

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 9/13)

- ◇ 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 grants is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the region**, see page 4 for more details on the areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 13** are 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: Schuylkill River Heritage Center
Address: 2 Main St. PO Box 427 Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: 610-935-2181 or 610-783-0645
Website: www.phoenixvillefoundry.org
*Year Incorporated: January 24, 2006
FEIN: 20-4082049

ED/CEO Name: Barbara Cohen
ED/CEO E-mail: allbar@aol.com
Board Chair Name: Barbara Cohen
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Barbara Cohen
Primary Contact E-mail: allbar@aol.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The mission of the Schuylkill River Heritage Center is to educate everyone about the cultural and industrial legacy of the greater Phoenixville region and the Schuylkill River watershed and to inform visitors about the resources and historic sites in Chester County.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Annual Budget \$41,500 | 2 | # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| 53 % of budget for program expenses | 14 | # of Board Volunteers |
| 38 % of budget for administrative expenses | 8 | # of Active Non-Board Volunteers |
| 9 % of budget for fundraising expenses | 4,264 | # of Volunteer Hours |
| <i>100 % total</i> | | |

Top 3-5 funding sources: 1. Our Membership 2. The Hankin Group 3. Queen of Hearts Catering Events
Is this grant proposal for: The Phoenix Wheel Project - Marjorie L. and Arthur P. Miller Fund
Grant Application

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: \$ 2,500

Proposal Summary: The Schuylkill River Heritage Center (SRHC) owns the oldest (Ferris) Phoenix Wheel in the world. It was made by the Phoenix Bridge Company in 1895. All 16 wheel baskets have been restored and the SRHC has the engineered plan for how it will be restored, reassembled and installed on a property owned by Phoenixville Borough. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur & Marjorie Miller have agreed to donate \$2,500 through their CC Community Fdn. fund.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

The Schuylkill River Heritage Center (SRHC) opened in 2008. It is located in the historic restored Foundry Building, that is located in Phoenixville's downtown historic district, and it is adjacent to the French Creek and the Schuylkill River Trail. (SRT) The SRHC provides students, residents, visitors and those using the SRT with an opportunity to learn about Phoenixville's history, Chester County and the industrial legacy of the Schuylkill River in a unique, creative and artistic way.

The major portion of the Foundry Building is used for special events, but along with its display of historic artifacts and paintings, the SRHC has created three interactive exhibits that visitors can easily be used in its smaller space. One interactive kiosk tells about Chester County's historic sites and resources along with the story of the Underground Railroad in the county. This is a key achievement since the SRHC had to replace its Flash drive system with the new HTML5 system. This occurred at the time of the murder of George Floyd. This new addition to the Chester County kiosk is called the Path to Freedom Trail, and it has been very well received by our visitors.

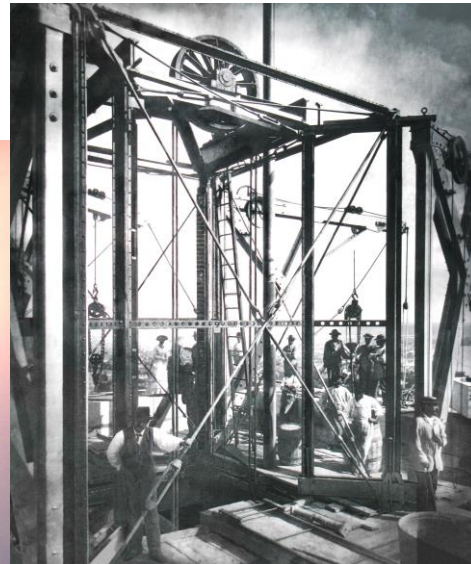
On the other side of the Chester County kiosk, visitors can explore the entire Schuylkill River Trail. The third kiosk illustrates the many places along the river where things were once manufactured. A large mural above this kiosk pictures places all along the river. Each has a number attached so visitors can decide what place along the river they want to learn more about. The river and its tributaries are embedded in the floor and leads visitors to this interactive kiosk.



The SRHC also has another room where visitors can have a seat to watch a video that tells the story of Phoenixville and the Schuylkill River. There is a mural in this room as well. It illustrates the people who once were employed by the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company. Another wall in this room is filled with photographs that illustrate many bridges and structures all across the USA that were manufactured by the Phoenix Bridge Company, that was a subsidiary of the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company.



This is an image of the mural that pictures the employees at the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company.



This photo illustrates the inside of the Washington Monument. Phoenix Columns support the steps and the elevator. This image is on the wall displaying photographs.

Along with reinventing our interactive exhibits, the SRHC also accomplished another major achievement in the past two years. Our museum acquired the property at Bridge and Main Streets, in the center of Phoenixville's Downtown Historic District. In 2020 the Phoenixville Mural and the adjacent Renaissance Park were badly damaged by the fierce hurricane force winds. With widespread community support, the SRHC was able to reinvent the Phoenixville Mural using digital photographs of the original mural. It has been reinvented using a special poly-tab fabric that strongly adheres to the wall. It has also been varnished so it is protected and also will not fade. Many improvements were also made to Renaissance Park as well, including a new Gathering Place with new inscribed bricks and benches.



The new version of the Phoenixville Mural & Renaissance Park

2. Funding Request

The Marjorie L. and Aurthur P. Fund Grant Application

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have given their approval for a grant to be awarded and used for the Schuylkill River Heritage Center's **Community Betterment Phoenix Wheel project**.

The SRHC owns an extraordinary "piece from the past". In 1895, the Phoenix Bridge Company fabricated four Phoenix Wheels. Three of these wheels no longer exist. However, the Phoenix Wheel in Asbury Park NJ operated until 1988. It was sold to an amusement park in Biloxi Mississippi where it operated until 1998. A developer brought it back to Asbury Park, hoping to revive its waterfront, but this never happened. With widespread community support, the SRHC acquired the wheel from him in 2008. All sixteen seating baskets have been restored and the SRHC has the engineered plan for how it will be restored, reassembled and installed. We have learned from the PA Miuseim Historic Commission that the **Asbury Park Phoenix Wheel is the oldest existing "Ferris" Wheel in the world**.

Although other locations were considered over the years, these plans did not come to fruition. Now, the SRHC has a partnership agreement with Phoenixville Borough. This initiative will transform an abandoned industrial property into a parking lot adjacent to the French Creek Trail. This trail is located next to the French Creek that runs through Phoenixville. When the SRHC has been able to raise the funds needed to reassemble, restore and install the wheel, it will be located next to the French Creek Trail.

The wheel sculpture will be anchored to a concrete base that is 25' long and 5' high. The Borough is sponsoring the cost to have a local artist paint historic images of the wheel on the base using archival postcard images of the wheel in Asbury Park. The SRHC is also planning to have a protective tall glass wall surrounding the wheel so on one will be tempted to climb onto this wonderful "piece from the past". We will also create and install interpretive signs in front of the glass wall. One will tell the story of the wheel and the other will name all of the wheel's donors. The SRHC will also provide special LED lighting that will be woven through the wheel so it will always be visible for all to enjoy!

The Phoenix Wheel's presence as a sculpture will be an aesthetic, historic asset for everyone in the community. Combining this unique, historic piece from the past with recreational opportunities and a place to park a car will also provide positive economic development for the community. It will become the special feature that has a strong impact in a pragmatic gathering place by attracting visitors, trail users, and community residents as well.



Here is the Borough engineer's preliminary rendering of the Phoenix Wheel placement

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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*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*

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