

# The Art of Pursuing Educational Opportunities

## The AGG's James C. Whitney Memorial Scholarship

by Zachary Green

Are you interested in expanding your knowledge about glass art but find courses, workshops, or conferences too costly? The American Glass Guild (AGG), a leading educational organization dedicated to stained glass and other flat glass art, is here to help. Each year, AGG offers annual scholarships to support individuals pursuing educational opportunities in both the US and abroad. Whether you are new to glass art or have been in the field for decades, it's time to expand your horizons! Find inspiration to develop new work and update your technical knowledge and skill set by furthering your glass art education. The AGG can help to support these goals with scholarship funding.

Education in the glass arts was a founding principle and the existential bedrock of this nonprofit organization. Founded in 2005, they were determined to share and disseminate the wealth of knowledge held by the industry's most experienced practitioners and to open the world of stained glass to a broader community.

### A Scholarship Honoring a Stained Glass Visionary

Jim Whitney of Whitney Stained Glass Studio in Cleveland, Ohio, was a key figure in the stained glass community. He strongly supported the American Glass Guild during its inception. Whitney approached life, art, and craft with passion and integrity. He served as a past president of the Stained Glass Association of America and authored a pivotal safety manual for studio best practices. Unfortunately, he left us far too soon. Had he survived, he would have played an integral role in the guild's growth. In that spirit, this scholarship was named in his honor.

Over the past eighteen years, the scholarship has awarded over \$195,000 to more than 200 recipients. Many of these awardees have excelled and taken on leadership roles in our industry. The scholarship's ideals have been realized as recipients moved on to then become educators themselves. The seeds of excellence have been harvested in subsequent generations of artists and craftspeople.

*Auction donation piece by artist Melissa Janda.  
Photo credit: Melissa Janda.*

## Nurturing Talent Through Collective Art

This scholarship has developed a legacy of its own over the years. Many hands have held the reins, guiding its direction. The chairs of the AGG Scholarship Committee included Vic Rothman, Marie-Pascale Foucault-Phipps, Richard Prigg, and David Fode. Currently, the extraordinary Melissa Janda serves as chair.

Funding is provided by donations from sponsors and AGG members. It is sustained through the famed annual conference auction. During this auction, glass art materials, publications, and precious works of art are donated by AGG members. The highest bidders win these items, and their spirit of generosity fuels the bidding.

## Empowering Glass Art Professional Education

The AGG offers scholarships to individuals pursuing professional education in stained, leaded, and decorative glass. It also supports mosaic glass art and other cold or warm flat glass. Monies can be used toward attending the AGG's yearly conference and workshops. They can also be applied to outside workshops and for degree study at accredited educational institutions.

Applicants from countries other than the US must be applying to study in America. US applicants may apply for scholarship money for educational opportunities worldwide. Recipients receive full or partial scholarships for various glass educational opportunities. If the applicant is not a professional in the stained glass field, they should include a compelling letter with the application. This letter should explain how the scholarship will benefit their development.

Visit [www.americanglassguild.org](http://www.americanglassguild.org) for scholarship guidelines and to complete the online application. The AGG accepts applications twice a year. The spring deadline is February 28, 2025. The autumn deadline is August 28, 2025. The scholarship committee accepts applications once a year. The next deadline is February 28, 2025. Don't miss it!

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Jim Whitney.

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