

The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center  
presents



## ***The Sarah McKnight Harmony & Hearth Scholarship***

### **Overview:**

The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center are proud to partner with the family of Sarah McKnight in presenting a scholarship that honors the legacy of businesswoman and visionary Sarah McKnight. The Sarah McKnight Harmony & Hearth Scholarship is designed to empower and support visionary students passionate about entrepreneurship with a unique mission: to foster community, connection, and creativity through music, food, and shared experiences. This scholarship recognizes students who aspire to create innovative business ventures that use music, culinary arts, and genuine human connection to build bridges, spark joy, and inspire unity.

### **Mission:**

To support the next generation of changemakers by investing in their dreams to create spaces, businesses, or initiatives that unite people through shared experiences rooted in music, food, and kindness.

### **Scholarship Details:**

- *Award Amount:* Two \$2500 awards, two \$500 awards (four awards total)
- *Who Should Apply:* Students who are pursuing or planning to pursue higher education to start their own business that aligns with the themes of connection, creativity, community, and inclusivity.
- *Focus Areas:* Students with an interest in academic and professional ventures in live music, events, food, and/or creative spaces.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

Applications will be evaluated based on:

1. *Educational Status:* Must be a high school senior OR an undergraduate student currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, or vocational program.
2. *Entrepreneurial Vision:* The applicant must express their interest in music, food, and shared experiences to connect communities and inspire togetherness.
3. *Passion for Community & Creativity:* Demonstrated interest in creating spaces or experiences that build connection, foster inclusion, and use creative arts as a tool for outreach and collaboration.
4. *Leadership & Initiative:* Applicants should display qualities of leadership, resilience, or ambition—evidenced by community involvement, extracurricular activities, creative initiatives, volunteerism, or previous projects.
5. *Academic Standing:* While academic excellence is important, the scholarship is meant to support passion and initiative, so applicants should maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher (or a similar metric, depending on the program).

## Application Requirements:

1. *Completed Application Form.* (Available on CCMCC website.)

2. *Personal Statement* (500–750 words): A clear, thoughtful essay describing:

- Your passion for using music, food, and experiences to bring people together.
- The personal journey, story, or event that inspires your long-term academic and/or professional goals.
- How your experiences at the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center (a visit, school trip, event, etc.) have inspired your academic and/or professional goals.
- How you plan to use the scholarship to advance your academic and/or professional goals.

3. *Letters of Recommendation* (Two Required): Two letters of recommendation from mentors, teachers, community leaders, or others familiar with your leadership, creativity, and commitment. These letters should speak to your potential, work ethic, passion, and vision.

4. *Academic Transcript:* A high school or undergraduate transcript reflecting your current academic standing, including GPA. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

**IMPORTANT:** All awardees will be expected to attend the CCMCC’s annual Juneteenth Breakfast on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30AM to accept their awards. Awarded applicants will be notified by June 1<sup>st</sup> so that they can plan to attend on June 19<sup>th</sup>. A ticket will be provided for the awardee and one guest, with the option for tickets to be purchased for additional guests.

## How to Apply:

- Send your completed application form, personal statement, and academic transcript addressed to Mangyne Vivian Filer at [info@cottonclubmuseum.com](mailto:info@cottonclubmuseum.com) with the subject line “Sarah McKnight Harmony & Hearth Scholarship”
- Letters of recommendation should be emailed by the recommender to [info@cottonclubmuseum.com](mailto:info@cottonclubmuseum.com). Their letter should include your name as it is written on your application form as well as their relationship to you (mentor, teacher, etc.).

**Deadline:** All materials should be submitted to [info@cottonclubmuseum.com](mailto:info@cottonclubmuseum.com) by **11:59PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** This includes the letters of recommendation. Awarded applicants will be notified by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For any questions, please email Mangyne Vivian Filer at [info@cottonclubmuseum.com](mailto:info@cottonclubmuseum.com) or call 352-226-8321.