

The Don Snider “Go Wildly Forward” Scholarship Committee Report

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Summary: The Don Snider Scholarship Committee has been in existence since 2014 and there are currently seven active members. A standing committee of the Board, the committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board regarding scholarship recipients while upholding the scholarship intent and legacy of Don Snider’s name.

Current members: Laurel Allison, Larry Bejcar, Linda Brenneman-Snider, Alan Burant, Alex Draper, Marigold Kinley, Drew Walker

Summary of work completed:

- Had our first crew meeting of 2023 in February where we discussed three main questions:

→ What has been working well? Key points:

- ◆ Alignment of the application process with Don’s values, tying things back to the festival connection and going wildly forward
- ◆ All of the applicants have been great quality: young, passionate, and positive vibes. People going beyond themselves and into the community and sharing knowledge.
- ◆ The relationship between committee members amongst themselves and with EFMF staff

→ What hasn’t been working well? Key points:

- ◆ Low number of applicants
- ◆ Need to increase awareness of the scholarship program
- ◆ Recognition of the scholarship recipient is an area for improvement

→ What changes, if any, would you like to see in the scholarship program? Key points:

- ◆ Get recipients on the volunteer wall of fame
- ◆ Increase the reward amount. Update:

- The Board voted in favour of increasing the program budget from \$12,000 to \$15,000 (effective 2024 onwards)

- Communicated with EFMF staff for social media marketing needs to effectively spread the word about the program to eligible volunteers, we hope to see a few more applicants this year

Upcoming tasks to be accomplished:

- Application deadline April 30th, receive and review applications
- Select recipients by May 30, 2023 and bring to the June 6, 2023 Board meeting for final decision
- Communicate recipient information with the signage and program book teams to increase recognition
- Update Terms of Reference to reflect the increased in reward amount

Recommendations for the future:

- Review the scholarship award amounts every 3 years
- Continue to work on increasing the general awareness of the scholarship program
- Meet after the festival to evaluate the program while feedback is still salient