Over the past four years SAIC has seen a **330% increase** in applications from students from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). For academic year 2014–15, 71 CPS students were admitted to SAIC, while only 26 of those students enrolled. These statistics highlight the critical importance and continued demand for need-based undergraduate scholarships. Scholarships like the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Fund help to increase enrollment and retention of talented students who do not have the financial resources to attend SAIC.

Created in 2012 by John L. Thomson, member of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) Board of Governors, the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Fund provides critically important need-based scholarships to students from the city of Chicago. Thomson’s establishing gift has inspired a generous outpouring of donations from the SAIC community, increasing the fund and the number of students it helps.

Now, in its second awarding year, the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Fund enabled five full-tuition scholarships for undergraduate students matriculating from Chicago Public Schools (CPS). They join the cohort of the Massey Scholars who finished their second year at SAIC in 2015. Coming from diverse backgrounds with demonstrated excellence in the arts, the Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholars have access to a world-class SAIC education. The scholarship provides them with the funding they need to become visionary thinkers, innovators, and scholars over the course of their undergraduate tenures at SAIC.

SAIC has committed to ensure that the Massey Scholars thrive during the pivotal transition from high school to college and through their academic careers. Matriculating students are faced with new responsibilities, socially, culturally, and financially, and SAIC has recognized that financial assistance is only one part of the holistic approach to the Massey Scholars program. Faculty, staff, and students from across the school are positioned to serve as advisors and mentors, providing the scholars with guidance and support to succeed within SAIC’s liberal arts-centered art-and-design curriculum.
This funding has completely changed my college experience. Without it I would not have attended an art school because the costs would have been entirely too much for my family and me to handle, even after receiving student loans. With this scholarship, I can now navigate my daily life and schoolwork much easier knowing that I won’t have a crippling amount of debt when I graduate. I am not constantly plagued with the fear of having to drop out of school or transfer because I can’t pay my tuition. This scholarship has given me an amazing opportunity that many young students of color don’t have. I will be able to gain a concrete foundation of knowledge in my field and apply it to the things I have already learned myself, ascending to the highest point of achievement within the field of fashion design and the art world.

My art is a reflection of my identity in every aspect—from the most minute details to the large and self-evident characteristics. I am an expressive African American woman and my artwork tells the story of my culture. It chronicles that which has been lost, forgotten, and celebrated about African American Culture. Fashion design is my chosen mode of creative expression and my garments are a physical manifestation of my thoughts. I am inspired by the culture African Americans have constructed for themselves within the Western world as well as the traditional African aesthetic, and the history of Africans in all different regions of the past and present world. I seek to promote a lifestyle and create garments that cater to the stylish, yet grounded women and men of color who fearlessly navigate the world. In society, clothing supports the ways in which we identify ourselves and interact with one another. I plan to use fashion as a tool to generate positivity, to bring people closer together, and to learn more about myself in the process.
Becoming a Massey Scholar removed an immense amount of stress from my life. I have five siblings and only one living parent. Receiving the scholarship was the most important event that has happened to me. My stress and uncertainty were immediately resolved. Entering the art world and starting an art career no longer feels foreboding.

I’ve taken every opportunity SAIC has offered, and I hope to continue to do so in the future. I participated in SAIC’s experimental First Year Scholars Program and traveled to Italy, documenting the trip for the Admissions office. I became a student ambassador to advocate for the school for prospective students. Most recently, I ran for SAIC’s Student Government, tying with the incumbent and causing SAIC’s first-ever runoff election. I’ve begun to give back to SAIC as much as I can because I feel I can never really repay the school for what this scholarship has done for me.

My work revolves around social science and historical references. Several different comparisons create a dialogue between time periods while at the same time, sharing information. As an American, I don’t necessarily have a culture, and everything I’m interested in occurred well before America’s existence. However, I look primarily at the Western world as that’s the legacy I feel I’m part of. I relate contemporary events back to the theology, government, and history of earlier civilizations.

I see metal as being the foundation of civilization; in my work, copper, brass, steel, and zinc are recurring materials and colors. I create in ways that are visually organic and inorganic simultaneously: tearing, ripping, tarnishing, and cutting. I want my work to look ambiguous in its time and culture; I’m trying to represent older ideas as broader statements.

I’ve been exposed to so much art and information in my first year at SAIC that I’m reassessing my entire process and body of work.
Being a recipient of this scholarship allows me to focus on creating meaningful work. I cannot adequately express the gratitude I have for receiving support from different individuals and groups. This generosity will always be in my mind when I create art.

My artwork explores different themes in color, light, and desolate environments that are reminiscent of human activity. I concentrate on using low-light environments to portray emotions in seemingly empty spaces.

Above: Retrospection

Above: Anarchy
Without this scholarship I would not be the person I am today. I am grateful that philanthropy has impacted my life in such a way that I may be forever reminded of the importance of giving positively to others—whether it be through my artwork or otherwise.

