



## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 23, 2017  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Lori Chisholm, Out of School Time Manager  
Subject: Subsidy Program (Scholarships) Overview

### **Requested Board Action**

This is an informational briefing on Seattle Parks and Recreation's Subsidy Program (Scholarships).

### **Subsidy Program Background and Overview:**

The Subsidy Program provides reduced fees or scholarships to ensure access and opportunity for all people who financially qualify to participate in Seattle Parks and Recreation programs and activities.

There are multiple fund sources that contribute to the Subsidy Program including General Fund, Park District, Associated Recreation Council, donations, and corporate giving.

In 2008, a focus group was created to review and analyze current processes and procedures related to scholarships and make recommendations to establish a consistent subsidy framework that supports equity and access to recreation programs and services. The focus group included representation from staff, Associated Recreation Council and Community members.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Subsidy Program and Scholarship process, eligibility requirements, resource allocation, fund sources, review of program goals, and data about scholarship applicants.

### **Opportunities:**

- Streamline processes for improved customer service.
- Revise application to be more user friendly.
- Identify technology resources that can improve systems.
- Collaborate with other City Departments to find efficiencies.
- Ensure program supports Race and Social Justice efforts.
- Utilize data to assess effectiveness of program in supporting City and Department goals.