

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Historic Yellow Springs
Address: 1685 Art School Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: 610-827-7414

Website: www.yellowsprings.org

Year Incorporated: 1976

FEIN:23-1920704

Executive Director/CEO Name: Karen Walter

Executive Director/CEO E-mail:
kwalter@yellowsprings.org

Board of Directors Chair Name: Gail Fishman

Primary Contact Name: Karen Walter

Primary Contact E-mail:

kwalter@yellowsprings.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):

We have many students, artists and participants in many of our events from throughout Chester County and neighboring counties as well.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

HYS serves about 12800 plus people annually, with approximately 6300 of those coming for various cultural/ art classes and workshops, tours of the history of the property, collections of archives for research and programs along with the annual Art show bringing people and artists from Chester County, the region and beyond together in the Spring. We also fund ourselves through various events in the historic Washington building including weddings and other special events that lends itself to another 6500 annual visitors and people served. We have people who live in Chester County who visit and come for events on a continuing basis, we have students who travel from Philly for classes and we have artists who participate in shows from around the country. We are also one of the only sites where Steadicam operators can get certified twice a year. They hold their training/certification seminars on our location, this also brings folks from around the country.

Mission: The mission of Historic Yellow Springs (HYS) is to share, preserve and celebrate the unique living village of Yellow Springs. Focusing on history, arts, education and the environment. HYS enriches the lives of all who come here. HYS has a remarkable history that spans 300 years of not just Chester County and Pennsylvania History; but that of America itself.

Proposal Summary:

To expand the parking area in front of the Studio Barn and across from the Lincoln Building to allow horizontal parking versus the currently only allowed parallel parking. The area would need an increase of 5 feet of available ground leveled and available to approximately double the spaces. One handicap space would also be added to the Studio Barn side of the new lot. The project would consist of a new retaining wall to hold and manage the fill

needed to accommodate the extension of the parking area and fill in the current hill. We need HARB approval and engineering plans for the complete SOW for the new proposed lot. We will need approximately 66 of 2 ton retaining wall blocks or their equivalent, most likely 4 tri-axel loads of fill for the space in the lot over the hill and 3 construction/ stone workers to complete the project.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$ ___ 968,430 _____ ___ 2FT/ 7 PT ___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___ 16_ % of budget for program expenses ___ 12 ___ # of Board Volunteers
___ 54_ % of budget for administrative expenses 102 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
___ 30_ % of budget for fundraising expenses ___ 1013 ___ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- The HYS Spring Art Show
- Events at the Washington
- Annual Campaign and donor contributions
- Education Classes & Workshops
- Smaller events and fundraisers during the year

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ _____ 7400.00 _____

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Yellow Springs Village has a remarkable history that spans nearly 300 years of not just Chester County and Pennsylvania History; but that of America itself. Archaeological evidence suggests that Native Americans first used the iron rich "yellow" magical spring water hundreds of years ago for use in their medicine. When the Welch, Germans and English learned of the healing springs they settled in the Village and the word quickly spread, and Yellow Springs became a "health spa" that was mentioned in the Philadelphia newspaper.

The Revolutionary War ceased operations of the spa and General George Washington established temporary headquarters at the Yellow Springs Plantation. Washington commissioned and oversaw the building of a medical facility to improve health conditions for his army; this led to the first military hospital in North America. Washington himself visited on numerous occasions.

Following the war, the village returned to a spa in 1783, Yellow Springs was then a fashionable spa village that attracted visitors who sought healing waters and social interaction. The Springs also saw entertainment such as Jenny Lind (a popular Swedish singer of the day to recover from her laryngitis), along with the Siamese Twins, Chang Eng. All spa activities ceased when the Civil War erupted in 1861. From 1868 to 1912, Yellow Springs was home to the Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphan Schools for children of orphans of soldiers killed or maimed during the Civil War. From 1916 to 1952, the village served as the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Country School (PAFA). In 1916 PAFA purchased the entire village and established a country school to enjoy fine art in the open air, with all the beautiful surroundings of Nature itself. When the trend of art shifted back to the abstract form in the 50's, the school closed and classes remained solely in the city school in Philadelphia.

