

# 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](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date: October 13, 2022**

## Contact Information

Organization Name: Chester County Art Association  
Address: 100 North Bradford Ave. West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610.696.5600  
Website: [www.chestercountyarts.org](http://www.chestercountyarts.org)  
Year Incorporated: 1931  
FEIN: 231429812

ED/CEO Name: Caitlin LaPorte  
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Board Chair Name: John Baker  
Board Chair Approval (check here):   
Primary Contact Name: Caitlin LaPorte  
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## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

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

**Mission: Chester County Art Association (CCAA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and connecting the people of Chester County to and through art.**

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

**Chester County and the Surrounding Areas**

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** CCAA serves the Chester County, PA geographic region and its residents in its entirety, including, students K-12, English Language Learners, special needs adults, and seniors, through fee-based programs, scholarships, exhibitions, and community events. CCAA's current membership is over 400 individuals. Between membership, classes, and events CCAA serves upwards of 5,000 individuals annually.

**Annual Budget** \$226,350 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 30 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses \_\_\_\_\_ Varies based on activity \_\_\_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources: Program Revenue, Grants, Shop & Gallery Sales**

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building \_\_\_\_\_ or General Operating  \_\_\_\_\_?

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is: N/A**

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

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ N/a \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Summary:** Please see attached.

## **Chester County Art Association 2022 General Operating Funding Proposal to the Chester County Community Foundation**

Founded in 1931, the Chester County Art Association (CCAA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and connecting the people of Chester County to and through the arts. As a small non-profit arts center, our goal is to inspire creativity and creative thinking. We believe that art positively impacts everyone; we help develop individual abilities, foster art appreciation, and create a sense of artistic community. Fine arts classes and workshops teach fundamental concepts and advanced techniques. Our monthly art exhibitions, lectures, and artist talks all provide learning opportunities and creative dialogue in welcoming spaces for all ages alike.

CCAA was founded by prominent artists and leaders in the Chester County community, including N.C. Wyeth, Christian Brinton, and William Palmer Lear. The original group met weekly to draw together and plan exhibits. Often these exhibits included the works of Andrew Wyeth, Horace Pippin, Tom Bostelle, Barclay Rubincam, Philip Jamison, Peter Sculthorpe and Harry Dunn. While they were looking for a permanent space for the organization, members of CCAA met in the DeHaven House in East Fallowfield, PA, and spaces at West Chester University. The present main facility in West Chester was built in 1953. The generous gift of land from local residents, totaling over five acres, made it possible for CCAA to have a permanent home in the West Chester community.

A key achievement in the organization's recent history, has been the ability to come back from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a small non-profit arts center, the COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating effect on our organization. In the beginning of the pandemic, CCAA toggled to virtual programming and provided free at home art activities on our website for families to do during the statewide shutdown. CCAA then had to close its doors for several months during the height of the pandemic, temporarily pausing all programming, and conducting temporary and permanent layoffs for staff members. The organization reopened its doors in mid-2021, with a significantly smaller staff, and has been striving to reimagine its programming ever since to better serve the community. What sets CCAA apart from other art centers in the surrounding area, is the resilience that the Board, staff, and community has when it comes to keeping the organization open and thriving during challenging times.

At the heart of the organization is CCAA's annual summer camp for children and young adults' grades K-12. As one of our largest key initiatives, our summer camp is orchestrated with the intention to inspire and foster the abilities of the next generation of artists in the Chester County area. CCAA's annual summer camp is also a revenue stream that is key to sustaining the organization year-round. After a successful return to onsite programming during the Summer of 2021, CCAA was thrilled to be in the position to expand our camp this past summer. Taking place over the course of 11-weeks, from mid-June through the end of August, we were able to offer 81

camp options in total and were able to increase the number of children and young adults served to 758, compared to 2021 when we were only able to serve 494. CCAA was also fortunate enough to provide 68 scholarships this year, working closely with the Melton Center, a nonprofit serving lower income individuals in the greater West Chester community, to provide opportunities to youth in need.

