



REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND



The Chester County Community Foundation accepts applications from selected nonprofit charitable causes for the **Erb Charitable Fund**, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation.

Proposals are due by Friday, March 1, 2024. Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. Grants will be awarded in the fall. Grant awards typically range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for a grant.

Grant applications should be submitted electronically by Friday, March 1, 2024 to grants@chescofc.org. The e-mail heading should read: Grant Proposal Submission- Erb Charitable Fund

Please note that all grant applications will be available electronically on the Chester County Community Foundation's website for additional consideration for grant funding by the Community Foundation's Donor Advised Fund Advisors.

Questions? Please contact:
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer
Chester County Community Foundation
28 West Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
www.chesdcocf.org
Steph@chescofc.org
(610) 696-8211



I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: 02/28/2024

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Montgomery Cty Comm College Fdn

Address: 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Phone: 215.768.6716

Web Address: http://www.mc3.edu

Contact Name: Don Smith

Contact Title: Associate Director

Contact E-mail: dsmith4@mc3.edu

Fax:

Year Incorporated: 1983

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes ___ No x

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: Montgomery County, PA

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:

Mission Statement: Montgomery County Community College (Montco) transforms the lives of those we serve through educational, workforce, and cultural experiences and programs that drive success at the college and beyond.

Organization Description: Montco is known for academic excellence based on the successes of more than 90,000 alumni; and has been recognized multiple times for having the nation's top faculty and being the most technologically advanced community college in the country.

Annual Budget \$ <u>\$2,143,101</u>	<u>7</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>42</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>24</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>40</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>64</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>18</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>100</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Kenneth D. Baker, \$599,614/ IBX, \$87,369/ Marjorie Grebow, \$75,995

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ \$94,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: Inspire and empower Montco students to transform not just their own lives, but the lives of their families through educational programming, strategic updates to, and thoughtful expansions of the library's collections. We propose to use library programming centered around the Justice Bell to inspire students, faculty, staff, and the community at large to continue working towards their own goals, continue learning throughout their lifetimes and the importance of our shared history. We propose to put our state-of-the-art archive, which Robert Erb had a hand in creating, to preserve the story of the Justice Bell and its rediscovery at the college.



JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Please provide the following information clearly and concisely.
Proposals of 1 or 2 pages are strongly encouraged.*

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Founded in 1964, our institution has grown with the community to meet the lifelong learning needs of Montgomery County residents, visitors and businesses. Known for academic excellence based on the successes of more than 90,000 alumni, we have been recognized multiple times for having the nation's top faculty and for being the most technologically advanced community college in the country. As a member of the Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count network, we are constantly honing research-based strategies that support student success. For several years we have been named to the national President's Honor Roll for Community Service for our efforts to instill in our students the value of working for the betterment of the community.

2. Funding request: \$94,000

A. Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed

1. The MontCo libraries are open to all. Anyone from the community and surrounding area can attend our events, use our spaces and collections, or seek help from our staff. Our Pottstown campus is located on the border of Chester and Montgomery Counties and our Blue Bell campus is easily accessible to those in the northeast of Chester County. Adult learners are the ones who most often utilize our libraries in the evenings and on the weekends and were Robert Erb's favorite population to work with. With that in mind, we propose to use library programming centered around the Justice Bell to inspire adult learners to continue working towards their own goals and continue learning throughout their lifetimes. At the same time, we propose to put our state-of-the-art archive to work preserving the story of the Justice Bell and its recent rediscovery for generations of Pennsylvanian's to come. We also propose to update and expand the library collections most vital to supporting adult literacy and, finally, provide family workstations in our libraries to make it clear to all parents that they and their children are welcome to learn here.

B. Organizational impact (for general operating proposals) or project impact (for project proposals)

2. Library programming is the best way to engage adult learners, promote the support available through the library and showcase literacy skills in action. In 1915 the women of Pennsylvania worked together to create a replica of the Liberty Bell and took it on tour to all 67 counties of our state in what one newspaper called a "silent and eloquent appeal" for their right to vote, they called it the Justice Bell. The Justice Bell was a media darling garnering headlines wherever it traveled, and more than one million people showed up to see it in person. Today, few people have heard of it. In 2015 the Justice Bell and its story were rediscovered by Amanda Owen who founded a non-profit and created a replica of the Justice

Bell to take on tour once again. The Justice Bell Replica has most recently been at Delaware County Community College for one year, we propose its next stop will be at MontCo for 3 years. The longer residency provides an opportunity for MontCo librarians and teaching faculty to create an incubator for programming centered around social justice and civil disobedience under the title *Justice Literacy*.

C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)

3. Creating library programming that brings together the different aspects of information literacy in a tangible way allows adult learners to see the fruits of their lifelong learning. The Justice Bell Foundation co-founded by Amanda Owen will partner with MontCo's archivist, library team and archival interns from around the state to create an archive of all things Justice Bell at MontCo. Providing spaces that are welcoming to families sends a clear message to adult learners who are parents that we are here for them. Adding not just traditional picture books, but also board books, puppets, Launchpads (highly durable tablets that teach literacy skills through play), and Wonderbooks (picture books that read aloud) to diversify the formats available in our collection as well as the content. We want our juvenile collection to reflect the children in our community and let them see themselves as learners, just like their parents. Investing in English as a second language (ESL) materials is another way we propose to improve literacy for adult learners at MontCo.

D. Why it is important to fund this now

4. With the Justice Bell Replica in residence at MontCo we propose to build our *Justice Literacy* programming over the next several semesters with an eye toward taking part in the America 250 celebrations happening nationwide in 2026 to mark the anniversary of our nation's founding. We hope to welcome visitors to engage with the Justice Bell Replica, and our *Justice Literacy* programming to highlight Pennsylvania's contribution to women's suffrage, and the importance of grassroots organizing throughout the history of our democracy.

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

This Justice Bell Replica will spend 3 years in residence at MontCo before carrying on its tour. In those 3 years the Justice Bell Foundation team will deliver their already created presentations to students, faculty and the community at large through programming at the library on both our Blue Bell and Pottstown campuses. In addition, the library staff will work with MontCo faculty to create curricular tie ins and programming in a series we have titled "Justice Literacy" to teach students about the different ways Pennsylvanians and Americans have fought for justice throughout American history into the present. The education and programming experiences fit with the College's mission in transforming the lives of those we serve through educational, workforce, and cultural experiences and programs that drive success both at the College and beyond.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated

We will demonstrate the impact through attendance at *Justice Literacy* events, tracking the number of artifacts gathered for the Justice Bell archive at MontCo, counting the number of archival interns who work on the project, the number of entrants in the song contests year over year, tracking headcounts during the evenings and weekends when we know most adult learners



visit us, reporting usage statistics on circulation of new materials and expanded collections, tracking the number of views of the Justice Bell Foundation Documentary and attendance at screenings of the documentary, and tracking how many faculty members incorporate the Justice Bell into their courses.