From 1952 until 1974 the village was the headquarters of Good News Productions, a film studio in Yellow Springs that created over 400 during their time in the village. Their subsidiary Valley Forge Films produced several well-known films including 4D Man, Dinosaurus and the sci-fi original The Blob. Good News Productions transformed the entire village into work and living space. Staff and crew lived in the villages' houses, old hotels, and dormitories. In 1973 they put the village on the market.

In 1974, with the financial support of another organization the Yellow Springs Foundation purchased the entire village to preserve it for future generations, those two organizations merged in 1976 to become Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. The original mission was to include ensuring the preservation of the buildings and the surrounding land, restoring the buildings, creating a center for the encouragement of activities and programs related to history and the arts, the conservation of cultural heritage, and the nurture of the physical environment. We still work to continue this original mission today as well.

In its nearly 40 + years of existence, HYS has become a significant cultural resource in the region, and we see nearly 13,000 people each year utilizing the village for many purposes. HYS offers year round fine art and ceramic art classes to students of all ages, the class registration has increased year over year and 58% since 2015. HYS has also develop a program focused of firing its, community funded, wood kiln. This teaches students time management, cooperation and project management skills as well as providing them with a unique art experience. This kiln is few of its kind in the area and many organizations and artists from around the region come to HYS to fire in that kiln. HYS also provides youth programs, exhibits, public lectures and tours that interpret the history of the village and a historical and educational focal point for the community. Recent youth programs include Art and Archaeology Camp targeting children 9 to 14 years, we increased the number of participants this year by 38% and saw 78 children and teens over the summer along with 12 interns. It combines science, history, the environment and art.

Much of the structures and grounds in the village remain intact as they appeared in the early 19th century. The HYS archives and museum chronicle this history, serve as a research center, and provide materials for exhibitions, publications and genealogy resources. We hold archives of our own village, some for the Philadelphia Herb Society and some from PAFA in our archival area.

HYS has recently started to provide other nonprofit groups with free meeting and lecture space.

We have also seen an increase in our membership and enrollment in our art classes. Our Annual Appeal of the 2014-2015 fiscal year increased 23% over last year. Recently we celebrated our 46th anniversary as a non-profit and had over 200 attend our ticketed event. We are also being asked to work with more local non-profits groups, such as the Chester County Art Association, The Mill at Anselma, French & Pickering, Chester County Historical Preservation Network and a group of Chester County non-profit leaders who are banning together for advocacy of historical non-profit organizations and to "cross mine" our communities and engage new audiences in innovative ways. HYS has also recently started to provide other nonprofit groups with free meeting and lecture space

Clearly another one of our greatest successes is our annual art show and sale. 2020 will host the 47th Art Show. HYS provides regional artists with a much needed avenue to show and sell their work through this event. Last year's show

saw 215 artist from around the region, country and even outside the US, over 3,500 pieces of original artwork. We had 27 participants in the HYS poster competition which is a feature of the show for artists to compete with an original work that must represent HYS in some way. The winning piece is then auctioned off for the benefit of HYS and is used in all of our advertising and made into a poster for sale and archival preservation. We have already seen an increase for the 2020 show, which will be our largest participation as of yet. We anticipate 225-230 artists and have 48 participants in the poster show a significant increase from last year's numbers. The art show has and I am sure will remain one of our largest and most successful fund raiser of the year. We even had a billboard in Times Square last year advertising the show. The show also hosts an opening Gala which we sold a record 360 tickets for in 2019 as opposed to 318 the year prior. We also hosted a Happy hour event that saw 285 people in attendance in 2019; where we had only a little over 200 in the past.

I would like to say that our third greatest success in the past year has been reinvention. We have added classes, teachers and new events such as team building through art for corporations, we have re-engaged donors and volunteers who had all but abandoned us and we did that through what the village has always done; bringing itself back to life. The life that we have revived in the past year has come through re-engaged donors who have offered in-kind donations of new outdoor stairs leading to the ruins, solutions to leaking areas where new door way options needed to be built, new heating and A/C units, vendors offering help and donations to get much needed electrical work completed, opening up relations back up with the Boy Scouts for Eagle Scout projects, partnering with Longwood Gardens on special projects coming in the Spring, working with the Delaware River Keepers to bring Eels back to the Brandywine Creek and finding the money through diligence in saving or increased funding to accomplish bringing the Village herself looking good and having things happening. Recently, there have been many notable and vocal comments in regard to the reinvigoration, excitement and pride that we all have in this very special place.