With on-going cuts in funding for the arts—in not only public education but also cultural institutions as well as community and artist programs—access to art programming was limited prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic began, these cuts have only further devastated small educational arts non-profits such as CCAA. This paired with the challenging COVID-19 climate of education in schools means that art education is falling to the wayside. According to Americans for The Arts, schools are narrowing curriculum, shifting instructional time and resources toward math and language arts and away from subjects such as art, music, foreign language, and social studies, despite the fact that students involved in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair, and three times more likely to win an award for school attendance. A key focus of the organization is to continue to secure scholarship funding so that our community has continued opportunities within the organization.

CCAA also executes a robust schedule of year-round programming and events, including monthly gallery exhibitions, classes, and workshops for adults, including our beloved ceramics studio, and community events such as the Chester County Art Walk and the Christkindlmarkt. As an organization we are always looking for ways to expand our reach to more of the community and demonstrate the positive impacts of art. For instance, this past February, CCAA held its first Black History Month exhibition, curated by regionally known artist Dane Tilghman, titled “A Black Thread Through Time—The Personal Journey of Black Artists.” The exhibition received incredibly positive feedback and featured artists from the surrounding areas that previously were not exposed to CCAA. Our goal is to continue to provide high quality gallery exhibitions for our community and inspire those who visit with new ideas.

A final key initiative of the organization currently, are the necessary upgrades needed to the facility that will enhance the overall experience for our visitors and the community. As a result of the building structure being constructed in 1953, universal accessibility was not taken into consideration in the ways that it would be now. We currently have art studios and galleries on three floors, all divided by stairs. Our restrooms are only located on the first and second floor, which is a significant difficulty for those with mobility issues, as the best way to get to these different levels is to go outside the building and enter through ramps going to each level. Making updates to ensure the building is accessible from the inside would mean CCAA could tailor our services to offer more opportunities to those in the disability community. The desired updates would include a lift to ensure individuals with mobility issues can access all three floors of the building from the main level while indoors.

Full accessibility would allow the organization to promote diversity and bring in new perspectives to our artistic environment. Additionally, being involved in the art community can help individuals with disabilities overcome the adversity faced in their daily life, as art helps promote self-determination and focus. From a business perspective, having the inside of the building fully accessible would mean more opportunities to have additional adults and children attend classes and camps, increasing our revenue stream and ensuring the continuation of our services. According to the 2018 Accenture Report, companies that followed best practices for disability inclusion achieved an average of 28 percent higher revenue, double the net income, and 30 percent higher economic profit margins compared with those that didn't. In a recent article published by Understood, "The Hidden Value of Disability Inclusion: 5 Benefits That Can Help Your Company", author Rachel Bozek discusses that when a company is more inclusive to individuals with disabilities, it builds loyalty. Ensuring indoor accessibility for people with disabilities will encourage returning students, allowing CCAA to connect with a historically marginalized sector of the community in a meaningful way through the promotion of the arts.

Funding for CCAA's key initiatives and general operating expenses are incredibly important currently. The daily operational costs of managing our facility are our largest expense and most critical, as without an operational building, CCAA would not be able to provide the arts programming that is needed in our community at this time. Ensuring the continuation of our services and bringing art and arts education to the community is of the utmost importance. To do this, monetary support is critical for the organization.

The impact and results from our programming can be seen directly through the stories of those in our community. Whether its an increase in summer camp attendees because families have recommended us to their peers, through a donor who tells us how they came to CCAA as a child and now we hold a special place in their heart, or how as our membership grows, we see our exhibition openings increase in attendance size, our impact is demonstrated through the people we serve. As CCAA enters a new chapter in our 90-year history, under new leadership, our hope is for the organization to continue to grow from this point and to be able offer all the programs and benefits our constituents have come to love, as well as expand our programming and outreach to new populations that we have not yet had a chance to positively impact.