

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: **CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER**
Address: **225 NORTH HIGH STREET**
Phone: **610.692.4800**
Website: **MYCCHC.ORG**
Year Incorporated: **1893**
FEIN: **23-1371942**

ED/CEO Name: **CONOR HEPP**
ED/CEO E-mail: **CHEPP@MYCCHC.ORG**
Board Chair Name: **HOLLY STOVIAK**
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: **PACHY BANKS-CABRAL**
Primary Contact E-mail: **PBANKS@MYCCHC.ORG**

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: TO LINK THE PAST TO THE PRESENT TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

OVER 15,000 CONSTITUENTS SERVED EVERY YEAR, INCLUDING 9,000 STUDENTS.

Gender: 56% Female | 40% Male | 4% Other

Ethnicity: 20% African American | 10% Asian-American | 49% Caucasian | 11% Hispanic/Latino | 5% Native American | 5% Other

Annual Budget \$ 1,191,239 ___ 10 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___ 75 % of budget for program expenses ___ 20 # of Board Volunteers
___ 15 % of budget for administrative expenses ___ 95 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
___ 10 % of budget for fundraising expenses ___ 4,401 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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: \$ 5,000

RUSTIN
A CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON
MOVIE PREMIERE AND EXHIBIT

1. ORGANIZATION HISTORY AND MISSION

History and Mission

Chester County History Center -CCHC- has been Chester County, PA's resident storyteller since its founding in 1893. CCHC is a nonprofit historical institution with the mission to **Link the Past to the Present, to Inspire the Future** while engaging, preserving, educating, connecting, and imagining with our community. CCHC is responsible for three centuries of history through the preservation of documents, photographs, and newspapers in our research library and photo archives, and artifacts in the museum. These primary historical materials are central to the recent interactive core exhibition *Becoming Chester County*, the first visible storage space, and year-round youth and adult education programs.

In 1937, CCHC moved into West Chester's historic Horticultural Hall. The building was modernized in 1979 to improve collections management and increase exhibition space. In the early 1980s, CCHC initiated a joint project with the Chester County government to administer the Chester County Archives, adding 300 years of public records to its care. It is one of the finest and most complete collections of historic county records in the nation.

A capital campaign was launched in 1992 to enable the renovation of the adjacent YMCA building. The resulting 56,000-square-foot History Center became a vital complex for exhibition, collection storage, and research. The new facility also allowed for an increased emphasis on educational programming, making CCHC one of Pennsylvania's premier history museums and educational centers with an expanded library and research area, a 250-seat auditorium, and seven exhibition galleries.

Chester County History Center is central to the preservation of Chester County's history. Exhibits and educational programs serve the community by connecting diverse residents and ideas that illustrate how this place is unique and relevant in our National landscape.

Goals

CCHC is committed to the history, representation, and to accessible and equitable participation opportunities for all community members and to serve and support the rich, diverse community of Chester County and beyond including, but not limited to, people of all ages, abilities, economic circumstances, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, race, or religion.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of the History Center. Our goal is to expand our offerings, and events, and programs to ensure the representation and participation of our whole community.

Key Achievements

In 2022, the Chester County History Center (CCHC) engaged thousands of students who visited the Museum or participated in outreach programs, joined us for National History Day, and educational family events. A total of 19 schools, from school districts across Chester and Delaware Counties, participated in school programs. Of the 151 registered participants in the April 1st, 2022's National History Day regional competition hosted by CCHC, 77 winning students advanced to the state competition. CCHC worked with teachers in Chester and

Delaware and helped train over 100 community judges to evaluate student entries and provide constructive feedback for every student.

Our 2022 Speaker Series was a great success. This impactful community program was enjoyed by 3,500+ participants worldwide. The program offered nineteen (19) lectures on a variety of subjects. Due to its virtual nature and pay-as-you-wish model, the Speaker Series program is a highly accessible program that allows the participation of constituents from all abilities, locations, and life circumstances. This diverse participation enriched the conversations and connected communities from all corners of the United States and the world. Last year we welcomed participants from Argentina, England, Scotland, and the Middle East.

Walking Tours participation increased significantly in 2022 with over 80 tours offered and 750+ participants. These tours were held throughout the year with different subjects including Underground Railroad, Chilling West Chester, Fierce: Women of West Chester, and Holiday History Stroll. In 2023, Walking Tour numbers and offers have continued to grow adding Black History Tours, Oakland Cemetery, That's Entertainment, and Plagues & Pestilence walking tours.

Through our Access Family Memberships program, 350 families (1,102 Approx.) received free memberships to the Chester County History Center. Member families have free access to our Museum, programs, and services and access to 1,244 art organizations in North America thanks to the NARM Association. This program is possible through a partnership with PECO/Exelon.

The Chester County History Center was recognized by PA Museums, a Pennsylvania's statewide museum association with 350 members across the Commonwealth, with 2022's Institutional Achievement Award for the new exhibition *Becoming Chester County*. From the arrival of William Penn and contact with indigenous people in the 1600s to today, *Becoming Chester County* traces the history of our area and its influence on the American landscape. The 5,000sq ft exhibit showcases more than 700 artifacts, photographs, and documents through beautifully designed exhibits and interactive, hands-on displays, where visitors of all ages and abilities can learn about the stories of daily life, work, and civic engagement in Chester County. A special exhibit was shown in honor of Presidents Day that included the "Lincoln Chair" — an item that had never before been on public display — and a "Washington Letter" written on Sept. 11, 1777, the day of the Battle of the Brandywine.