Even though we have accomplished a great deal as in any non-profit and especially one with a number of historic (aka OLD) buildings there is a never ending list of challenges. Those challenges come with opportunities, but the challenges need to be overcome first. Due to restrictions in many of our buildings and some buildings that need to be completely restored, we actually are limited on space for classes. We are hoping that if we can get the handicap access for the Lincoln building that we will be able to open more classes and give the public and community more chances to learn and celebrate art. We have an entire second floor of the Washington building that is allowable for "minor" usage because of the lack of a handicap bathroom in that space. We have already received nearly all the funds required to start that project, but will have to go through all required approvals, and hope for a blessing from them before we can utilize that space for any classes as well. We also struggle with the simple upkeep and maintenance of such a large facility with so much land along with buildings. We need new gutters on all the "working" buildings and a new roof on our largest and most complicated roof, the Lincoln. Along with the facilities challenges, we are starting to get new and younger donors, volunteers and community members interested in HYS; but that is always an ongoing struggle to make certain that your largest donors are not all in the late years of their lives and continuing to reach out and attract other donors and areas of funding sources continues to be a struggle.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

Although the upkeep and maintenance alone for the very historic HYS grounds are significant and ever evolving; one of the projects that we would very much like to have completed will affect a large amount of our visitors is to create a larger more effective parking area next to the Studio/Class Building and in front of the Lincoln. The current parking area only allows for horizontal parking along the front of the Studio and the Lincoln Buildings, which consists of about 10 spaces, including 2 handicap spaces located the farthest from the Studio

• Specific needs and issues to be addressed

We are prohibited from parking parallel now because of the real concern of children and passengers stepping into the road way. If we could expand the parking area and develop safe horizontal parking it would increase the parking to we believe easily twice the amount we currently have available. We would also like to move a handicap space to the Studio side of the lot at that time, where none currently exists.

When we have classed or open studio time for our students, of all ages; they often have to park in the field next to the Studio Barn. This field is uneven and could be a hazard for those coming for night classes when the area gets dark. We have a number of older students and they must often carry large canvases, or heavy pottery across an uneven surface. The difference in the parking would be significant for the teachers, students and visitors to HYS as a whole. The current parallel lot services the Studio and the Lincoln Building for as much as it can. Both locations across from each other house classes and

events that benefit our community, members and the general public when visiting events or the Village in general.

• **Why it is important to fund this now**

We are prohibited from parking parallel now because of the real concern of children and passengers stepping into the road way. If we could expand the parking area and develop safe horizontal parking it would increase the parking to we believe easily twice the amount we currently have available. We would also like to move a handicap space to the Studio side of the lot at that time, where none currently exists. When we have classed or open studio time for our students, of all ages; they often have to park in the field next to the Studio Barn. This field is uneven and could be a hazard for those coming for night classes when the area gets dark. We have a number of older students and they must often carry large canvases, or heavy pottery across an uneven surface. The difference in the parking would be significant for the teachers, students and visitors to HYS as a whole. The current parallel lot services the Studio and the Lincoln Building for as much as it can. Both locations across from each other house classes and events that benefit our community, members and the general public when visiting events or the Village in general.

• **How impact and results will be demonstrated**

The biggest impact will be ease of use of the buildings close to the lot. It will impact the students so they will not have to travel as far to get to the classes and will be safer as they will not be carrying often heavy or awkward items with them to class across fields or uneven surfaces. It will impact our handicap students most in the studio where they will have a space next to the studio and more options of parking. When we see a full parking area and no more cars parked in creative ways on the street and in yards, we will truly now that it made a difference. We also anticipate an increase in student involvement and enrollment when we can offer better parking availability.

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this support information

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter

Attached

2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations

Attached

3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available

Attached, 2019 will be available soon

4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date

Attached

5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)

N/A

6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

We do not have a current strategic plan. Prior to my joining HYS just over a year ago, they were without an Executive Director for 7 months and the plan that they had built prior was not in action. We are now going through changes to the Board officers and will revisit a strategic plan once those offices have been filled with the new President.

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- **E-mail proposals to grants@chescocf.org.** Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
 - Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*