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: Oxford Arts Alliance
Address: 38 S. 3rd Street, Oxford, Pa 19363
Phone: 610-467-0301
Website: www.oxfordart.org
Year Incorporated: 2008
FEIN: 26-4004347

ED/CEO Name: Anthony Derrico
ED/CEO E-mail: director@oxfordart.org
Board Chair Name: Ed Rahme
Board Chair Approval (check here): [x]
Primary Contact Name: Anthony Derrico
Primary Contact E-mail: director@oxfordart.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

_x_ Arts, Culture & Humanities   ___ Environment/Animal Welfare   ___Education
___ Health   ___ Human Services   ___ Religion

Mission:

The Oxford Arts Alliance is a community-based non-profit organization providing leadership and advocacy for the arts and culture. It seeks to provide a collaborative platform to allow arts and culture to flourish in our community for all people regardless of differences in ethnic origin, education, economic level, age, or disability.

Geographic Area 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 the townships of Upper Oxford, Lower Oxford, Nottingham, Franklin, Penn, New London, London Britain, New Garden, Kennett, London Grove, Londonderry, and West Fallowfield.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget $283,155   ____1___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___50___ % of budget for program expenses   ___13___ # of Board Volunteers
___40___ % of budget for administrative expenses ___20___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
___10___ % of budget for fundraising expenses   ___100___ # of Volunteer Hours
 100   % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Private Foundation (anonymous)
Dave Eldreth Studio
Outback Trading Company & Friends
Oxford Area Civic Association
Ed Rahme Architect

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: $___7,500_____

Proposal Summary:
Since 2010, the education programming at the Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) has continued to grow to include the Academies of Art and Music and the Emerging Artist Gallery. In the underserved and geographically outlying community of Oxford, PA, access to arts enrichment and education is critical to improving the quality of life and sense of community for residents and their families. Therefore, the OxAA seeks to continue building and providing access to arts and culture educational and experiential opportunities for the citizens of our community. Making these opportunities equitable, easily accessible, and engaging will require the support of those who believe that the arts should not disappear; they should persevere.

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

Founded in 2008, the Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) was the collaboration of Jahan Sheikholeslami, Jay Eaton, and Richard Beards. While the founding members began with a single gallery space and the mission to "cultivate community through art," the alliance itself has grown to include its organization's three main facets in the galleries, academies, and community.

The Main Gallery of the OxAA has hosted a monthly exhibition since 2010. Historically, the gallery has featured the works of local artists and artisans, but has grown to host exhibitions such as the work of Ned Smith (in collaboration with the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art), "The Art of African Drumming" with Senegalese master hand drummer Pape "Paco" Demba Samb, and the annual Student Exhibition, National Juried Exhibition, and Members Exhibition. Since 2019, the OxAA has hosted young artists who showed an extraordinary aptitude for art in the Emerging Artist Gallery. Artists in this gallery gain work experience by curating, hanging, and designing their own solo exhibition. Students from Oxford Area High School, West Chester University, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Savannah College of Art and Design have all taken part in Emerging Artist Gallery exhibitions.

Since 2010, the Academy of Art and Music has been a core part of the organization. Growing from 5 students to over 150 students in the course of a decade, the community need for critical arts and music education is reflected in this program. As of 2023, lessons are available for violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, guitar, drums, ukulele, banjo, mandolin, and trumpet, as well as a variety of artistic mediums. Taught by a staff of 12 instructors, students continue taking weekly private lessons and regularly perform recitals and other performances throughout the community. Students in the Portfolio Preparation program have gone on to study art at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, West Chester University, and Kutztown University.

The Outdoor Gallery Project by Dave Eldreth is the newest addition to community programs by the OxAA and features larger-than-life murals located throughout the town of Oxford. Artist and OxAA board member Dave Eldreth's idea of an outdoor art gallery for visitors to enjoy has blossomed into a collection of public paintings by local artists, youth artists, and professionals that can be found on Oxford's streetscape. This project will continue to grow and will include an interactive map and rotating murals in the coming years.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives*

Education remains the central core of the OxAA's mission and drives programming in the galleries, academies, and community projects created by the organization. Finding exhibitions and artists that spark wonder and excitement in visitors has proven to be a key initiative in engaging with the community and has led to imaginative exhibitions such as "The Art of African Drumming" in 2023 and "Ned Smith: Uncovered" in 2021.

