

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's

Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 2/7/2019

Contact Information

Organization Name: Darlington Arts Center
Address: 977 Shavertown Road, Garnet Valley, PA 19060
Phone: 610.358.3632
Website: www.darlingtonarts.org
Year Incorporated: 1979
FEIN: 23-2081984

Executive Director Name: Eric Carter-Thompson
Executive Director E-mail: eric@darlingtonarts.org
Board of Directors Chair Name: Ann Anthony
Primary Contact Name: Eric Carter-Thompson
Primary Contact E-mail: eric@darlingtonarts.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No Not Sure
 Donor Advised Fund(s) Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Education
 Health Human Services Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Our onsite programs serve all of Chester County, along with Delaware County and Delaware. Our Outreach programs are focused on students in Chester County and Chester-Upland School District, Delaware County

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Darlington Arts Center's outreach programs provide high quality arts experiences for children with limited or no access to the arts in underserved communities. The robustness of this program allows us to provide outreach programming (both at our both schools and at the Center itself), to nearly 500 students each year with 175 of these students coming from Chester County. The vast majority of these students are in under resourced schools.

Mission:

Darlington Arts Center builds community by providing every art for everyone through instruction, outreach program, and performances in music, art, dance, and drama.

Proposal Summary:

Our Arts Education Outreach Programs work to provide a vital service and support our public school partners, particularly in underserved communities, serving low-income children.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Strategic Relationships
 Fundraising & Development Technology Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ 874,891 4 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
58 % of budget for program expenses 13 # of Board Volunteers
31 % of budget for administrative expenses 0 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
11 % of budget for fundraising expenses 1385 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts - \$14,025 Sheila Fortune Foundation - \$4,500
Presser Foundation - \$5,000
Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation - \$5,000

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$3,500



Grant Request

We are thrilled to celebrate our 40th Anniversary this year and look forward to a tremendous year of programming both onsite and through our Outreach programs. With that, Darlington Arts Center respectfully requests the Chester County Community Foundation's consideration of a \$3,500 grant to support our Arts Education Outreach Programs. This comprehensive program provides weekly training in music, dance and theatre for under resourced students with limited access to the arts within their schools and communities.

Our Arts Education Outreach Programs work to provide a vital service and support our public school partners, particularly in underserved communities, serving low-income children.

Mission, History and Programs

Founded in 1978, Darlington Arts Center builds community by providing every art for everyone through instruction, outreach programs, and performances in music, art, dance, and drama. To meet the aims of our mission, we work to provide opportunities for community members to:

- Learn** the skills of an artist and about themselves
- Create** works of art (visual, performance and literary)
- Experience** highest quality professional performances and exhibits
- Connect** to each other and their innerselves

Nearly 40 years ago, Diana Hemmenway, a Chester native, founded Darlington Arts Center by offering *Every Art to Everyone*, in a farmhouse located in Wawa, PA. Continuing our programming, Darlington moved to a new full-scale facility in Garnet Valley, PA. With a diverse staff committed to excellence in the arts and governed by a dedicated Board of Directors, the Darlington Arts Center offers:

- Classes and lessons in Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Dance.
- Arts integration Pre-School
- Multidisciplinary Day Camp
- After-School Arts Club
- Multidisciplinary workshops
- Recitals
- Professional Art Exhibitions
- Coffeehouse concert series
- Artists residencies in schools
- Outreach programs for underserved students
- Scholarships

Need

Community Art Centers like Darlington are an integral parts of our communities and are now more needed than ever. Two-thirds of public school teachers report that there is less time for the arts in their schools and classrooms; yet 93% of Americans believe that the arts are vital to a well-rounded education. As we face new technologies in the workplace, 72% of business leaders indicate that creativity is the most important skill that they are looking for in new hires. Meanwhile our achievement gap continues to grow and Hispanic and

African American students have disproportionately lower levels of access of arts education, when compared to their white peers.

Research compiled by Americans for the Arts shows that young people who participate in the arts are:

- Four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- Three times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- Four times more likely to perform community service

Through our experience we've seen first-hand that students who participate in the arts are more likely to stay in school, more likely to graduate college and more likely to obtain gainful employment. The statistics are even more impressive when the arts are introduced to underserved populations:

- Dropout rates are five times lower than peer group
- Students are two times more likely to graduate college
- Gainful employment increases by 10%

The Darlington Arts Center is committed to working with under resourced schools and underserved students, not simply to augment current offerings within the arts, but more precisely to provide exceptionally high-level arts education for all students. As current school arts programs are besieged by cuts in local, state and federal funding, we know that we must shore up our commitment more than ever.

