



Decatur Parks Foundation  
620 E Riverside Avenue  
Decatur, Illinois 62521  
[www.decaturnparks.org](http://www.decaturnparks.org)



# THE ARTS

DECATUR PARK DISTRICT

JERRY MENZ

ARTS SCHOLARSHIP



# JERRY MENZ

## ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

The Jerry Menz Arts Scholarship provides opportunities for talented youth to succeed at the highest possible levels in the arts by offering scholarships for the Park District's programs in voice, music, theatre and dance. Awards are based on staff recommendations, prior participation in Park District programs, and a demonstrated talent and passion for the performing arts.

The Arts Scholarship is presented in honor of Mr. Jerry Menz, who served as Decatur Park District Director of Recreation from 1961 – 1993. Menz was a driving force in the creation of many of the District's cultural arts programs, including the Decatur Park Singers, Young Park Singers, Greater Decatur Chorale, Best of Summer Stock, Storyteller Theatre, and the District's dance programs.

During his tenure, Menz also served as a mentor to youth in the arts, including Park Board Commissioner Chris Riley and his wife Karen, who established this award in his honor.

"The arts help children develop self-esteem and confidence from the positive feedback they receive from qualified, caring instructors," said Riley. "Jerry Menz made great things happen for me, and I want to follow in his footsteps and, in initiating this award, serve as a mentor to other young artists and performers."

To be considered for the Jerry Menz Arts Scholarship, artists are asked to complete an application, available at the Arts & Recreation Center or online at [www.decaturnparks.org](http://www.decaturnparks.org). Applications must be received by August 15 for the fall/winter term and by March 15 for the spring/summer term.

The Decatur Park District has achieved great success in all areas of the arts and is the only Park & Recreation agency in the nation to have twice received the NRPA Dottie Mullen Award for the Arts & Humanities.



Please join in the effort to keep the arts alive in the greater Decatur area and support this important arts scholarship fund, designed to offer opportunities to promising young artists.

**Gifts of any size are most appreciated and will be matched by the Decatur Park District's Swartz Estate fund.**

In support of the Jerry Menz Arts Scholarship Fund, I/we pledge a gift of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

### PAYMENT METHOD

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Decatur Parks Foundation  
Jerry Menz Arts Scholarship Fund

Send to:  
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620 E. Riverside Ave.  
Decatur, IL 62521