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# ROSE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2023-24 Roots & Branches Member Application

**Application Deadline is Monday, April 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Get Involved. Get Connected. Give Together.**

Each year, Roots & Branches Foundation brings together a diverse, talented and motivated group of Jewish people, ages 25 to 40, to use their Jewish values and the tools of strategic philanthropy to make a positive difference in the Greater Denver Community.

Roots & Branches Foundation members...

- Engage in strategic philanthropy by identifying a community need, learning about nonprofits, and awarding grants totaling roughly \$50,000.
- Leverage time, talent and personal philanthropy.
- Connect Jewish values to the good they seek to do.
- Learn about and connect with the Greater Denver and Boulder community.
- Become a part of the next generation of funders at Rose Community Foundation.

## **The Commitment**

Accepted members are required to:

- Attend and participate in all meetings, one pre-approved absence is permitted. *If participants are feeling ill they are encouraged to participate via Zoom when possible.*
- Spend time outside of meetings connecting with fellow members, researching community issues, reading relevant materials and grant proposals, and meeting with nonprofits for Listening and Learning Conversations that take place in December of 2023 during regular business hours.
- Carefully read, understand and accept Rose Community Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy, Confidentiality Agreement, and Authorization and Release.
- Make a personally meaningful donation to the Roots & Branches Foundation grantmaking pool. We recognize that members have diverse circumstances and we believe philanthropy is defined by intention and commitment, not by gift size, so there is no recommended donation amount. Individual gift size is kept confidential between members.

Members of Roots & Branches Foundation work together in the spirit of consensus; all voices and perspectives are considered before a final decision is reached. This kind of collaboration requires participants to be curious, open, patient and committed to the process, not just the outcomes. Working as a team in this way is rewarding, but we recognize it is not for everyone. We ask applicants to consider their comfort with group collaboration before applying.

### **The Meetings**

Members of Roots & Branches Foundation will meet for seven sessions over seven months, from June 2023 through January 2024. Meetings will be held in-person on Tuesday nights from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at Rose Community Foundation (4500 Cherry Creek Drive S, Suite 900, Denver, CO, 80246). Meeting schedule is subject to change.

1. June 27, 2023

2. July 18, 2023

3. August 8, 2023

4. September 5, 2023

*Friday, October 13, 2023. Time and Location TBD: Shabbat dinner with partners and families*

5. November 14, 2023

6. January 9, 2024

7. January 30, 2024

### **The Funds**

Rose Community Foundation seeds the group's grantmaking with \$30,000 and provides a dollar-for-dollar match for member's combined contributions, up to \$10,000. All members are asked to make a personally meaningful donation. There is no recommended contribution amount and all amounts donated are confidential. 100% of member contributions are donated to the community.

### **Member Eligibility**

All applicants should:

- Reside within the Greater Denver community of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties
- Should identify as Jewish
- Be between the ages of 25 and 40 years old

### The Application Process

Prior to submitting a written application, all interested applicants must attend an informal, informational interview with a Roots & Branches alumni. The purpose of these conversations are for the applicant to gain a deeper understanding of the program and for the Foundation to get to know applicants "off-the-page." There is nothing for applicants to prepare in advance of these conversations.

To schedule these interviews, please email Gillian Nyland at [gnyland@rcfdenver.org](mailto:gnyland@rcfdenver.org) by **April 24th**. You will be matched with an alumni to coordinate a meeting place, modality, date and time. The last day for interviews will be Friday, May 5th. The written application must be submitted online by Monday, April 24th at 5:00 p.m. Once you create a Formsite login and password you will be able to save and return to your application before submitting.

### Selection

All applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of Roots & Branches alumni, Rose Community Foundation staff and board or committee members. The selection committee discusses each application and selects members primarily for their demographic, professional, personal and Jewish diversity, and for the degree to which each applicant stands to benefit from and contribute to the Roots & Branches experience. All applicants will be notified of selection decisions by Wednesday, **May 31st**, 2023.

