

# Town Arts Council Donor Proposal for Willow James

## Introduction

The **Town Arts Council (TAC)** is dedicated to enriching the lives of those who live, work, and play here by bringing local arts and artists together with the community.

The **TAC Student Film Program (TAC-SFP)** is a partnership between TAC and the Town Youth Center offering a film production program to local high school students.

TAC-SFP participants get a unique opportunity to learn the art of filmmaking while telling meaningful personal stories.

## Current Program

Currently, there are two program sessions per year. In each session, a small group of teens works together to form a crew that produces a short film. This immersive learning experience gives participants exposure to all aspects of film production, including screenwriting, acting, directing, camera operation, lighting, sound, and editing.

Family and friends are invited to the premiere of student-made films at the **Town Film Festival**, held each fall at the Town Theatre and attracting diverse audiences from near and far.

Every story then gets a place in the program archive, the TAC-SFP YouTube channel.

## Participant Quotes

Here's what participants and their families are saying:

- *This program has boosted my daughter's confidence in her writing ability.* –a TAC-SFP parent
- *I think it's made me more open to new experiences and looking at life in new ways.* – a TAC-SFP graduate
- *I think it's made me more open to new experiences and looking at life in new ways.* – a TAC-SFP graduate

**Focused on the Present and the Future**

Through TAC-SFP classes, we have sought to create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for our young filmmakers to tell their stories. The results speak for themselves.

- 100% of TAC-SFP graduates have obtained a high school diploma.
- 30% of TAC-SFP graduates have continued their education in the arts in a two-year or four-year post-secondary program.

**Program Expansion**

The work and the success of our graduates have led us to a new quest ... to leave no story untold.

The vision for expanding the program beginning in 2026 is based on your feedback:

- Remove barriers to participation by fully-funding session tuition.
- Increase reach by adding a summer session.
- Increase promotion of the program, the films, and the filmmakers.
- Establish a scholar fund to provide financial assistance to program alums who continue studies in the arts in college.

**Expansion Cost Estimate Schedule**

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Summer Session: Teaching Artist stipend	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,700	\$7,500	\$37,500
Summer Session: Studio fees (reduced rate)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500
Summer Session: Legal fees	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000

Fully-funded tuition for 24 participants per year	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
Construction, launch, and maintenance of the SFP web site	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$9,000
Construction and maintenance of social media presence for the SFP	\$3,000	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$6,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$24,750</b>	<b>\$24,750</b>	<b>\$24,750</b>	<b>\$24,750</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

### Giving opportunities

#### To Remove Barriers

- Fully-funded tuition creates opportunity to include voices and stories that would otherwise go unheard.
- A gift of \$60,000 will pave the way to the TAC-SFP for 120 local teens, 2026-2030.

#### To Increase Reach

- Expanding our program year to include a summer session will bring 40 additional storytellers to TAC-SFP over five years.
- A gift of \$75,000 will fund five TAC-SFP summer sessions, 2026-2030.

#### To Support Arts Education

- Establishing a TAC-SFP scholar fund to assist graduates who continue their arts education after high school.
- A gift of \$50,000 will provide \$10,000 per year in student aid, 2026-2030.

**Named Funds**

In honor of your gift toward program expansion, we are pleased to invite you to name the fund you choose to sponsor. However, we understand that your privacy is important, and you may wish that your gift remain anonymous. If so, we will honor that wish.

**Thank You**

We are deeply grateful for your thoughtful consideration of this opportunity to support young filmmakers right here in your hometown.