

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with the causes that matter**, so their philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**.
- We are **a collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds** with **\$5M + granted annually** to nonprofits in Chester County & beyond.
- **99%** of our grants are made by our generous Fund Advisors, who make grant decisions all year.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues, but are not limited to Chester County.
- ◇ Charitable nonprofits working **in all fields of interest** are considered for grant awards. (I.e. arts, culture, & humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; & human services)
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, & measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** all year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)

- ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve Chester County**.
- ◇ Nonprofits **budgets** must be **\$500,000 or less**.
- ◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region**, in areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals must be submitted by **September 15** to be eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$5,000**, with monies distributed by **February**.

- Use this form @ www.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
- Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
- Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
- Per IRS Regulations, applicants **must be** charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & **cannot** be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator **Kevin Baffa** at **(610)-698-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

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: Tiny Dynamite
Address: P.O. Box 15129
Phone: 2153990088
Website: www.tinydynamite.org
Year Incorporated: 2013
FEIN: 45-4035025

ED/CEO Name: KC MacMillan
ED/CEO E-mail: kc@tinydynamite.org
Board Chair Name: Sarah Weinstein
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Primary Contact Name: KC MacMillan
Primary Contact E-mail: kc@tinydynamite.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: It is the mission of Tiny Dynamite to offer audiences new ways to experience theater and artists new ways to create it. We present high-quality plays at modest ticket prices, in an environment that is intimate, social, joyful, and welcoming.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$__\$170,500.00__ __1__ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
__70.09__ % of budget for program expenses __4__ # of Board Volunteers
__20.52__ % of budget for administrative expenses __0__ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
__9.39__ % of budget for fundraising expenses __0__ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Wyncote Foundation
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
National Endowment for the Arts
Kauders Foundation
Jim Henson Foundation

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building __ or General Operating X ?

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: \$__5000_____

Proposal Summary: Tiny Dynamite is requesting a grant of \$5,000 that would be used to support our 2022/23 season, including the season's productions and the further development of a world-premiere script. Our season includes three seasonal pop-up events and our full production of *Meet Murasaki Shikibu Followed by Book Signing, and Other Things* by Julia Izumi; all productions are under the banner of our popular A Play, A Pie, and A Pint series, which highlights our company's values of inclusivity, accessibility, and approachability. This funding would assist with costs for our rehearsal and production periods, as well as further developing the script and Japanese translations in *Meet Murasaki Shikibu*....

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

Proposal Narrative:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

Tiny Dynamite
PO Box 15129
Philadelphia, PA 19130

IRS TAX I.D. #45-4035025

PROJECT TITLE

Support for Tiny Dynamite's 2022/23 Season

STATEMENT CONTAINING PROJECT DESCRIPTION AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING:

the need to be met;

method by which program will be carried out;

will project be completed at the end of the term of the grant period; or will it then be self-supporting, or supported from other sources?

Tiny Dynamite is pleased to submit a proposal for support for our 2022-23 season, featuring three festive holiday-centered pop-ups and our full-scale production of *Meet Murasaki Shikibu Followed by Book Signing, and Other Things* by Julia Izumi. It is the mission of Tiny Dynamite to offer audiences new ways to experience theater and artists new ways to create it. We present high-quality plays at modest ticket prices, in an environment that is intimate, social, joyful, and welcoming.

About Our Season

In the 2022-23 season, we have increased the number of festive pop-up events to include a winter show alongside our annual Oktoberfest and Valentine's Day celebrations. These events feature poetry, original writing, stories, and jokes organized around seasonal themes, delivered by a cast of Philadelphia-area performers. All of our pop-ups are taking place in partnership with PhilaLandmarks, allowing us to produce these shows in two of their historic homes in Society Hill.

We have a dedicated core audience of 300–400 who attend almost all Tiny Dynamite productions. They've shown an interest in communal, social gatherings that renew a sense of the welcome and conviviality we've all missed in this challenging time; our holiday pop-up events provide just such an atmosphere.

Our full production, *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...*, will take place at the Louis Bluver Theatre at the Drake in Center City. This comic drama explores the importance of preserving the richness of Asian culture and identity within the heat of the American melting pot. It is an important story for Philadelphia, where Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) stories and artists are historically underrepresented. We will partner with leading Philadelphia cultural organizations like Asian Arts Initiative to expand our reach into AAPI communities. The piece creates opportunities for AAPI artists, who will lead every facet of storytelling: directing, acting, design, and dramaturgy.

