



The Jack and Lavon Brosseau Creativity Awards

Awarded by the Spencer Museum of Art (SMA), **The Jack and Lavon Brosseau Creativity Awards** recognize outstanding creativity and originality by University of Kansas undergraduate students. These awards celebrate undergraduate students at the University of Kansas who engage in *creative scholarly work in any discipline*. Collaborative work is especially encouraged, in line with the Museum's commitment to bring together diverse people and ideas around a central topic or object.

The awards form part of the SMA mission to strengthen, support, and contribute to the academic research and teaching at KU, as well as to foster interdisciplinary exploration at the intersection of art, ideas, and experience. The Spencer's contemporary vision is to present its collection as a living archive that motivates creative work, object-centered research and teaching, and transformative public dialogue.

Lavon Brosseau, from Concordia, Kansas, believed in education and in the profound importance of teaching. The generosity of others made a college education a reality for her, and she desired to return the favor by establishing this award. Brosseau stated, "There is a deep and almost sacred beauty in literature and in art. Each may deal with the abstract and each may involve interpretation, but each has its own reality that permits the mind to explore and to soar."

Two Brosseau Creativity Awards will be given, one each in the categories of **writing** and **diverse media**. The categories have deliberately been defined in very broad terms, in order to encourage a wide range of submissions from the full spectrum of academic pursuits. The best creative work in any field evidences *risk-taking and reflection*, provides *new insights*, forms a part of *critical thinking*, and generates *new ways of understanding*.

Submissions to both categories are due **Thursday, March 7, 2024** at midnight. The awardees for each category will receive a cash prize of approximately \$750.

Writing

The Jack and Lavon Brosseau Writing Award recognizes outstanding artistic, literary, scientific, historical, technological or political writing, or a combination of these and other approaches. Topics are not limited to a specific area of study or discipline, and interdisciplinary work is encouraged. We seek projects that demonstrate creativity in terms of the writing, ideas, and possible research, as well as collaboration. Projects may have an audio or visual aspect, but the primary aspect should be the writing. (For projects that involve primarily audio or visual work with supplemental writing, please see the "diverse media" category, below.) Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of the creative project as well as the written statement that accompanies it.

Eligibility: Currently enrolled KU undergraduates are eligible to apply for this award.

Application Materials:

- 1) Completed online cover sheet
- 2) Writing project (not to exceed 2,500 words)
- 3) Statement describing how the project represents the student’s creativity, development of ideas, and approach to form (350 words or less)
- 4) Online [recommendation form](#) from a sponsor in support of the project (faculty member or GTA)

Submission: Please submit your complete application electronically to brosseauawards@ku.edu with “writing submission” in the subject line. Applicants who are unable to submit electronically should contact the Spencer Museum of Art at brosseauawards@ku.edu **in advance of the deadline** to work out alternate arrangements.

Diverse Media

The Jack and Lavon Brosseau Diverse Media Award recognizes outstanding creative work in any medium other than writing (although projects may contain a written component). Submissions may include—but are not limited to—research posters, architectural models, original works of art, musical compositions or performances, and film production. Collaborative and interdisciplinary work is encouraged. Depending on the chosen field, the project may comprise one example or one set of examples of the student’s creativity. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of the creative project as well as the written statement that accompanies it.

Eligibility: Currently enrolled KU undergraduates are eligible to apply for this award.

Application Materials:

- 1) Completed online cover sheet
- 2) Creative project (or audio/visual documentation of the project; 3-4 images max or 15 minutes max for time-based media.)
- 3) Statement describing how the project represents the student’s creativity, development of ideas, and approach to form (350 words or less)
- 4) Online [recommendation form](#) from a sponsor in support of the project (faculty member or GTA)

Submission: Please submit your complete application electronically to brosseauawards@ku.edu with “diverse media submission” in the subject line. We recommend including a link to an online portfolio site like Sharepoint or Google, preferably using your KU email. Please do not send image or video attachments. Applicants who are unable to submit electronically should contact the Spencer Museum of Art at brosseauawards@ku.edu **in advance of the deadline** to work out alternate arrangements.

If you have any questions regarding the Brosseau Creativity Awards, please contact **Celka Straughn**, Mellon director of academic programs, at the Spencer Museum of Art (straughn@ku.edu, 785.864.0136).

Note: Awards may be considered taxable income to parents or to students who have “independent” financial aid status. Special tax rules, which vary by country, may apply to international students.