

March 12, 2017

The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy
The Heller School for Social Policy and Management
Brandeis University
415, South Street, MS-035
Waltham, MA, 02454-9110

Dear Members of the Generous U Application Committee,

Please accept this application on behalf of the Tisch Council for Philanthropic Leadership (TCPL), at Tufts University. This application includes our executive summary, a link to our video, confirmation of our status as a student group at Tufts University, and background information about our group.

University name: Tufts University

Group name: Tisch Council for Philanthropic Leadership (TCPL)

Group's mission: To provide Tufts students with the opportunity to deepen their personal and professional involvement in philanthropy and develop leadership skills through grantmaking and community project management.

Group website: <https://www.facebook.com/TuftsPhilanthropicLeaders/>

Contact person: Sarah Bahn, [REDACTED]

Staff Advisor: Dr. Nancy Lippe, [REDACTED]

Name and contact information for a university official who can confirm our status as a formal group, club, or organization eligible to receive the \$10,000 Sillerman Prize: Sherri Sklarwitz, [REDACTED]

Budget for our philanthropy-related activities: [REDACTED], given away in grants to Tufts' host communities

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHTPSLH18PE&feature=youtu.be>



Executive Summary

- *How have you increased the practice and awareness of philanthropy or charitable giving on your campus?*

TCPL was formed with the goal of providing more students at Tufts with the opportunity to discuss and practice philanthropy. Initially formed based off of a philanthropy course offered at Tufts, TCPL was envisioned as a way for students who had been involved in the philanthropy course to continue practicing philanthropy, as well as a way to provide access to philanthropy for students not involved in the course. TCPL holds weekly meetings where passionate students can discuss current topics in philanthropy, learn about local nonprofits and foundations, and be part of a grantmaking board.

TCPL is currently planning a Speaker Panel event titled *Philanthropy in the Current Political Climate: Philanthropy as a Tool*. TCPL has invited leaders from philanthropic organizations to share their experiences with economic, racial, or gender inequality in regards to the current political climate. Through this event, TCPL aims to initiate discussions on campus and encourage active citizenship by using philanthropy as a means to strengthen leadership, organization, and problem-solving skills.

TCPL is also planning a leadership retreat for its members, who will work together to complete a High Ropes Course. This activity will promote individual leadership skills, as well as critical thinking, communication, and teamwork. Development of these skills will allow TCPL members to further embody the group mission to lead the Tufts community in productive conversations and civic actions through philanthropy.

Each semester, TCPL organizes a service project. In the fall, the group promoted giving and empathy by offering free cookies and flowers to students studying for finals in the library. Members also asked recipients to pass on the kindness, by taking an extra gift for a friend, for example. While the gifts were small, this project promoted TCPL's goal of spreading awareness about giving and philanthropy outreach on campus. It also provided students with an example of how accessible philanthropy and giving can be.

- *How precisely does your group practice philanthropy? What principles and goals guide your philanthropy?*

The Tisch Council for Philanthropic Leadership (TCPL) is a student led initiative that aims to engage the Tufts community by providing a platform for conversations on the topics of philanthropy and leadership. TCPL consists of 15 students who meet weekly to discuss and reflect on topics in philanthropy as well as put their knowledge into action by functioning as a grantmaking board, implementing service projects, organizing speaker panels, and engaging in work with local communities. Students involved in the group have the opportunity to write a mission statement based on their values and interests and complete a full grantmaking cycle. This Spring, TCPL will allocate \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations in Tufts' host communities (Medford, Somerville, and Boston's Chinatown) that focus on promoting equity and education for the immigrant and refugee communities.

Each TCPL meeting consists of a leadership activity or game and discussion, often facilitated by our advisor Dr. Nancy Lippe, that helps students reflect on their own values when it comes to leadership and philanthropy. The work that the group does is directly catered to uphold and serve the values that the students determine to be of utmost importance through these activities. This year, some of the topics that the students are most passionate about include economic justice and education, which stem from shared values of diversity and empathy.

- *Who are the beneficiaries of your work and monetary giving? How do they benefit?*

Currently, the primary beneficiaries of our work are local nonprofits in Tufts' host communities that receive grants from TCPL. In past years, when the club was more closely tied in with the Tufts philanthropy course, grant recipients have included East End House, CitySprouts, and Cambridge YMCA. By the end of this semester, the current TCPL board will select more grant recipients for our current request for proposals, focusing on immigrant and refugee populations. The grants made this spring will total \$10,000.

In addition to our grant recipients, TCPL provides Tufts students with the opportunity to engage in philanthropy on campus. Some students are very deeply involved in all aspects of our programming, while others gain access to philanthropy in smaller ways such as by attending a speaker panel event, benefitting from our service projects on campus, or reading relevant articles we post to our Facebook page. In the future we hope to engage more students in grantmaking and more sustained involvement with the club, as well as continue to increase knowledge and discussion about philanthropy at Tufts.

- *Describe your group's fundraising and/or giving strategies, and/or process.*

For the past several years, TCPL and the Tufts philanthropy course it is associated with have made grants to the local community. Our grantmaking is funded by the Highland Street Foundation. As a club we go through a full grantmaking cycle each year. We begin by discussing our values and interests, writing a mission statement, and drafting a request for proposals. We then send the RFP to local nonprofits through our school and community partners, select grantees, and host a grant awards ceremony at the end of the semester to present the funding to the grantees and celebrate their organizations.

Seeing as the only funding we currently have is to be used exclusively for grantmaking, for any other activities we wish to pursue, such as leadership retreats and service projects that require supplies or transportation, we fundraise or seek in-kind donations.

- *How many club members does your group currently have and how do you encourage student involvement? Please describe any plans to increase involvement.*

Currently we have about 15 members who are deeply involved with TCPL's work, from organizing the speaker panel, to operating as a grantmaking board, to attending weekly discussions about philanthropy and leadership. More students have been impacted by TCPL through our service projects and speaker panel events. As we currently only have funding for grantmaking purposes, having more flexible funding for the group would allow TCPL to expand next year by offering more frequent events and leadership activities to the Tufts student body. We currently have to fundraise or seek donations for even small expenses, such as food for an event, so having a steady source of funding would allow us to focus more time and energy on organizing events and marketing our club to a broader group of students next year.

- *If you receive a cash prize, how will it be used? How is this sustainable? Please be specific.*

Receiving a cash prize would allow TCPL to award grants both semesters, instead of just once a year as we do now. We currently have funding for the club to do one grantmaking cycle per year. If we received this prize, we would continue to partner with the Highland Street Foundation for one semester's grantmaking activities, then use a portion of the prize money to make grants during the other semester. We would use \$8,000 of the prize money for grantmaking in our host communities. With the remaining \$2,000, we would organize leadership activities for Tufts students, plan service projects, and fund any expenses required for our on-campus events, such as providing guest speakers with compensation for their

time and paying for event food and equipment. This prize would be sustainable as it would grow our impact in our host communities, as well as increase awareness of our group on campus. Gaining a stronger footing on campus would allow us to continue the work we are passionate about in the coming years by increasing student participation and creating more flexibility for planning our events.

Thank you, Sillerman Center and Generous U, for your consideration of this application! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.