The play imagines the unknown life of the world's first novelist, 11th century Japanese woman Murasaki Shikibu. A struggling American bookshop has snagged an interview with the 1,000-year-old novelist, but centuries spent living in America, removed from Japanese culture, has taken its toll. Murasaki's memory is gone, but a mysterious stranger sets her on a course for magical self-

rediscovery. With humor and empathy, the play explores the challenge of preserving the vibrancy of one's own identity and values against the powerful messages of American media and culture. *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...* celebrates the untold stories of women's history and the profound impact of immigrants in shaping American culture. Our core audience has also shown interest in boundary-pushing theatricality, and *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...* offers Izumi's heightened theatricality, the historical Murasaki's legacy, and Asian American narratives audiences might not otherwise encounter.

About Tiny Dynamite

Tiny Dynamite is a registered 501(c)(3) theater company based in Philadelphia. Our values are inclusivity, accessibility, and approachability: in person, our chief program, A Play, a Pie, and a Pint, includes short, comedic plays; communal seating; a snack; and a drink. Shows start early, costs are low, and productions move around the city. In programming and hiring, we have always sought to create opportunities for historically underrepresented and early career artists.

This community-based ethos welcomes nontraditional theatergoers and eliminates the "stuffy" theater stereotype. We increased our audience by more than 30% from 2017-2019; this audience is loyal to the company and the environment we create, returning for the experience rather than the specific play or artists. This allows us to operate with joyful reinvention in the work we produce, which was especially helpful in our COVID pivot to at-home experiences.

Mid-pandemic, we gave theater artists new avenues to explore their craft: we commissioned new work including a participatory Zoom play, a play-by-phone, and two epistolary experiences through the mail. One of the by-mail pieces, *A Breath for Us*, sold out two runs and won the Socially Distant Showstopper Award from our NPR affiliate. We hired over 30 artists and production staff for our socially distanced season; 50% of these were BIPOC. We also maintained our small staff throughout.

These at-home experiences allowed us to dramatically increase physical, economic, and demographic accessibility for audiences. People who would not be able to join us in a physical theater could enjoy these projects from their home, often on their own schedule. We asked and answered big questions about what art we can make—and what audiences we can welcome—when we think outside the walls of the theater.

We returned to in-person programming in the 2021-22 season, including our Oktoberfest celebration, annual Valentine's Day show, and the return engagement of our smash-hit original comedy *The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged*. We also streamed these productions and produced a second round of *Georgiana Recovered in Time*, one of our plays-by-mail, to continue reaching audiences who couldn't return to the theater with us.

The Request for Funding: Development and Production

A grant from the Chester County Community Foundation will support the ongoing development of *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...*, as well as the rehearsal and performance of the four shows in our season. The project period includes the full season's rehearsal and performance process for our three seasonal pop-up productions — Oktoberfest, Home for the Holidays, and Valentine's Day with Tiny Dynamite — as well as our full production of *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...*. The period also includes continued development of Izumi's script. Izumi, a Japanese American, is interested in further developing the play with a Japanese dramaturg; we have engaged Asaki Kuruma for that pre-production work.

In addition to the usual costs of producing a season of theater, returning to in-person performance carries with it costs that were not factors before the pandemic, including increased testing to keep staff and actors safe as well as swings and understudies in case of an outbreak among the cast. We also hope to continue exploring our options to increase accessibility throughout the season, including completing and releasing an audio version of *A Breath for Us*, an award-winning play-by-mail Tiny Dynamite developed and produced with playwright Jarrett McCreary and designer Sara Outing.

Amount of grant requested and timeline

Tiny Dynamite respectfully requests a \$5,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation in support of this season of productions and the accessibility and community-building initiatives that come with it. The project period is December 2022 – July 2023. This period includes the development, rehearsal, and performance of each of the season's shows, as well as continued exploration of accessibility features. It also includes continued and increased outreach to the AAPI community and partnership activities with our partner organizations for *Meet Murasaki Shikibu...*, as well as identifying partner organizations' members who will join the play as scripted audience participants.

The season — and therefore the project — will be complete by July 2023.

AMOUNT OF THE GRANT REQUESTED AND THE TERM (MONTHS)

\$5,000

12 months

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this support information

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

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WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**

Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning

- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**

Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development

- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**

Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring

- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**

Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications

- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**

Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements