

**MARJORIE L. AND ARTHUR P. MILLER FUND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FUND FOR OPEN SPACE AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
Proposal Form**

**Date:** 9/6/18

**Contact Information:**

**Organization Name:** The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust Inc.

**Address:** 1730 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

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**Contact Title:** Executive Director

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**Year Incorporated:** 1998

***Have you previously received the Miller Grant Award:*** NO

If "Yes", please indicate date and amount of each grant, if any, received from the Foundation:

(1) Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Rec'd: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Rec'd \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Rec'd: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Rec'd \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Organizational Information:***

Geographic Area Served (*If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served*): Primarily West Pikeland, East Pikeland, Charlestown, Uwchlan, Upper Uwchlan, West Vincent, Caln, East Caln, towns of Phoenixville, Downingtown, Exton, but also occasionally serving and does not exclude the rest of the County.

**Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:** 1,900 (Estimate). The Mill serves several populations, including paid members, general admission, as well as its status as a green space in Chester Springs, PA, where casual use like walking/hiking is permitted outside of operating hours free of charge. The use as a green space is more difficult to predict.

**Mission Statement:**

The Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark, inspires people in creative ways to discover the Mill's authentic technology and importance to its community over three centuries of operation.

**Organization Description:**

The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust was formed in 1998 with the vision to create an innovative historical attraction at the Mill at Anselma that demonstrates through sensory experiences, the evolution of technology and the impact of change in commerce, free enterprise and transportation on American life over three centuries for schoolchildren, families, scholars, visitors and residents.

Annual Budget \$159,000	One (1) Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
_____ % of budget for program expenses	16 Board Volunteers
_____ % of budget for administrative expenses	42 Active Non-Board Volunteers
_____ % of budget for fundraising expenses	4000 Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

Annual Auction Party  
Major gifts from legacy donors  
Expected Board of Trustees donations  
Membership and gift shop  
Grants

***Proposal Information:***

**Grant Amount Requested:** \$2,060

**Description of Grant Purpose:** *In Support of the "Lenape Trails" at the Mill at Anselma*

## THE LENAPE TRAILS AT ANSELMA GRANT PROPOSAL

As a fixture of Chester Springs and Chester County history, The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust's twofold mission reflects its unique status as a National Historic Landmark. A survivor of the agricultural trade, the functional gristmill at the heart of the site is a unique example of a water-powered production mill. Through a generous and concerted effort beginning in 1967, several organizations, including the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, West Pikeland Township, and Commissioners of Chester County organized the restoration of the Mill. The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust (hereafter "the Mill"), gaining responsibility for the property, concluded the restoration project in 2004.

The creation of the Trust and the restoration began the next phase of the Mill's story. In 2005, the Mill began to produce its own stoneground flour and pivoted its efforts towards education. The Mill made strides in integrating itself into the culture of historic appreciation in Chester County by using its site for educational purposes and as a living history lab.

From an environmental standpoint, the Trust stewards an important parcel within West Pikeland Township. An unnamed tributary to the Pickering Creek powers the Mill's water wheel, and a substantial section of the Pickering runs parallel with this "race" stream to join up at the edge of the property. Thus, by design, the property contains wetlands full of wildlife including critically endangered bog turtles, two varieties of herons, crawfish, and other native species. The Mill's artificial water features represent a fascinating and unique example of human impact on the landscape: the earth moved to safeguard the mill's environment for agricultural purposes now provides valuable ecosystem services for the region.

Interpretive signing recounts narratives of the European settlers who built the Mill and shaped the landscape. Other signage explains the role of native plants in the Mill's watershed. But as the Mill's Trust closes in on its twentieth year, it must enhance its stewardship and educational roles through new, forward-thinking, and inclusive activity.

