



## **Scholarships: FAQ**

***Q: Are there scholarships available for music and visual arts instruction?***

A: Yes. Scholarships are available for both music and visual arts instruction at the Chelsea Center for the Arts (CCA). Those interested in tuition assistance must apply for scholarships. Scholarships for all ages are available at the start of each of the 3 terms. Moore Pediatric Scholarships for Early Childhood Education are available throughout the year.

***Q: Who is eligible for tuition assistance?***

A: All students taking lessons or classes at CCA may apply. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of need and merit.

***Q: Is tuition assistance available for students pursuing art or music at a collegiate or professional level?***

A: Yes! CCA recognizes that students pursuing art at a higher level will incur additional costs. Tuition assistance is available to junior and senior high school students to, among other things, supplement a primary instrument with piano lessons, prepare for auditions, prepare and review work to be included in portfolios for visual arts students, and to assist with applications. Please note that students must submit recommendation letters with their applications.

***Q: When are applications due?***

A: With the exception of Early Childhood Scholarships applications, which are accepted throughout the year, applications for general fund scholarships and tuition assistance are available for each of the three terms and are due by the deadlines posted on CCA's Scholarship webpage.

***Q: How much money is awarded?***

A: The amount of scholarship money available each term varies, and depends upon the number of applicants and the amount of money raised for scholarships through fundraising events such as *Autumn Jubilee*, *Jazz & Chocolates*, and generous donations from our community.

***Q: How are the scholarships awarded?***

A: Students interested in receiving tuition assistance must submit an application. The application, which is confidential, is submitted to a Scholarship and Tuition Assistance Review Team which reviews all of the applications at one time. Awards are then based on the total number of dollars available for scholarships, financial need, the strength of the application itself, recommendation letters, completion of volunteer hours (if the applicant was previously awarded tuition assistance), and the number of applications submitted.

***Q: Is the process confidential?***

A: Yes. The applications are submitted to the Scholarship Coordinator in the office who accepts the completed applications and then redacts all personal identifying information from the applications and any recommendation letters. The applications are then submitted to the Scholarship and Tuition Assistance Review Team (START) who reviews the applications and makes award determinations without knowing the identity of the applicants.

***Q: Who serves on the Scholarship and Tuition Assistance Review Team (START)?***

A: START is comprised of respected community and arts advocates who volunteer their time. When making award determinations, these volunteers draw on their diverse analytical and personal skills to review each application within the program's award guidelines of need and merit. To ensure a fair process, the identity of the START team is also confidential

***Q: What must I do?***

A: To apply for a scholarship, first read the instructions on CCA's scholarship web page, and then carefully complete the application in full. Applications are available online or at the office. If you are taking more than one music or visual arts class, please fill out only one application. CCA often receives more requests for scholarships than it does available scholarship money. To increase the likelihood of receiving tuition assistance, please thoughtfully complete the application. Applications will not be accepted if they are returned late or incomplete.

***Q: Do I have to submit a recommendation letter?***

A: Recommendation letters are not required unless you are a junior or high school student seeking extra tuition support in preparation for a collegiate or professional career in music or visual arts. However, recommendation letters are highly suggested as they provide the Scholarship Review Team with valuable insight into your passion and commitment for art. **Returning CCA music students must submit an Instructor Short Form.** When asking an instructor for a recommendation or completion of the short form, make sure you give the instructor plenty of time to complete a recommendation or short form.

***Q: What is the Instructor Short Form?***

A: The Instructor Short Form is a brief form that must be submitted by all returning CCA music students. It allows the instructors to provide important information to the Scholarship Review Team about an applicant's attendance, performance and aptitude.

***Q: What do I do when the application or forms require my signature and I am submitting the documents electronically?***

A: You can either type your name in the signature line or provide an electronic signature.

***Q: I have been notified that I received tuition assistance, now what?***

A: You must accept the award by completing and signing the award acceptance letter that you received with your award notification letter. You also must complete three (3) hours of volunteer work at CCA.

***Q: What are the expectations of CCA in regard to Scholarship and Tuition Assistance recipients?***

A: Award recipients are expected to attend and be prepared for lessons and complete their volunteer hours.

***Q: Can a scholarship award be used to purchase instruments or other equipment?***

A: No. Scholarship money must be applied towards tuition for CCA lessons or classes.

***Q: Can I use a scholarship award during any term?***

A: Scholarship award money must be used during the term for which you applied.

***Q: I've been notified that I did not receive tuition assistance. May I apply again in the future?***

A: Yes! Applications are reviewed independently each term. If you received an award one term, there is no guarantee that you will receive it in the future. Similarly, if you did not receive an award previously, you may be awarded a scholarship at a future date.