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Street Address \*

Address Line 2

City \*

State \*

Zip Code \*

Phone Number \*

Email Address \*

Current profession, employer and job title \*

How long have you lived in the Greater Denver or Boulder area? \*

Age as of June 2023 \*

Gender \*

Pronouns \*

Race/Ethnicity

Sexual Orientation

Please list any ability accommodations we should be aware of

I am... \*

- Single  
 Partnered/in a committed relationship  
 Other

Do you have children? \*

- Yes  
 No  
 Other (please describe)

Do you identify as Jewish? \*

- Yes  
 No  
 Other (please describe)

Which denomination do you identify with? \*

Please list any other religious, cultural or faith affiliations

We believe meetings are better with a meal! Please let us know any dietary restrictions or preferences, we try to be as accommodating as possible. \*

- Strict Kosher: I require a certified Kosher meal
- Flexible Kosher: I will eat vegetarian meals out
- Vegetarian
- Vegan
- Gluten Free
- Dairy Free
- None
- Other

*Application continues on the next page*

Save Progress

Next >>

## Application Questions

Please use details and examples in responding to the application questions below. There are no "right" answers. Diversity of experience and perspective is an important selection criterion for us, so your answers should help the selection committee hear your authentic voice. Responses to long answer questions should be one to two paragraphs in length and a maximum of 200 words. At the bottom of the screen, there is a button you can use to save your progress.

1. Why are you interested in participating in Roots & Branches Foundation? What do you hope to gain or learn from this experience? In what ways will the group benefit from your participation? \*

0/200 words

2. What does being Jewish mean to you now and what has your Jewish journey been like so far? Judaism may be a relatively big or small part of your life and may be a mixture of positive, negative, lack-luster or life-changing experiences; we want to hear about it. \*

0/200 words

## JUSTICE

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We take action to address pressing issues in our community in pursuit of fairness, humanity and justice.

*Do not stand idly by in the face of suffering or injustice | Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Rei'echa*

## EQUITY

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We advance a more equitable region that provides opportunity and access for all, recognizing that historic and systemic barriers exist based on race, resources and gender.

*The ethical responsibility to right the scales of justice through philanthropy | Tzedakah*

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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We believe all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ability or country of origin – are equal and worthy of dignity, honor and full inclusion in community life.

*All of humanity is created in a divine image | B'tzelem Elohim*

## EMPATHY

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We strive to understand the perspectives of individuals, communities and organizations in our region, and to ground our actions in this understanding.

*Our experiences – historic and modern-day – create inherent empathy with those in need of support or alliance  
| Avadim Hayinu B'Mitzrayim*

## GENEROSITY

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We encourage and practice generosity, and our giving is informed by the interests, needs and dignity of the recipients.

*Honor and uphold the dignity of others | Kavod Habriot*

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

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We join with others to work toward a common vision.

*Humanity is in partnership to create a more whole and perfect world | Tikun Olam*

## COMMUNITY

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We believe our region needs strong, interconnected communities and honor Rose Community Foundation's Jewish roots with an enduring commitment to supporting the Greater Denver Jewish community as well as the Greater Denver region as a whole.

*Responsibility to communal needs | Kehillah*

3. Universal in aspiration and anchored in the Foundation's Jewish roots and legacy, our values (listed above) guide the work we do and how we do it, both within the Jewish community and in the Greater Denver region, providing a unifying sense of who we are as an organization. Please share a story about a time you experienced or put into action one of these values. \*

0/200 words

4. Tell us about yourself in a short third person bio. Include your professional and academic journey, life achievements, interests, surprising facts, hopes and dreams. If you are selected, these bios will be shared with your fellow members. \*

0/200 words

5. Upload a headshot to accompany your bio. Please select a high-resolution photo with only you in the frame. *This will be left off the application the selection committee sees and is used for the program if you are selected. If you have difficulties uploading a photo, you can email it to [gnyland@rcfdenver.org](mailto:gnyland@rcfdenver.org)*

Choose File No file chosen

6. List your current volunteer, leadership and community commitments within and outside the Jewish community.

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7. How did you hear about Roots & Branches Foundation? \*

8. Have you applied to participate in Roots & Branches Foundation before?

Yes

No

9. Have you reached out to Gillian Nyland ([gnyland@rcfdenver.org](mailto:gnyland@rcfdenver.org)) to schedule an informational interview? \*

Yes

No

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