The ever-growing academies continue to expand, and recent progress has been made in introducing a digital element, so that students can learn an even greater range of art and music skills.

Access to arts and culture guides much of the programs and outreach the organization does, as Oxford continues to be a more isolated and underserved part of the county. Making musical instruments, scholarship, art and music software, and exhibitions freely accessible to the community is critical for the quality of life in our town, for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Oxford Arts Alliance will be engaging in a new strategic plan in 2023 as a collaborative effort among our board, staff, community, and other community leaders.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed

The growth of programming and the need for arts and culture programming go hand-in-hand. Over the past decade, this growth has vastly outpaced the organization's ability to build infrastructure in staffing, building needs, and software. The future of the organization rests in supporting this infrastructure and creating a strong bedrock from which to continue growing. Additionally, being proactive in growth rather than reactive will give the OxAA a chance to keep pace with the ever-increasing need for arts and culture programming.

While programming continues to grow at the OxAA, it is the staff and faculty, the artists and musicians, that make the programming desirable for the community. This talented group of individuals is the main reason that over 150 students per week come to learn from their instructors. Ensuring the infrastructure and support is in place for their talent to shine is crucial because, as important as programming is, it is the people who behind the instrument and the paintbrush that make it human. Supporting these individuals is critical, yet most financial support in the arts is reserved for objects and equipment.

Why it is important to fund this now

It is important to fund this now because in recent years the poverty rate in the borough of Oxford, where the OxAA is located, has risen to 18.2%, up from 16.5% in 2019. Thus, even more of this already underserved community is unable to afford music and arts enrichment programs. With the decreased access in our schools to the arts, it is crucial that organizations like the OxAA remain open and accessible to the public. Low-cost and no-cost services are needed by the community, but are not easily achieved.

The lack of access to affordable arts enrichment leaves many of the community's most vulnerable residents behind. The children and adults in the community of Oxford should always have access to the arts and culture because of the opportunities that the arts offer. However, without that affordable access, we could be leaving behind unimagined talent and creativity, and we are left with the question of, "what could have been?"

How impact & results will be demonstrated

Demonstrable results for the impact of funding will be shown via increased data collection and analytics from the OxAA. Due to the increase over the past decade in programming and the need for infrastructure, data collection was not always available. With support, staff can now identify ways to collect demographic data and survey program participants. This in turn will provide more objective data for funders.

Additionally, the creation of programs is the tip of the iceberg for the demonstration of a successful program. It is the infrastructure of those programs that will matter as the OxAA enters the next decade. Indicators of success include increased registrations in lessons and development of group classes and performances, as well as reinforcement around existing programs. Changes will include the standardization of the curriculum to industry level standards in art and music. Digitial scanning of artwork, and music masterclasses will supplement an already existing curatorial process for the exhibiting artist.

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

Founded in 2008, the Oxford Arts Alliance (OxAA) was the collaboration of Jahan Sheikholeslami, Jay Eaton, and Richard Beards. While the founding members began with a single gallery space and the mission to "cultivate community through art," the alliance itself has grown to include its organization's three main facets in the galleries, academies, and community.

The Main Gallery of the OxAA has hosted a monthly exhibition since 2010. Historically, the gallery has featured the works of local artists and artisans, but has grown to host exhibitions such as the work of Ned Smith (in collaboration with the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art), "The Art of African Drumming" with Senegalese master hand drummer Pape "Paco" Demba Samb, and the annual Student Exhibition, National Juried Exhibition, and Members Exhibition. Since 2019, the OxAA has hosted young artists who showed an extraordinary aptitude for art in the Emerging Artist Gallery. Artists in this gallery gain work experience by curating, hanging, and designing their own solo exhibition. Students from Oxford Area High School, West Chester University, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Savannah College of Art and Design have all taken part in Emerging Artist Gallery exhibitions.

