

Partners Creating Community: CCCF General Operating Grant Application

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information

Date: 9/23/2024

Organization Name: PCC: Partners Creating Community
Address: 260 Bridge St., Phoenixville, PA 19460

ED/CEO Name: Kristen Weber
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Phone: 610-600-6570

Board Chair Name: Brian Dodd

Website: partnerscreatingcommunity.org

Board Chair Approval: **YES**

Year Incorporated: 4/21/2017; founded in 2016

Primary Contact Name: Brian Dodd

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Primary Contact E-mail: 484-288-0528
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Organization Information: Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: Partners Creating Community transforms lives by providing meaningful artisan employment and inclusive residential 'life-sharing' to adults facing intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental health challenges. Through creativity, compassion and community, we nurture independence, dignity and purpose in every individual served. Each individual's unique abilities are celebrated, skills are honed and dreams are realized, which enriches both their lives and the broader community.

Geographic Area Served: Chester County and 5-county greater Philly area

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

38 residents/day program participants & 15,000+ customers served at enterprises

Annual Budget \$5,780,000 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

_____ 85 % of budget for program expenses _____ 6 # of Board Volunteers

_____ 12 % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 7 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

_____ 3 % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 700 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: 2023 Actuals:

Private Pay/Tuition: 68%

Sales of Product: 15.7%

Foundation Grants: 11.7%

Rent of Property: 3.2%

Individual Donors: .8%

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or **General Operating**

Grant Amount Requested: **\$7,500** (Total cost for art equipment is \$39,800; budget in narrative)

Proposal Summary:

2.5 million Americans have an intellectual disability: the majority of adults are either unemployed or Underemployed; in 2023 only 25% were employed. PCC is working to change these statistics. Integrating adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental health challenges with and within the community is at the core of our purpose. In our artisan enterprises and life-sharing residences, individuals with-and-without disabilities live and work together in a supportive, family environment.

Our 260 Bridge Café's Green Lion Breads & Heart Stone Pastry—and soon our 256 Bridge Street's Quiet Space progressive art studio and gallery—embody that integration, enriching everyone and the greater community. **We seek funding to purchase art equipment for Quiet Space's new, expanded location.**

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE—3 PP

See 3-page narrative below

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness
2. Funding request
 - Description of key initiatives
 - Specific needs & issues to be addressed
 - Why it is important to fund this now
 - How impact & results will be demonstrated

III. ATTACHMENTS—EMAILED—6 ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. 2023 990 & Financial statements
4. Itemized org operating budget, actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. Current strategic plan
6. PCC Success Story

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE—3 PAGES

PCC's History & Overview: Founded in 2016, PCC is a human services organization based in Phoenixville, Chester County. We provide residential services in combination with meaningful, inclusive employment and volunteer opportunities for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental health challenges.

PCC's model creates community with—and more importantly, improves the lives of—adults with disabilities. While providing individualized residential and care management services for residents as well as day participants, we also provide inclusive and meaningful employment and volunteer opportunities. Through our artisan businesses and agricultural initiatives, we offer unique and diverse products to the public.

Our artisan enterprises include Heart Stone Pastry, Green Lion Breads, Pear Tree Coffee Roasters, and Quiet Space arts program. Our agricultural enterprise is the 12-acre Frog Hollow Farm, with vegetables, orchards, flour milling, an apiary, a greenhouse, and our coffee roasting operations.

In the past 8 years, PCC has grown into a flourishing organization with a range of social enterprises intentionally designed to engage adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or mental health challenges. Our focus is to provide more community connections and visibility as well as room for growth. Many products are sold under each business and available at PCC sites as well as through our community-collaboration partners. We currently have 21 partners—support staff partners, event partners, wholesale partners, and donors/supporters. We send monthly/bi-monthly newsletters to over 1,200 supporters; and we create special outreach newsletters about social opportunities in the area to 110+ families.

Our innovative, not-for-profit community organizations are designed to expand opportunities for our residents and participants. Through creativity, compassion and community, PCC nurtures independence, dignity and purpose in every individual served. Each individual's unique abilities are celebrated, skills are honed, and dreams are realized, which enriches both their lives and the broader community. Overall, we aim to foster better understanding, interaction and collaboration with neighbors and the larger community.

Our board and staff are committed to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of PCC through growing current revenue streams and developing new ones. Partners Foundation is the endowment for PCC, and it has recently created a new Sustainability Fund. Our annual fundraising events generate over \$110,000. Our local community demonstrates their commitment to our mission through ongoing support of our 260 Bridge Café and purchase of our products at Frog Hollow Farm and other local farm stands. And, we are committed to our strategic plan and implementing all its steps to ensure growth and financial health for PCC.

PCC's Quiet Space Art Program—Key Initiatives: PCC's new building at 256 Bridge Street in downtown Phoenixville will provide expanded housing for residents with eight new apartment units as well as the expanded home for the *Quiet Space* progressive arts studio and gallery on the ground and lower levels. Now undergoing renovations, this new space will provide a safe, accessible and inclusive environment for residents and other program participants. New art equipment is needed for the arts program, and all of the equipment and tools total \$39,800.