JUNETEENTH - Our Juneteenth events in 2022 were a true celebration of African-American culture and of those in our community. In a multi-day event, we welcomed visual artists Dane Tilghman, children's book author Nahjee Grant, and Rev. Anderson Porter for a historic celebration.

GALLERY WALK – Spring and Fall Gallery Walks –in partnership with the West Chester BID- provided opportunities for special exhibits and free museum nights for all visitors welcoming over 650 visitors.

HALLOWEEN BALL – Our biggest fundraising event of the year was our most successful to date for the organization welcoming 200 guests and exceeding our fundraising goal. All proceeds benefited our collections preservation and educational programs.

Distinctiveness

Chester County History Center is the only organization of its nature in Chester County collecting, preserving, and educating on the history of our County and its impact on our Nation's history. Our collection, archives, and research library are nationally recognized.

Some of our core programs and events include:

School Visits. CCHC welcomes schools from Chester & Delaware Counties for in-person visits and educational programs based on our collection and designed to support the school curricula. Visits are paired with in-house programs and hands-on activities to engage students of various learning styles. Student visits have follow-up activities for the classroom.

Traveling Trunks & Outreach Programs. These age-appropriate programs aligned with school curricula bring the activities, supplemental educational material and study guides, and digital educational assets directly to the schools and classrooms.

Speaker Series. The series will host 24 virtual talks by renowned historians and experts from around the Country exploring a variety of themes including genealogy, architecture, American battles and wars, history makers, archival records, and more.

Access Family Memberships. This membership program will offer additional no-cost memberships this year reaching 500 families (1,750 ind.). Member families have free access to our Museum, programs, and services and access to 1,244 art organizations in North America thanks to the NARM Association. This program is possible through a partnership with PECO/Exelon.

National History Day. More than 300 students each year research a topic relating to local, national, or world history based on an annual theme. Entries are judged into two divisions- Junior and Senior. Winners at the county level advance to the state competition and the state winners represent PA at the National History Day contest in MD in June.

Walking Tours. These tours are held throughout the year and have different subject focus including Underground Railroad, Chilling West Chester, Fierce: Women of West Chester, Holiday History Stroll, Architecture of West Chester, and Bayard Rustin.

Special programs and events to be held in 2023 include:

Seventeen Men Exhibit. A traveling exhibit about 17 men from the Civil War's 25th Regiment, Company G. of the United States Colored Troops. The exhibit features 17 original illustrations by Shayne Davidson, enlarging historic photographs of Black soldiers. Each illustration is accompanied by a biography.

G. Raymond Rettew Documentary. CCHC will host the World Premiere of the documentary The Mushroom Man Who Changed the World: G. Raymond Rettew about the life of a brilliant chemist from West Chester who found the solution to the challenge of mass production of penicillin. The results of his years of research helped change the course of modern medicine forever.

Mock Trials. Our Education Department will use transcripts of landmark, historical trials held in Chester County to stage mock trials with the participation of high school students interested in law and public service. These trials will be recorded and further used as educational material. CCHC is exploring partnerships with the Chester County Bar Association and local law firms.

Holiday Celebration. CCHC will celebrate the Holiday Season and the end of our anniversary year by inviting community members to experience the Holidays as they have been celebrated for the last 130 years.

2. FUNDING REQUEST

As part of our ongoing work to elevate the history of our county and people, and to shed light on the importance of the individuals and events that influenced and shaped our Nation's history, the Chester County History Center will celebrate the life and work of Bayard Rustin and the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington with a special exhibit and an Exclusive Premiere of the Netflix Featured Film *Rustin*.

On Thursday, November 2nd, the History Center will welcome guests to a cocktail hour followed by the premiere of *Rustin* ahead of the movie's theatrical release. CCHC is honored to partner with Netflix to bring Rustin to Bayard's hometown.

The powerful story of Bayard Rustin, the West Chester native and openly gay Black civil rights leader who dedicated his life to a quest for racial equality, is in the spotlight thanks to this featured film. From the back rooms of power to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the new film tells the story of the civil rights movement from a never-before-seen perspective.

The architect of 1963's momentous March on Washington, Bayard Rustin was one of the greatest activists and organizers the world has ever known. He challenged authority, never apologized for who he was, what he believed, or who he desired. And he did not back down. He made history, and in turn, he was forgotten. Directed by DGA Award and five-time Tony Award winner George C. Wolfe and starring Emmy Award winner Colman Domingo, Rustin shines a long overdue spotlight on the extraordinary man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dared to imagine a different world, and inspired a movement in a march toward freedom. Produced by Academy Award winner Bruce Cohen, Higher Ground's Tonia Davis, and George C. Wolfe, the film features an all-star cast including Chris Rock, Glynn Turman, Aml Ameen, Gus Halper, CCH Pounder, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Johnny Ramey, Michael Potts, with Jeffrey Wright and Audra McDonald.

The special temporary exhibit, on view until November 2023 at the History Center, highlights Bayard Rustin and his instrumental work as the organizer of the March on Washington. The exhibit includes a first-time look at programs and memorabilia from the 1963 March donated to CCHC by Mr. Walter Naegle, Bayard Rustin's surviving partner. The exhibit also showcases a new biographical video about Rustin with excerpts from oral history recordings. Materials from the Chester County Archives complement the biographical overview.

We are requesting support to carry out this historical event and bring *Rustin* to Chester County along with covering expenses related to our exhibit celebrating the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington.

This is a unique partnership and opportunity for our County and a well-deserved occasion for the city of West Chester, Bayard's hometown.