Outreach Programming

Darlington Arts Center's outreach programs provide high quality arts experiences for children with limited or no access to the arts in underserved communities. The robustness of this program allows us to provide outreach programming (both at our both schools and at the Center itself), to nearly 500 students each year. Our work specific to Chester County residents include:

- Suzuki violin lessons are given at the Chester County Family Academy (CCFA). This K-2 Charter school is comprised of low income, African-American and Spanish speaking students primarily from Coatesville, West Chester and Downingtown, who have completed HeadStart but are not ready for a mainstream classroom for a variety of reasons including incarcerated parents, learning disabilities, homelessness and economic challenges. 96% receive free lunch. A Darlington teaching artist visits CCFA for 4.5 hours each week to teach 80+ CCFA K-2 students. Students receive both group and individual instruction.
- Developed with the help of PA Council on the Arts Teaching Artist Partnership grant to Improve Literacy through Songwriting, this long term residency provides two classes at CCFA with three hours of arts integrated instruction week to tie core curriculum to music instruction. In the past two years, the arts components have expanded to include screenwriting, stop motion animation, and video production.
- This past summer, Darlington had the opportunity to partner with The Garage Community and Youth Center, located in both Kennett Square and West Grove, PA. Darlington provided instruction and materials for four week long camps in ceramics and dramatic improvisation to over 50 middle and high school aged students. This program provided an arts component to their summer schedule. With foundational support, we look forward to expanding the program in the next few years.

We are also proud to offer programming to underserved communities in the Chester School District in Delaware County. These programs include:

- Weekly Suzuki violin lessons are given 2.5 hours each week at Stetser Elementary School, located in the Chester-Upland School District. 24 3rd grade students receive group violin instruction each week. These classes include life skills for students with autism spectrum

disorders. New for this year an additional six students in 4th grade receive ongoing intermediate instruction. The students are primarily African-American and low-income.

- At Chester Charter School for the Arts (CCSA) 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students receive one semester of introductory Suzuki violin instruction. In addition, 12 5th and 6th graders receive weekly intermediate instruction for the full school year. The students live in Chester, PA and are primarily African-American and low-income. A Darlington teaching artist will be at the school two hours each week.
- At Stetser Elementary, two classes of kindergarten children receive two hours of instruction in 24 weeks through our Literacy through Songwriting residency. This is a program revised from a successful Teaching Artist Partnership at CCFA developed along with PA Council on the Arts.

Program Goals

- Provide Arts experiences for students who have limited access to the Arts, creating new opportunities for success and life enrichment;
- Provide a creative outlet for self-expression that is safe, positive and nurturing, increasing self confidence in our students;
- Help close the achievement gap by improving the school environment and using arts integration to help teach core curriculum, increasing school success and motivation; and
- Teach 21st century learning and innovation skills which include creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, helping students to succeed in life and work.

Assessment

We have seen the demonstrable success of this program, through our ongoing qualitative assessment, from both students and teachers alike. As example, we recently heard from one of the teachers at a partner school, “I think that the program increases a feeling of accomplishment. Students feel pride in doing well at a performance and sticking with it by practicing. The program helps students achieve a goal in groups and help build stronger collaboration skills.”

Further, Darlington listens carefully to the expressed needs of our community, seeks dedicated partners and delivers programs that are evaluated and revised continually using qualitative and quantitative measures. We gain greater knowledge of the communities we serve each year and make choices about how best to implement future programs based on data and community needs to put kids first in all our decisions. We remain committed to serving the children of Chester and West Chester, PA.

Conclusion

The mandate of our mission is as clear as it was 40 years ago--to provide the highest level of arts education available to students of all ages and abilities. We believe that arts experiences are essential to the success of the students we serve. Through long-term partnerships with teachers, principals and school districts, we strive to build impact through ongoing, weekly, multidisciplinary programs.

The Foundation’s leadership in providing support to underserved communities is remarkable. To that end, we ask that you consider making a meaningful difference in the lives children this year through your support of the Education Outreach Programs of Darlington Arts Center, with a grant of \$3,500. Join us in providing Education, Exploration, and Inspiration to underserved children throughout our area.