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Contact Information

Organization Name: Oxford Arts Alliance
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FEIN: 26-4004347

Mini-Grant Letter of Request

CCCCF is seeking grant applications for a fund whose mission is “to provide funds for educational computer hardware or software, and other tools for children of economically marginalized communities who are underrepresented and have been denied the full complement of educational equipment needed to compete in the 21st Century successfully.” We estimate that each mini-grant will range from \$2000 to \$3000.

ED/CEO Name: Anthony Derrico
ED/CEO E-mail: director@oxfordart.org
Board Chair Name: Ed Rahme
Primary Contact Name: Anthony Derrico
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In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

- 1. What geographic area is served?** *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)*
The Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) is located along 3rd Street in downtown Oxford, PA. Our galleries and academies primarily serve artists and students in Southern Chester County, including Upper Oxford, Lower Oxford, Nottingham, Franklin, Penn, New London, London Britain, New Garden, Kennett, London Grove Londonderry, and West Fallowfield.
- 2. What population is served?**
The Oxford Arts Alliance serves over 150 students per week and teaches over 7,000 private lessons annually to children and adults in our Academy of Art and Music. We see an additional 1,000 visitors a year for exhibitions and events in our Main Gallery and our Emerging Artist Gallery. Each Summer, 70 - 100 children join our summer camp programs. As the Borough of Oxford experiences a 16.2% poverty rate, we provide a need-based scholarship for over 250 private lessons each year through the Larry F. Thompson Memorial Scholarship.
- 3. How has your nonprofit responded to address the question of the “digital divide” and access for the population that you serve to computer hardware, software and other technology needs?**

While the Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) serves over 150 private lesson students per week in our Academy of Art and Music, our students are faced with numerous technological disadvantages in their learning experience. According to the 2015-2019 census information, the Borough of Oxford has only 66.3% of households with the internet. As more students learned that technology was needed for auditions for schools, we began letting students record their auditions in our music studios using our staff’s hardware and software.

In a world that is becoming more and more digitally connected, the students who choose to study in the arts are expected to learn programs such as Photoshop, InDesign, Logic Pro, and traditional methods (paint, charcoal, instrumentation). Additionally, many arts and music schools request “digital-only” submissions for portfolios and auditions. This creates a massive gap for students unable to access the required technology to work on their art. This “digital divide” creates many problems for our faculty to solve for students.

Please email grants@chescocf.org

- _____ This Brief Mini-Grant Letter of Request
- _____ Copy of annual operating budget or most recent audit
- _____ 501c3 determination letter

Request letters will be posted on the Community Foundation’s website, in order to share with fund advisors, donors, grant panelists, and other funding sources. Please direct general questions & inquiries about this grant application to grants@chescocf.org. Steph, or Kevin will answer you.

In 2022, the OxAA required the necessary funding to create our first “Digital Creative Lab” and is acquiring 5 Apple computers for music students and art students to use to create, educate, and explore the arts. While we cannot outfit all 150 of our students with tablets, microphones, software, and digital instruments, we can make those tools available at our facility to use regardless of their ability to pay for them.

The next step with the “Digital Creative Lab” project is outfitting these computers with the necessary software that will be free to use for our students. With free access to Logic Pro X, music students can record their performances for college auditions, digitally edit their recitals, and learn the ins and outs of digital recording and MIDI. Art students with access to Adobe products such as InDesign and Photoshop can begin learning these programs that are becoming a staple in today’s world. Additionally, art students will create digital portfolios which they can share with prospective colleges, employers, and peers.

4. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will the funding be used for? What is the expected timeframe for the use of funds?

The creation and initial funding of the “Digital Creative Lab” have launched a new era of digital access for Oxford’s youth. However, the ongoing costs of software and the hardware needed to create, explore, and educate these computers are still needed. To answer this, we look to secure funding for MIDI keyboard controllers, Adobe Creative Cloud Subscriptions for multiple users (granting access to Photoshop, InDesign, and more), and musical notation software. The OxAA is seeking \$2,500 ($\approx .9\%$ of our annual budget) in funding to outfit our lab with these materials.

With these tools, we can combine the computing power of the Macbook with the creative power of our student body. More importantly, we can put the digital tools that are simply out of reach for so many of our students directly into their hands.

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