

I. Chester County Community Foundation Grant Proposal Summary Sheet

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's Summary Sheet **MUST** accompany application.
To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Kennett Underground Railroad Center
Address: 120 North Union St., Kennett Square, PA. 19348
Phone:(484) 544-5070
Website:kennettundergroundrr.org
Year Incorporated: 1998
FEIN:23-2974306

ED/CEO Name:
ED/CEO E-mail:tmaguire@wilmingtonfriends.org
Board Chair Name:Terry Maguire
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Richard Kittle
Primary Contact E-mail: richard.w.kittle@gmail.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: "The mission of the Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC) is to preserve and celebrate the heritage and engage the public about the historic abolitionists, Underground Railroad agents, and freedom seekers of this area and beyond."

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Kennett Square and vicinity. We have provided tours for residents of Kennett Square and Chester County. We have also had visitors from beyond this area.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The tours and Johnson House attracted adults from local communities. This fiscal year to date we have had 5 formal bus tours which accommodated 15 persons each. On Juneteenth we had about 20 people come to the Johnson House and take a short walking tour of Kennett. In a normal (pre-covid year) we served between 200 to 400 persons with various tours and presentations.

Annual Budget \$19,000

<u>23</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>1 part time</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>72</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>8</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>8</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<small>100 % total</small>	<u>20-25</u> # of Volunteer Hours (from Non-Board Volunteers)

Top 3-5 funding sources: Annual Appeal, Tours, and Self-guided tours, Donations.

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Partnerships & Collaborations
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 7,500

Proposal Summary: The grant we are requesting is to make possible a new design for the Kennett Underground Railroad Center. We currently do not have a space to educate the public about the Underground Railroad and very little room to display all that KURC has researched. We are envisioning a room that will be a destination for those wishing to learn more about the Underground Railroad in Chester County and especially in the Kennett Square area. We have been working with Miller Designworks to create a display on two walls of our Center. The first wall will consist of a large timeline which will travel horizontally over the entire length of the wall. Specific dates will be explained with illustrations and text. The top of the timeline will explain the important events that took place in the United States and the bottom of the timeline will explain what events were taking place in Kennett Square and Chester County at the same time. The second wall will be a large map of Chester County showing the different towns that took part in the Underground Railroad and how they were connected. We will be highlighting as many abolitionists as possible, both Black and white, to show the importance of the area and those living there. Our Center already contains a great deal of research about houses and suspected Underground Railroad locations which will be available to anyone wishing to do their own research of the area. We also have an interactive Promethean Board which we would like to program with even more information to share. We hope that the new destination we create will bring many schools, teachers, families, and researchers to our door.

The History of the Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC)

Two local historians, Frances Cloud Taylor and Mary Larkin Dugan, founded the Kennett Underground Railroad Center. Both life-long residents of Chester County, they were drawn to the heritage of courage and sacrifice demonstrated by the agents of the UGRR. Both were Quakers, Taylor a member of Kennett Friends Meeting and Dugan of London Grove Meeting. Taylor had previously published two small books on the subject, *The Trackless Trail* (1976) and *The Trackless Trail Leads On* (1995), both widely read in this region by adults and schoolchildren. Taylor and her husband Thomas often made presentation at schools and churches of the area.

In 1998 Taylor and Dugan formed KURC and established a museum (appropriately) in an unused railroad station in Kennett Square. Poor health forced Taylor to give up the organization. Dugan recruited new members, made presentations, welcomed school groups to the museum, trained docents to give tours of the museum and of the local area, and organized re-enactments. With Ella Sestritch in 2008, Dugan co-authored *East Linden Street--a History: Abolition, industry, and Diversity in Kennett Square*.

Dugan passed away in April 2013, losing a battle to cancer. Taylor, residing at Crosslands, outlived her younger friend by five years but died in March 2018. Since her death under the leadership of Marlene Drews (2013-15), John O'Neal (2015-2021), and currently Terry Maguire, KURC has continued the work of the founders by...

- giving monthly bus tours of points of local UGRR interest;
- making presentations to organizations, school, retirement homes;
- organizing two symposia on current UGRR research (2015 & 2016);
- creating Pop-up Museums at local churches and meeting houses for recent Juneteenths
- from 2018-19, co-sponsoring with the Hadley foundation, an eight-speaker series "*Enslaved, Freedom-seeking, and Free: 19th C African American Life in the Mid-Atlantic Region*,"

bringing in scholars and writers from the East Coast.

- sponsoring original research done by KURC Board member Michele Sullivan on local Black abolitionists and UGRR agents

Dugan had worked extensively with local organizations and municipal governments to find a permanent home for KURC. For some years KURC was able to maintain a small museum at the rear of the Brandywine Valley Tourism Center (previously the Longwood Progressive Meeting for Friends). The hope then was to have an office and museum at the home of Eusebius Barnard in Pocopson, who with his family were UGRR stationkeepers for three decades. That hope stalled when the Pocopson Board of Supervisors declined to put more money into the renovation of the Barnard House. Our goal then shifted to having a museum in "The Pines," a 19th C. home of UGRR agent Bartholomew Fussell. Kennett Township took possession of the building in 2016 and was willing to allow KURC to use a portion of it. Those plans were put on hold when legal issues arose--not involving KURC.

In 2019 KURC finally found a real "center": 120 N. Union Street, a home once owned by abolitionist Isaac Johnson (but not used as an UGRR station--built in the early 20th C). Inside the Kennett Heritage Center, founded by Lynn Sinclair, KURC has a room for meetings and office work. We used it on Juneteenth, 2021, to welcome visitors and give tours, and we are considering renovating it to act as a small museum as well as an office.