HISTORY
The Graham Kenan Endowment for the Arts, established through a gift from Thomas S. Kenan III ’55, is intended to provide a permanent source of funding for students interested in the visual and performing arts, along with support for fine arts faculty and arts programming.

Mr. Kenan was inspired to establish this fund in honor of his great-aunt, Sarah Graham Kenan, a musician and passionate lifelong supporter of the arts. Mr. Kenan has the same passion and interest.

“Every boy should be exposed to the arts. The impact can last a lifetime,” Mr. Kenan says. He recalls that in the ’50s, Woodberry’s arts offerings “were a mere foreshadowing of the vibrant programming our boys enjoy today. I am proud to play a role in making our arts programs even better.”

ELIGIBILITY
Rising fourth, fifth, and sixth formers are eligible to receive a Kenan grant, though older students are given priority. Serious and talented students of visual art, music, or drama are invited to make proposals. Applicants should have a carefully considered idea in mind for pursuing this work along with a faculty advisor or sponsor who is willing to guide and collaborate.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
Proposals are due January 21 for the following summer. Members of the fine arts department can field questions and suggest ideas for summer work. Students will then ask a faculty member to work with them on the Kenan project as a sponsor. The student and sponsor will collaborate on a proposal: 1) outlining the idea in detail, 2) describing why the student wishes to do this work and how it will benefit the community, and 3) suggesting a budget for the activity (arrived at in careful consultation with the sponsor). The proposal should be accompanied by a brief letter of recommendation from the faculty sponsor.

SELECTION
All proposals will be reviewed by a faculty selection committee. Students will be apprised of acceptance(s) by no later than March 1.

COMPLETION
At the end of their work and during the next academic year, Kenan summer scholars will share a substantial report on their work with faculty and students. When appropriate, the work should be exhibited or performed before an assembly of the full community.

This past summer, Parker Watt ’19 attended the National High School Institute’s Theatre Arts program, a five-week immersive program located at Northwestern University. Parker concluded the program by starring as Peter Pan in the show Neverland. The summer experience was a great way for Parker, who’s appeared in several plays and musicals at Woodberry, to explore theater in depth. Parker plans to continue his theater career next year when he enrolls at Stanford University.