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# **THE CHARLES OATMAN MEMORIAL AWARD**

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*AWARENESS, RECOVERY, JUSTICE*





### ***About Charles Oatman and the 1970 Augusta Riot***

On May 11, 1970 Augusta became the site of Georgia's largest urban rebellion during the Civil Rights era. It stemmed from the brutal beating death of a young, 16-year-old boy named Charles Oatman. A native of Wilkes County, Charles was adopted at a young age by Cornelia and Grover Oatman of Augusta. He was raised at True Vine Baptist Church and attended A.R. Johnson Junior High School. He was a small, gentle boy, well-liked by his classmates and teachers, many of whom called him Charlie. He was also developmentally disabled. The news of his brutal beating death while in state custody profoundly shook Black citizens of Augusta. They mobilized to demand justice, but white officials met their demands with threatened violence and attempts at a cover-up. Indignant and assertive, thousands of Black citizens launched the largest urban rebellion in the Civil Rights era South, commonly known as the "Riot of May 11-12, 1970."

*In remembrance of Charles Oatman, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, in conjunction with the 1970 Augusta Riot Observance Committee, is offering the Charles Oatman Memorial Award.*

### ***About the Charles Oatman Memorial Award***

Each year, two high school seniors, will receive \$1,000 to aid in their aspirations of building a better Augusta, a better South, and a better world. Applicants must be members of the Laney Walker-Bethlehem community (students at AR Johnson, TW Josey, and Lucy Craft Laney High Schools) and have a strong vision for Augusta's future in regards to our mission of awareness, recovery, and justice.



THE 1970  
AUGUSTA RIOT  
OBSERVANCE

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## Scholarship Application

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION — ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

- The deadline for the 2020-2021 scholarship application is **March 15, 2021 at 12:00 NOON**. Applications submitted after March 15 will not be considered.
- Only completed applications will be considered. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS BLANK.**
- Please attach your written essay to this application. The essay must be between 500 and 750 words. The theme of the essay is *My Vision to Make Augusta Better*. Alternatively, the applicant may submit a video not exceeding 6 minutes in length.
- One signed letter of recommendation (from an educator or administrator) must be attached to this application.
- Include supporting documentation for your proposal. This may include a copy of your college or training program acceptance letter, proof of concept for an app, or examples of previously completed, relevant projects.
- Please return this application and its attachments by email to **1970AugutsaRiot@gmail.com**, subject line “LAST NAME, Charles Oatman Scholarship.” Alternatively, mail three copies to **1116 Phillips St, Augusta, GA 30901 Attn: Charles Oatman Scholarship Committee**.

**\*\* PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY IN BLUE OR BLACK INK \*\***

### APPLICANT DATA

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Last Name First Name Middle Initial (optional)

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Home Address City

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State Zip Code Phone Number \_\_ Cell \_\_ Home

### EDUCATION DATA

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High School Graduation Date



**STOP.** Before submitting your application, please make sure you have the following attachments.

- **MANDATORY:** One signed letter of recommendation (from an educator or college administrator).
- Copy of college acceptance letter (from college attending, if applicable)
- For non-college bound applicants, please attach any documentation that clarifies your project/endeavor and demonstrates your ability to successfully complete it.