

W H A R T O N

SEATS 4 KIDS - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the scholarship fund?

Seats 4 Kids was created to provide free tickets to local youth who could not otherwise afford to attend a performing arts event.

How is the program funded?

Tickets are purchased with private contributions from individuals and groups.

What types of organizations participate in the program?

Participating organizations are pre-approved by Wharton Center and must be non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations or Title 1 schools that offer programs focused on economically disadvantaged youth.

How does an organization get pre-approved for tickets?

Interested organizations must submit a formal application for consideration. Full requirements are outlined in more detail in the application. Once a formal application is submitted, Wharton Center management will review the application and corresponding materials to determine if the organization meets the program requirements. Organization will receive a letter with more information after their application has been reviewed.

What should we expect after our application is approved?

A Wharton Center staff member will coordinate with your organization's contact person to determine what tickets can be offered. When tickets are available, they will be provided to the contact person for distribution to approved group members, prior to the Wharton Center event.

Is transportation provided for participating groups?

No. Participating organizations and/or parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the theatre. If transportation is a major barrier, Wharton Center may be able to work with Dean Transportation to provide complimentary busing or provide you with application information.

How many tickets are purchased through this program?

The quantity and frequency of tickets are based on available funding provided solely through private contributions.

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How do we know that tickets are going to worthy children?

Participating organizations must ensure that at least 80 percent of donated tickets are used by economically disadvantaged youth. The remaining 20 percent may be used for

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chaperones, as needed. Tickets will be mailed to a designated group leader for distribution to youth and chaperones. A Wharton Center representative will follow up with the organization, prior to a performance, to ensure that all tickets have been distributed and will be used.

Can contributors designate which organization receives tickets purchased with their gift?

No. In order to qualify as a tax-deductible donation, contributors CANNOT designate which organization receives tickets. If a contributor wants to purchase tickets for a specific pre-approved organization or an organization that has not yet been pre-approved, the donation should be made directly to the organization, and that organization can purchase tickets through the Ticket Office as a group sale.

Are contributions tax-deductible?

Yes. If a contributor is a Michigan resident, the gift also qualifies for a direct income tax credit.

What recognition do contributors receive?

For a gift of \$100 or more, contributors will be acknowledged in Wharton Center's *Curtain Call* house program for the season in which the tax-deductible gift occurs (*alpha order without reference to the amount of their contribution and not within the Wharton Circle Honor Roll.*) They'll also receive an invitation to Wharton Center's Season Announcement Donor Appreciation Concert and a subscription to *Beyond the Stage* newsletter.

NOTE: We also ask that the children write thank you letters that will be sent to participating contributors. Letters will come directly to Wharton Center and will be distributed periodically.

Do contributions qualify for Wharton Center's seating priority system?

No. Contributors to the *Seats 4 Kids* fund are purchasing tickets for disadvantaged children, not donating to support Wharton Center's general operations or one of our endowment funds. Seating priority is reserved as a benefit for subscribers and donors to Wharton Center's general fund.

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