The Mill requests funding from the Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund to create a trail system through its manmade wetland habitats and cultivate a public-facing presence for this trail system by teaming with other organizations. The trail system will be themed around the Lenape Nation's historic presence in the Mill area, using original research done in conjunction with a Native American History scholar at Ursinus College. The Chester County Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has agreed to assist with the creation and maintenance of the trails through scout community service, a new on-site Explorer club, and Eagle projects. The Lenape Trails will supplement the limited natural walking trails in West Pikeland Township.

The impact of the Lenape Trails project for the Mill and Chester County are as follows:

- The Mill's natural beauty and ecosystem importance become fully explorable and better preserved through a planned, signed, and maintained trails system.
- The Mill will engage with other organizations like the Boy Scouts of America, local Native American groups, civic groups, and local government to create a more environmentally conscious and inclusive experience for the County.
- The Mill will present the heritage of an underrepresented group at the Mill and in the County, the Lenape Nation, through interpretive signage on site. Research done during the project will supplement the quality research done on the Mill's European settler families.

- The trails will assist with the County's goal of ensuring public access to green spaces.

The Mill at Anselma has a broad base of support internally and in the community to implement the project. A significant volunteer base, a dedicated Board of Trustees, and a full time Executive Director will be responsible for project's execution. The Chester County Council of BSA and the Mill have created a strong partnership, which will also support the work. Significant work will be done in the winter months, when the Mill is closed to the public. A kickoff event will celebrate the achievement the following summer. The phases will be:

- **Phase 1 – Mapping and Trail Signage** (September 2018 to February 2019): ARRO Consulting, a corporate contributor to the Mill, has provided maps of the site and provides ongoing GIS assistance. A printable and a mobile friendly map will be completed. BSA in the form of Eagle Scouts, scout community service, and the Mill's Explorer Club 1747 starting in October 2018 will assist the Mill in creating signs for the three trails on site: Wolf (deep woods), Turkey (meadow), and Turtle (mill pond), named after three matrilineal Lenape tribes.
- **Phase 2 – Interpretive Signage** (February to April 2019): The Mill will create a team of staff, scouts from BSA, Ursinus, and Mill volunteers to draft interpretive signs detailing the Lenape legacy on the landscape. The Ursinus faculty member and a student will advise.
- **Phase 3 – Family Walk Day** (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019): To celebrate the trail system, the Mill plans a public Family Walk Day showcasing the new trail system. Invitations will be sent ahead of time to the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, the BSA, and Ursinus, as well as representatives of the Miller Fund. Spirit Wing, a local Native American band, has agreed to perform at a discounted price and give an educational talk about the Lenape people. This educational event will create greater visibility for the grant, awareness of the Mill's mission, and be a family friendly way to enjoy a new Chester County resource.

The challenge requirements of the grant will be primarily fulfilled through new volunteer hours from a novel source, the BSA, as well as enhanced Mill volunteer engagement. The Mill's volunteer force and the BSA will continue to coordinate long after the grant ends to safeguard the trails. The Mill also plans to apply for a Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund grant to build a new trail based around the historic railroad bed on site to supplement the Lenape Trails. The grant's maximum award is \$250,000 and the Mill is partnering with other local non-profits on the application. The Lenape Trails would create a more favorable grant proposal by showing Mill connections to well-marked, well-maintained trails.

The Mill's leadership interprets the educational mission of the Mill broadly, including not only the settlers who built the Mill, but every inhabitant, from Native Americans predating its establishment to the flora and fauna inhabiting its grounds. Expansion of the educational reach comes at a perfect time transition for the Mill, with a new Executive Director and new Board members just beginning their association with the Trust.

Evaluation of a successful grant will be ongoing. The Executive Director and volunteers already keep a count of visitors to the Mill. Additional data will be collected on walking trail maps distributed and taken from "infoboxes" on site. An invitation to regular users to join an informal focus/feedback group will be solicited on our information board, website, and social media and convened in person or electronically in summer 2019 after the kickoff event to hear comments and to discuss improvements or expansions.