

Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society
Annual General Meeting
The Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship Report
Submitted by The Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship Committee

April 14, 2022

2021 was the eighth year of the Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship. The Scholarship is an Edmonton Folk Music Festival (EFMF) program that recognizes and honours EFMF volunteers who demonstrate, through their actions and attitudes, a positive motivation to be engaged meaningfully in the community and the world at large. Persons selected will have a spirit of adventure, a desire to communicate, and a willingness to share their knowledge and experience with others. Don Snider embodied these qualities over 40 years of working in the arts, as Production Manager of the EFMF for 21 years, and travelling the world.

The committee considered 13 complete applications in 2021. One conflict of interest was declared by a committee member about one of the applicants. The committee member recused themselves of the conversation related to that applicant. Ultimately that applicant was not selected for an award. No other conflicts of interest were declared. The committee met via Zoom on May 27, 2021. Eleven applications were not recommended for awards.

Chyana Deschamps was awarded two years of funding, with payments of \$5,000 scheduled in the autumns of 2021 and 2022. Some details about Chyana and excerpts from the autobiography she provided:

- Has been volunteering with EFMF for over 10 years since she was 16.
- “The Folk Fest was always this magical place for me where you connect with old friends and share meals under the vast Edmonton sky. It was a place of reprieve and also a pivotal place in shaping the woman I was becoming—the woman who I am now today.”
- “I received acceptance into Ivy League Columbia University’s MFA in Creative Nonfiction program, where I will spend the next two years working on my memoir. I will be spending these next two years mastering my craft and diving into the world of writing, specifically creative nonfiction, with every fibre of my being.”
- “An integral component of my Indigenous heritage comes along with intergenerational trauma. I draw on my experiences of anti-Indigenous racism, childhood abuses and traumas, painting a world of raw emotion that pulls you into the viscerality of my poems, short stories, and soon to be memoir.”

In 2021 funds were again available to provide a second award. Jennifer Cabrera Portelles was selected for a \$2,000 one-time award. Jennifer was on the Enviropower crew.

In 2021 Ranya El-Sharkawi received their second year of funding.

Since the scholarship began in 2014, 14 students have received awards and \$85,000 has been paid to recipients. The success of this scholarship is a testament to EFMF’s exceptional volunteer program and the positive contributions EFMF volunteers make to society.

A recap of the Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship Committee adjudication process is as follows:

- Copies of all the applications are provided to each Committee member and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Manager of Volunteers through the online portal.
- The Manager of Volunteers looks over the list of applicants and flags any concerns regarding a volunteer's status for the Committee to discuss.
- Any conflicts of interest are declared, and the Committee member abstains from participating in any conversations or providing any recommendations regarding that applicant.
- Each Committee member provides an initial recommendation of "Yes," "No," or "Maybe" for each applicant.
- The recommendations are compiled, and the applicants are organized into tranches based on the number of "Yes" votes they have received. This process allows the Committee to focus its discussion in the adjudication meeting on the few applications that received mostly "Yes" votes.
- A discussion at the Committee meeting determines the final recommendation to the EFMF Society Board of Directors.

This process was followed to the satisfaction of the Committee in 2021. In 2022 the application will be hosted on Edmonton Community Foundation's new online portal system for a second year, which will once again host the committee's review process. The 2022 application is largely unchanged from the 2021 version. A launch page has been created on EFMF's website and can be found here:

<https://edmontonfolkfest.org/scholarship/>

In 2021 the committee consisted of:

- Alex Draper (Committee Chair)
- Linda Brenneman-Snider (Snider Family Representative)
- Laurel Allison (Snider Family Representative)
- Stuart Muir (Board Representative)
- Alan Burant
- Marigold Kinley
- Katherine Goertz Thompson
- Larry Bejcar

Marianne Stover served as a resource to the committee.

In 2021 the Committee is reviewed the Terms of Reference and made recommendations to the EFMF Board of Directors. An orientation document and rubric guide were created for new committee members to help reviewers consistently evaluate applications.

In 2022 the panel anticipates selecting one recipient to receive a two-year award of \$5,000 annually, and a one-time \$2,000 award. The application deadline for the Scholarship will be April 30, 2022. The Committee will meet shortly afterward to determine a recipient.



Alex Draper

On behalf of the Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" Scholarship Committee