In the past year the majority of my work has focused on personal struggles. My academic year culminated in my first sound piece *Box With the Sound of Its Own Breaking*, in which I recorded the process of destroying all physical works from my freshman year. I accompanied the sound piece by displaying the wreckage on a pedestal. The action itself was therapeutic and the work itself is evidence of both personal and artistic growth. I've grown to approach my work as more of an emotional process, something that previously was absent from my process of producing work. My artwork is an attempt to further understand myself and who I am in the context of our shared environment. My ethnic and cultural background as a Latina artist from the South Side of Chicago are large influences on my artwork. I hope to create personal work that speaks to larger social and political issues, through sound, performance, installation, and social interventions.
I love being challenged, and SAIC has pushed me beyond my limits to explore new media and new ways of thinking and seeing. With each critique I grow as an artist, and I can feel myself thinking more and more about the art I make as I create it. I love SAIC because it grants me the freedom to experiment across media, so I can gain a variety of experiences as I try to find my own path. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity the Massey Fund has given me, so thank you for investing in my future. I’ll work hard to pay it forward.

I have a background primarily in drawing and painting, but during my first year at SAIC I’ve been exposed to a variety of media, and my work is rarely similar to what I produced in the past. Right now, my art is more of an exploration of media and an expression of my ideas. I’ve started to turn to my subconscious interests, which I’ve never focused on before, for ideas and inspiration. My recent interests involve conceptual art as well as playing with visual contrast and visual ambiguity.

Above: Play’n Cards

Above: Toaster of Hanoi
Now approaching their third year at SAIC, the first class of Walter and Shirley Massey Chicago Scholars are thriving within SAIC's art-and-design curriculum. Here are just some of their accomplishments from the past year.

**PATRICE BARNES**  
BFA 2017  
- Exhibited work at *Embracing Creativity* at the Lincoln Park Community Center  
- Began volunteering at ArtReach

**ANTONIO MORALES**  
BFA 2017  
- Began coding webpages on the SAIC domain space

**LUIS MEJICO**  
BFA 2017  
- 2015 Summer Resident Artist at ACRE  
- Eager Grant recipient to research Queering Mixed Reality Collective  
- Began a role as a College Arts Access Program (CAAP) mentor  
- Exhibited at a variety of spaces across Chicago, such as the John M. Flaxman Library, Dark Lodge, Soho House Chicago, Uptown Arts Center, SAIC’s Student Union Galleries

**LAWRENCE PEARSON**  
BFA 2017  
- Exhibited work at *Black Radical Imagination* at the Arts Incubator in Washington Park

**MARYIAH WINDING**  
BFA 2017  
- Received the Idea Generation Grant From SAIC Student Government  
- Curated a show titled *Nothing Was The Same* at the Chicago Cultural Center in Garland Gallery  
- Assisted in curating the CPS 2015 All City Senior Portfolio Exhibition
WE ARE EXPLORERS
At SAIC, we exceed boundaries. Our commitment to an open structure is embodied in a curriculum of self-directed study within and across a multiplicity of disciplines and approaches that promote critical thinking, rigorous investigation, and playful creativity. We are a community that challenges the notion that any field is ever beyond rediscovery.

MEANING AND MAKING ARE INSEPARABLE
At SAIC, we believe that meaning and making are inseparable, existing as a perpetual and productive cycle driven by experience, research, and critique. Our commitment to a wide range of media and processes supports our assertion that the artist, designer, scholar, and writer are uniquely qualified as makers to provide leadership, creative perspective, and hands-on skill for shaping today’s world, as well as contributing to its opportunities.

WE ARE ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS
The students, faculty, and staff of SAIC are engaged and innovative creators of art, design, scholarship, and writing. The faculty drives our curriculum, and each member brings the diverse experiences of his or her practice directly into the classroom and studio. Our students are viewed as emerging peers and full participants in the learning that occurs in collaboration with faculty and each other.

CHICAGO
Our symbiotic relationship with the city radiates outward as students, faculty, and staff connect themselves to the diverse communities of Chicago and the entire world. The city’s richness, complexity, and contradictions are the perfect environment for our own diverse community.

WE MAKE HISTORY
Our major encyclopedic art museum, libraries, special collections, and public programs create an unparalleled environment for maintaining a thoughtful and tangible relationship to history and the ways in which it is continually revisited and represented, fueling our innovation and experimentation and keeping our historical and critical discourse completely active. Students, faculty, and alumni of SAIC have made significant and groundbreaking contributions to the art, design, and scholarship of the 20th century, and continue to do so in the 21st.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate degrees and post-baccalaureate programs to more than 3,200 students from around the globe. For more information, please visit saic.edu.

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Above: Alex Terry (BFA 2018), Toaster of Hanoi