Quiet Space offers individuals of all abilities the opportunity to engage in drawing, painting, pottery, multi-media renderings, screen-printing, woodworking, jewelry making, soap making, fashion design, and other forms of creative expression in a supportive and inclusive setting. The new location provides more room for creating-and-making by residents/program participants—from 10 to 20 working artists. It also provides the opportunity for up to 10 additional outside community members to join the artists and work seamlessly, side-by-side with them. 2-to-3 art staff members will work in the gallery to handle sales and take part in the growing operations of the gallery and studios.

The art shop will offer original pottery, prints, wooded bowls, jewelry, soaps, hand-poured candles, coffee mugs, bird houses and apparel. Art pieces will continue to be sold at 260 Bridge Cafe.

PCC's Quiet Space—Specific needs & issues to be addressed: The expansion of *Quiet Space's* arts program allows for fresh avenues of personal expression and artistic growth. PCC develops true artisans and seamlessly integrates adults of all abilities in the art space. Our residents and participants flourish and thrive, often successfully tackling tasks independently and assisting in the training of other colleagues.

PCC's Quiet Space arts studio encompasses gallery exhibition and retail spaces open to the public as well as studio spaces for PCC residents/participants and outside community members. Beyond art exhibits, the gallery area on the main floor of the building will serve as a special event space for a range of art lectures, art demonstrations, artist-led workshops, visiting artist presentations, film screenings, dance-and-performance-based parties, and fundraising activities to engage the entire community.

The street-level storefront gallery will showcase art and crafts created by Quiet Space artists. Seasonal window displays will feature artists' curated works, and a gallery wall will display rotating exhibitions. A glass partition will separate the public retail space from the studio area while still showcasing artists working and their works in progress. Lower-level art studios will house the woodshop, laser-cutter, and screen-printing work space.

PCC's Quiet Space—Why is it important to fund this now: The integration of a connected living space at 256 Bridge Street further fosters a sense of belonging and independence. It transforms the space into more than just a place of work; it becomes a home—a supportive environment where residents as well as the greater community can thrive both personally and professionally. The economic impact of this venture extends far beyond commerce. By providing meaningful opportunities for adults of all abilities, both the arts and living spaces become a catalyst for social change. Through a life-sharing model, coupled with the offerings of the art program, individuals who may have been marginalized in traditional job markets become empowered. This not only enriches their lives; it also contributes to the economic vitality of the community tapping into a previously underutilized talent pool.

Each of our unique operations are continuously monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of the diverse team of individuals we serve. With the growing need to provide meaningful opportunities for adults with disabilities, we are putting workplace inclusivity into action and inspiring our community.

PCC's Quiet Space—How impact and results will be demonstrated: *Quiet Space* artists are encouraged to be inter-disciplinary and have exposure to all areas of art and craft. Each artist will have access to personalized studio time as well as customized workshops with facilitators to learn new methods and skills. Artists will work with art facilitators and volunteers based on the abilities and interests of both parties. *Quiet Space's* 'Inner Vision' initiative is the development of each artist's unique body of work; the 'Outer Vision' initiative focuses on creating goods for sale in the gallery/retail spaces and online.

The *Quiet Space* gallery and retail space will be open Wednesday-Sunday, 9-4pm, and will initially provide weekly art programming for residents and participants, Monday-Friday, 9-4pm. Residents/participants will schedule time to work, with up to 12 artists working at one time in the space. Outside community members will have studio access during these same times, and the intent is to extend those days and hours over time. For community use, a monthly membership will be created to allow access to the equipment and work spaces. The fee will cover a select amount of kiln firings; additional costs will apply for specialty items like glazes, wood and print materials. Membership/material fees will help to offset operational costs.

Based on monthly art sales of \$600 in 260 Bridge Cafe next door, we anticipate generating \$2,000 per month in art sales once the new 256 Bridge Street *Quiet Space* is fully opened. Art sales will offset some of our monthly costs, and we will actively pursue additional online sales as well as develop a presence at local/regional art fairs.

We measure success and track results through increasing sales and attendance figures as well as testimonials from participants, volunteers and customers. We invite you to meet one of PCC's current participants, farmer Keith Kerchner, and hear about his personal journey. Keith's words are very powerful and bring our work to life, representing our impact on each of our participants, their families and the greater community. Keith joined PCC in 2022, lending his talents to Frog Hollow Farm. He found immediate success and is thriving! Keith recently stepped into an additional part-time role as the Community Liaison with the Development and Communication team. Below is the link to the full interview in our June, 2023, newsletter, or view segments of his interview in the attached document. <https://mailchi.mp/748575199843/meet-our-farmer-fine-wine-dine-results>

PCC's Quiet Space Arts Program: New Location—256 Bridge Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460

New Art Equipment BUDGET:

Electric Kiln	8,000
4 Pottery Wheels, 1,500 ea	6,000
Saw Stop Table Saw	5,000
20" Planer	5,000
12" Joiner	5,000
Screen-printing Ex Unit	1,300
Hand Tools	2,500
Band Saw	2,000
Portable Bandsaw Mill	5,000
TOTAL:	\$39,800