

## Arts for Life Scholarship Program Guidelines

### I. **Mission**

SLP Friends of the Arts' **Arts for Life Scholarship Program** exists to provide the financial means for any resident of St Louis Park to participate in an artistic or creative activity that will allow them to develop as an individual.

### II. **Goals**

Participating in the arts provides an opportunity for deep personal satisfaction, expression and growth. The goal of this scholarship fund is to provide the financial means for any resident of St Louis Park to be able to access arts activities that might be able to make a positive change in their lives regardless of their creative background or skills.

III. **Strategies:** Provide application deadlines quarterly and review quickly to provide a quickly accessible and responsive process to allow all community members access to the arts.

### IV. **Committee**

The Arts For Life Review committee will be made up of individuals representing FOTA, the City of St. Louis Park, the school district and an at-large member. These six members will have voting rights and FOTA will provide one staff liaison who will not hold voting rights.

A voting committee member will have a 1 year term without term limits.

Committee will be composed of the following representatives:

- A. One City of St. Louis Park Staff Representatives (appointed by City)
- B. Three Friends of The Arts Representatives (appointed by FoTA)
- C. One School district staff representative (appointed by school district)
- D. One at large community member appointed by FOTA.

The **Arts for Life Scholarship Review Committee** will generally meet four times per year preferably within 2 weeks of the quarterly scholarship application deadline.

**The review committee may be called upon at any time, during a regular or special meeting to update policy regarding:**

- A. Review application materials and evaluation processes.
- B. Establish and evaluate policies, structures, and funding and award mechanisms.
- C. Develop scoring criteria.

### V. **Staff Liaison**

- A. Staff liaison will prepare a summary of applications, including past history of applicants in the program to committee members before a review meeting.

- B. Staff liaison will communicate with FOTA treasurer regarding scholarships awarded so that treasurer may approve any invoices to be paid.
- C. Staff liaison will update and maintain files recording all applicants and all scholarship recipients including demographics when possible.
- D. Staff liaison maintains materials and applications online on the FOTA website and electronically as needed.

**VI. Funding**

SLP FOTA will provide funds for the Arts for Life Scholarship Program. Funds are solicited and received by FOTA specifically for this purpose. The committee may solicit other sources of funding to add to the fund. Scholarships are only paid to the teacher or organization providing the activity – not the applicant.

The Arts for Life Scholarship fund will set a high priority to fund:

- A. Individuals only – not organizations or groups,
- B. Individuals that have not had the opportunity for participation in a creative activity,
- C. Individuals that have financial difficulty in participating in creative activities,

The Arts for Life Scholarship Program does not fund the following:

- A. Food or travel expenses.
- B. Continuation of an activity that the applicant is already participating in or may in extenuating circumstance, but not fully fund.
- C. Group activities.

**VII. Calendar**

**Scholarship deadlines are: March 5, June 5, Sept 15, and Dec 5<sup>th</sup> annually.**