

From: Jottorm <noreply@jottorm.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 1:01 PM
To: nhawes1@maine.rr.com
Subject: Re: SPCE Rotary Community Grant Application (2026-2027) -

\$500



SPCE Rotary Community Grant Application (2026-2027)

Contact Person	Linda Shary
Phone Number	(207) 807-7812
E-Mail Address	linda@sidexsideme.com
Requesting Organization Name	Side x Side
Organization Website (if applicable)	https://sidexsideme.com/
Address	Street Address: 636 Congress Street City: Portland State / Province: ME Postal / Zip Code: 04101
Is your organization a 501(c)(3). If not, do you have a fiscal sponsor?	Yes
Year Established	2014
Type of Request	Student Services
Program / Project Name	Afterschool and Vacation Week Scholarships
Requested Amount	\$1,365
Program / Project Description - how would the grant money be used?	Your member, Patty Sprague, encouraged our Executive Director, Beth Wilbur van Mierlo, to apply for funding. As a result, we generously received \$500 in funds for our Summer Camp Scholarships. Thank you for that generous contribution, and thanks to Nancy Hawes for inviting our application again at this time. The increase in amount reflects the longer time frame of the programs over the school year. Similar to Rotary's support for our Summer Camp Scholarship programs last Spring, a grant this fall toward our Afterschool Art Classes and Vacation Week Camps will

enable Side x Side to offer greater-Portland children & families financial assistance for our unique art-based programs. Our Oak Street Studios on Congress Street in Portland, where our classes take place, has engaged children of all ages for almost 3 decades and provides a safe place for students who do not necessarily thrive in more traditional settings. Our requested amount would allow 3 full scholarships or six partial scholarships for families requesting financial assistance. Our slots for afterschool and vacation camps fill up as the school year progresses. However we will apply funds to families on the waiting list as soon as funds are available.

Our projects are based in art history and children's literature and taught by professional teaching artists. We use fine arts materials and incorporate local field trips. We also host a First Friday Art Walk opening of student work. We group students together according to age and ability and try to be sure all students have at least one peer during their camp.

Through the years, Side x Side has provided high quality afterschool and vacation week experiences that nurture children and expand their worlds through the arts. These funds will allow children who would not otherwise be able to share a dedicated arts experience because of financial hardship, thus losing out on an opportunity to find their creative voice and be introduced to the unique artistic expression that lives in us all.

Please visit our website or give us a call with any questions.

Is this a time-sensitive request?

No

For Grant Requests over \$500 - Describe how you will define program/project success and what type of reporting or metrics you can provide to back to Rotary.

As we were able to give you a brief but meaningful report for the previous scholarship funds, we again would be happy to provide a similar narrative with data on our program once it is complete in Spring 2027. We can provide number of students served, outcomes of the students' work, and brief examples of the impact Rotary support had on the children who participated.

Are there other ways that Rotarians can be of service to your organization/project/program (such a volunteering, mentoring, professional services)?

Rotarians are always invited to our Celebrations of Learning in the schools to witness first-hand the impact of our arts-integration learning. After being inspired, we would love to connect members with appropriate schools, as there is always a need to volunteer in the classrooms.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