Since 2010, the Academy of Art and Music has been a core part of the organization. Growing from 5 students to over 150 students in the course of a decade, the community need for critical arts and music education is reflected in this program. As of 2023, lessons are available for violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, guitar, drums, ukulele, banjo, mandolin, and trumpet, as well as a variety of artistic mediums. Taught by a staff of 12 instructors, students continue taking weekly private lessons and regularly perform recitals and other performances throughout the community. Students in the Portfolio Preparation program have gone on to study art at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, West Chester University, and Kutztown University.

The Outdoor Gallery Project by Dave Eldreth is the newest addition to community programs by the OxAA and features larger-than-life murals located throughout the town of Oxford. Artist and OxAA board member Dave Eldreth's idea of an outdoor art gallery for visitors to enjoy has blossomed into a collection of public paintings by local artists, youth artists, and professionals that can be found on Oxford's streetscape. This project will continue to grow and will include an interactive map and rotating murals in the coming years.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives*

Education remains the central core of the OxAA's mission and drives programming in the galleries, academies, and community projects created by the organization. Finding exhibitions and artists that spark wonder and excitement in visitors has proven to be a key initiative in engaging with the community and has led to imaginative exhibitions such as "The Art of African Drumming" in 2023 and "Ned Smith: Uncovered" in 2021.

The ever-growing academies continue to expand, and recent progress has been made in introducing a digital element, so that students can learn an even greater range of art and music skills.

Access to arts and culture guides much of the programs and outreach the organization does, as Oxford continues to be a more isolated and underserved part of the county. Making musical instruments, scholarship, art and music software, and exhibitions freely accessible to the community is critical for the quality of life in our town, for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Oxford Arts Alliance will be engaging in a new strategic plan in 2023 as a collaborative effort among our board, staff, community, and other community leaders.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed
The growth of programming and the need for arts and culture programming go hand-in-hand. Over the past decade, this growth has vastly outpaced the organization's ability to build infrastructure in staffing, building needs, and software. The future of the organization rests in supporting this infrastructure and creating a strong bedrock from which to continue growing. Additionally, being proactive in growth rather than reactive will give the OxAA a chance to keep pace with the ever-increasing need for arts and culture programming.

While programming continues to grow at the OxAA, it is the staff and faculty, the artists and musicians, that make the programming desirable for the community. This talented group of individuals is the main reason that over 150 students per week come to learn from their instructors. Ensuring the infrastructure and support is in place for their talent to shine is crucial because, as important as programming is, it is the people who behind the instrument and the paintbrush that make it human. Supporting these individuals is critical, yet most financial support in the arts is reserved for objects and equipment.

Why it is important to fund this now

It is important to fund this now because in recent years the poverty rate in the borough of Oxford, where the OxAA is located, has risen to 18.2%, up from 16.5% in 2019. Thus, even more of this already underserved community is unable to afford music and arts enrichment programs. With the decreased access in our schools to the arts, it is crucial that organizations like the OxAA remain open and accessible to the public. Low-cost and no-cost services are needed by the community, but are not easily achieved.

The lack of access to affordable arts enrichment leaves many of the community's most vulnerable residents behind. The children and adults in the community of Oxford should always have access to the arts and culture because of the opportunities that the arts offer. However, without that affordable access, we could be leaving behind unimagined talent and creativity, and we are left with the question of, "what could have been?"

How impact & results will be demonstrated

Demonstrable results for the impact of funding will be shown via increased data collection and analytics from the OxAA. Due to the increase over the past decade in programming and the need for infrastructure, data collection was not always available. With support, staff can now identify ways to collect demographic data and survey program participants. This in turn will provide more objective data for funders.

Additionally, the creation of programs is the tip of the iceberg for the demonstration of a successful program. It is the infrastructure of those programs that will matter as the OxAA enters the next decade. Indicators of success include increased registrations in lessons and development of group classes and performances, as well as reinforcement around existing programs. Changes will include the standardization of the curriculum to industry level standards in art and music. Digitial scanning of artwork, and music masterclasses will supplement an already existing curatorial process for the exhibiting artist.