drawings but may be submitted as part of the four remaining portfolio pieces.

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Four Remaining Portfolio Pieces

The remaining pieces can be selected by the applicant but should include a variety of mediums and subject matter. If you submit additional 3D work, it can be made of any material. If any of your remaining four portfolio pieces are derived from another work or photograph, please submit an image of the reference material, crediting the original artist (when applicable).

FOR ALL PORTFOLIO PIECES:

- If your work is not already digital, digitize it by taking a digital photo or scanning it. Upload the file into the application. Verify all images are upright (not sideways).

- If submitting images of 3D work, please submit up to three images (per portfolio piece) from different angles.

- Photographing your work next to a ruler or yardstick is encouraged to help us appreciate the scale of your work. If submitting multiple images of 3D work, you only need to include the ruler in one photo.

- Save and name your files individually so they correspond to the pieces and titles as listed on your portfolio cover sheet. The first piece listed on your cover sheet should be saved as "01_title", your second piece as "02_title" and so on. For multiple image files detailing one work or idea (e.g. multiple angles of a 3D piece), title images as "01_title; 01_title_2; 01_title_3" and so on.

e. **Portfolio Cover Sheet**

This one document should outline all portfolio pieces uploaded as part of your application (note file naming instructions above so your uploaded images correspond with pieces listed on this sheet). For each work, please include the following:

- Title of Work
- Year of Completion
- Approximate Dimensions
- Medium
- A very brief description of your process for creating this work (if the work is a collaboration, describe your role in the project)

Save this as a document file and upload it into your application.

Applicants for Architecture + Design do not need to submit images of sketchbook pages for the Preliminary Round.

III. Final Round Requirements

Some applicants will be invited to participate in the Final Round of GSA Auditions/Reviews, which will consist of the elements described below. All applicants will be notified on February 26th of whether they are invited to the Final Round. If you are selected to participate in the Final Round, you will be required to attend in-person on March 20, 21, or 22nd in Lexington, KY at the University of Kentucky as scheduled by GSA.

The Final Round for Architecture + Design will include:
   a. Questionnaire
   b. On-site Design Exercise
   c. Portfolio
   d. Sketchbook/3D experiments
   e. Portfolio Review and Interview

a. Questionnaire
When you arrive at the main registration table for your auditions/reviews, you will receive and complete a one to two-page questionnaire. This questionnaire may cover a range of topics, including your previous experience in your art form, your favorite artists, and/or your college and career goals. The questionnaire is not a quiz and is not scored, but it is a way for adjudicators to get to know you. The questionnaire may be used to customize questions in your interview.

b. On-site Design Exercise
The day of Final Round Reviews, each applicant will be allotted 30 minutes to complete an assigned design exercise. The design exercise will be distributed prior to the personal interview and portfolio review and will need to be completed on site. All materials will be provided, and everyone receives the same instructions and materials to execute their individual solution. You will receive all information you need about this when you arrive to your review.

c. Portfolio Requirements for Finalist Reviews
Please bring your portfolio to present. You will receive specific instructions for set-up of your work in the review space upon arriving and will have **two minutes** to complete set up. There is no need to bring easels, pedestals or

other presentation stands. A long table will be provided in the review space for your use.

<u>Required Pieces</u>
You are required to bring a total of **nine portfolio pieces**:

- the same five required works from the Preliminary Round (still life, self-portrait, landscape, and 3D pieces)
- four additional portfolio pieces, as described in the requirements for the Preliminary Round

You may present the exact same four discretionary pieces from the Preliminary Round. If you have new work you would like to show, you may also substitute some/all of the four "remaining" portfolio pieces, but you may NOT substitute the five required works. The adjudicators have no preference over whether you introduce new work; rather, you should show work that you think is most representational of your artistic voice. **You may not present more than nine total portfolio pieces.**

<u>Labels For Art Work</u>
Label each piece included in the portfolio with your name, school and approximate date of completion.

- Labels for both 2D and 3D work can be placed on the back of each work. If not placed on the back, use paper, card stock or foam core to create a label that can be displayed beside your work(s).

<u>Matting</u>
While it was not necessary to mat your works for the Preliminary Round, works presented during the Final Round will need to be matted or mounted on a support.

- 2D work: traditional matting is NOT required. Seek help from an art instructor or your local frame or hobby/craft shop. If you don't choose to mat your work traditionally, it must still be mounted to a support. A support of contrasting color works best. Some examples of usable materials include: recycled cardboard, construction paper, card stock, poster board or foam core.

- Canvases and 3D work: it is not required or recommended that 3D work or paintings on canvas be framed, matted or mounted in any way.

<u>Reference Materials/Images</u>

Just as in the Preliminary Round, if any of your works are derived from the work of another or from a photograph, the original image must be included. You can place a printed version of the reference image next to the work or you may choose to present the images on an electronic device such as a tablet, laptop, or other mobile device. Please have this prepared in advance.

