# Overview

The Town of Parker Cultural Department is committed to providing arts and culture enrichment to our community. The Cultural Scholarship Program helps families needing financial assistance to participate in the Town’s Cultural programs. This program assists individuals with disabilities and those experiencing financial difficulties, or times of special need.

# Guidelines

Applications are reviewed and scored to determine the degree of need based on the information provided below. All information is maintained with the strictest confidentiality and is used only for awarding scholarships.

The Town does not discriminate against any person otherwise qualified because of race, creed, sex, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

## Establishing need:

The amount of the cultural scholarship awarded is based on all or some of the following: residency, the demonstration of financial need, special circumstances or temporary hardships by the household.

Applicants may apply for a cultural scholarship for the following identified needs:

* *Income Based:* The Town uses household income combined with household size to determine the amount of need for the cultural scholarship. This scale was developed using established standards found on CCCAP, Free and Reduced Lunch Program and government assistance applications.
* *Special Circumstances:* Special circumstances are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Priority will first be given to households facing more critical and involuntary hardship situations. Priority is given to households demonstrating why the scholarship is needed to support the engagement in pro-social activities.
* *Temporary Hardships:* Hardships and special times of need are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Priority will first be given to households facing more critical and involuntary hardship situations.

## Award Amount:

Awarded applicants receive a $200 cultural scholarship per person, per calendar year. The number of scholarships distributed varies each year depending on available funding and the number of requests received.

## Submission Deadline:

All scholarship applications must be submitted a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the start date of a requested activity. Exceptions to application deadlines may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Program Manager.

## Registration:

Registration for the activity is required. If spots are not available at the time the award amount is determined, the recipient may join a waitlist or choose another offering.

## Recipient’s Financial Responsibility:

Recipients are responsible for paying 40% of the activity fee. This payment must be received before the start of the activity.

Costs that are in addition to the original registration fee (i.e. supplies) are not covered by the Scholarship Program; these are the responsibility of the recipient.

## Cancellations:

* If recipient is unable to attend the registered activity, it is the recipient’s responsibility to notify Parker Arts Education to cancel in a timeframe consistent with the Department’s cancellation/refund policies.
* If the request is received within the required timeframe, the cultural scholarship will be placed on the participant’s account to be used toward another cultural activity.
* If a cultural scholarship recipient fails to notify the Cultural Department of a cancellation within the timeframe specified in the refund policy, the recipient will forfeit the award amount in full.
* If a cultural scholarship recipient fails to use funds awarded, the recipient will forfeit the award amount in full.
* Failure to use awarded funds may result in disqualification for future cultural scholarships.
* Financial awards are transferable within the household.