Large Work or Work You No Longer Possess
You may submit either digital or printed color photographs only when work is not available to you or if it is impractical or difficult to transport. If bringing digital photos, you will need to provide a mechanism to showcase your photos (tablet, laptop or other mobile device). Please have this prepared in advance.

Presenting Original Photography In Your Portfolio
You may present original photography in your four remaining pieces, but do not substitute this medium for the required three pieces (object study, portrait, environment). Be selective of how many and which photographs you use in your portfolio to present your creative process best.

d. Sketchbook or 3D experiments

Please bring a current sketchbook or 3D experiments that are an important aspect of your creative output. These items:

- should be a current reflection of your creative journey; a visual documentation of your brainstorming and creative process.

- can consist of in-process drawings, experiments, photographs, collages, cut outs, written personal reflections and other kinds of writing/creative responses.

- do not count toward the total number of portfolio pieces you present. These are in addition to the nine required portfolio pieces.

e. Portfolio Review/Interview

Adjudicators will lead a brief conversation with each applicant about their portfolio, design exercise, and artistic motivations. This is an opportunity for the student to verbally express the qualities of their visual work as well as their personal artistic perspective. The duration of the review + interview will vary at the adjudicators' discretion but will likely last approximately ten minutes.

IV. Criteria

The work of each student will be given an objective review by the adjudicators as to how they fulfill each of the following criteria:

Use of Formal Art Elements

An ideal applicant exhibits successful use of art elements such as line, value, shapes, forms, space, color, and texture. The applicant uses these elements to create structure and meaning and can speak to how they have done so.

Use of Design Principles and Sense of Composition

An ideal applicant utilizes design principles such as balance, contrast, movement, emphasis, and proportion in their work to guide their use of the formal art elements and the organization of the picture plane or three-dimensional form. The applicant uses these principles to create visual impact and meaning and can speak to how they have done so.

Technical Skill

An ideal applicant demonstrates practiced skill and developed technique, as well as an awareness of the specific tools, processes, and approaches required by the specific media being used. This does not necessarily mean each piece requires an extremely detailed finished quality, but rather that each piece is crafted in a way that is connected to ideas and materials.

Craftsmanship and Sensitivity to Materials/Media

The ideal applicant demonstrates a keen sensitivity to a variety of materials, a strong awareness of their intrinsic properties and limitations, and makes deliberate and intentional choices in crafting their work.

Originality & Creative Voice

An ideal applicant's work is consistently approached from a personalized viewpoint, background, or experience. Even if the work is a product of an assignment, it contains an artist's personalized point of view or desire. The applicant can identify and explain how their individuality and perspective are evident across the portfolio.

Dedication to Art Form, Growth, and Community

An ideal applicant demonstrates a commitment to and passion for their art form, as well as a desire and ability to grow as an artist. The applicant can thoughtfully and authentically explain why they want to attend GSA and how they are uniquely qualified to contribute to a robust, diverse community of artists.

Design Exercise (Final Round only)

The design exercise is intended to evoke each applicant's individual expression through creative problem solving. There is no "correct" way to complete the on-site exercise, but each student will be critiqued on what product is created and how they explain their ideas. The prompt is open to a number of different

solutions so that each student can create a designed piece through their own processes. The finished product is then considered as a designed object, and how it supports both the prompt and the focus of the conditions set by the applicant. All materials for the Design Exercise will be provided by GSA.

V. Tips

These tips are suggestions. They are NOT eligibility requirements for admittance to GSA.

- Your portfolio **does not** need to be architecturally oriented.

- If you have architectural work, **be sure to include other pieces.**

- We consider **aptitude for design** – this can be presented by work in any medium.

- Consider using **multiple materials** in the construction some/all of your 3D work; this may allow you to address the criteria in a different way than using one material for an entire piece.

- **Incorporate recent work in your portfolio**, especially if you're applying a second time.

- Include **work completed outside of school/school projects** when possible.

- Be sure to pay attention to the presentation of your pieces. **Include only finished work** in your portfolio.

- Consider how you discuss your work. Try to **express ideas and interest we cannot see,** rather than describing the piece.

- **Pay close attention to the adjudication criteria.** While GSA students are accepted based on their holistic identity as a young artist, the criteria are the foundation of how your portfolio is being scored.

- **Remember the adjudicators are very excited to see your work and they want you to do well!** We know it takes hard work to submit this application, and that it can be scary to "put yourself out there." We have faith in you, so put your best foot forward and don't be afraid to show us the wonderful artist you are. You prove a level of dedication just by submitting your application, and you should be proud of yourself.

VI. Class Announcement

From the Final Round in March, adjudicators will choose the 2020 GSA Summer Program class for all 9 art forms.

On **Friday, April 10** you'll receive your results via email. GSA will also make a big announcement on our website: www.kentuckygsa.org. Accepted and Alternate students will be listed. Accepted students will also receive paper written notification of their results via standard mail.

**For technical support with the application
contact Acceptd**
Email: support@getacceptd.com
Phone: 1.888.725.2122, press 2

**For questions about Summer Program, the content and/or requirements of the application,
contact GSA**
Email: gsainfo@kentuckycenter.org
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