

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



I. SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: 3/14/2025

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Glen Foerd
Address: 5001 Grant Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19114

Phone: 215-632-5330

Web Address: www.glenfoerd.org

Contact Name: Ross Mitchell
Contact Title: Executive Director
E-mail: rossmitchell@glenfoerd.org

Fax:

Year Incorporated: 1983

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: No

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture and Humanities
 Human Services

Environment/Animal Welfare
 Education

Health
 Religion

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served: Greater Philadelphia

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: Glen Foerd serves a diverse audience of approximately 35,000 individuals annually, including families, school children, and seniors.

Mission Statement: Glen Foerd stewards an eclectic riverfront estate for the enjoyment and educational benefit of the community. Drawing from the estate's architecture, art, material culture, and history—as well as its gardens and waterways—Glen Foerd provides inclusive experiences that spark curiosity and support Philadelphia's natural and cultural ecosystems.

Organization Description: Glen Foerd is an 18-acre public park and community site that provides free and low-cost educational programs to the public.

Annual Budget \$ 1,537,000

64 % of budget for program expenses

28 % of budget for administrative expenses

8 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

8 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

10 # of Board Volunteers

10 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

50 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: William Penn Foundation, William B. Dietrich Foundation, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, Wyncote Foundation

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$100,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: To support educational and public programs



Glen Foerd respectfully requests \$100,000 from the Erb Charitable Fund to support its educational and public programs, which serve audiences in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Organizational History & Key Achievements

Glen Foerd is an 18-acre public park and historic site located along a scenic stretch of the Delaware River in Philadelphia. Built in 1850 and enlarged in 1902-03, the estate—consisting of a 30,000 square foot mansion with a recently-restored pipe organ, an 8,000 square foot Carriage House, and multiple additional structures—was saved from potential development through the activism of dedicated neighbors in 1983, when the Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation was formed to manage the site. Today, Glen Foerd serves as an important resource for the community and welcomes a robust audience of approximately 35,000 individuals annually through pipe organ performances, scholarly lectures, workshops, and youth education programs.

Glen Foerd is led by Ross Mitchell, a graduate of Montgomery County Community College, who was appointed Executive Director in 2019. Under Mitchell's leadership, Glen Foerd adopted an organizational model that prioritizes youth education, public programming, and community engagement. This focus, the result of community surveys, coincided with a rebranding initiative to make Glen Foerd more welcoming and expanded marketing and fundraising efforts. Since 2019, Glen Foerd has experienced unprecedented growth, with an increase in program attendance of more than 800% during this period and the addition of six new full-time staff members. The organization's annual operating budget has more than tripled since 2019. In addition, Glen Foerd has raised more than \$5 million in capital funding to invest in the site's infrastructure.

In 2024, Glen Foerd offered over 100 educational and public programs to youth and their communities in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Specific Chester County and/or Montgomery County Needs & Issues Addressed

In recent years, budget cuts in local schools have led to a reduction in resources available to support extracurricular educational activities. This lack of funding and access not only limits students' opportunities to develop their talents but also denies them the cognitive and social benefits that come with informal hands-on education. Glen Foerd works to bridge this gap through its programs, most of which are presented to students and the public free of charge. Glen Foerd requests support for five educational and public programs, including:

1. **Pipe Organ Programming** – Glen Foerd is home to a rare 1904 Haskell pipe organ. One of the few remaining instruments of its kind in the region, the organ was restored to its original condition in 2023. Since that time, Glen Foerd has hosted a robust series of organ programs, including performances, silent films from with organ accompaniment, and original compositions by artists from the Philadelphia region. Glen Foerd anticipates serving 1,000 individuals through these programs over the course of the grant period.
2. **Waterborne Boatbuilding** – This 15-week after-school program empowers youth in Philadelphia and Chester, Delaware County, to build their own rowboats that are launched at Glen Foerd's site along the Delaware River. Participants in this program explore concepts of art, craftsmanship, and environmental conservation, culminating in a full day of programming at Glen Foerd as they launch their vessels for the first time. The Waterborne program serves

approximately 30 students annually.

3. **Teen Arts Program** – This after-school program invites high school students to engage in collaborative art-making and historical inquiry. Participants explore Glen Foerd's collections and grounds, using historical artifacts as inspiration for original projects that foster creative expression and critical thinking. The Teen Arts program, which serves 60 students annually, provides a stipend for students to participate to ensure equitable access to the program.
4. **Riverways Ambassadors** – Designed for underserved high school students, this paid hands-on environmental learning program builds knowledge of watersheds through interactive on-water and land-based activities. Over the course of six weeks, students participate in water quality testing, develop their own environmental projects, and learn to kayak, deepening their understanding of local waterways and environmental stewardship. The Riverways Ambassadors program serves 10 students annually.
5. **Lily PADS** – Lily PADS is a weekly play-based educational program for children ages 4 to 10 that encourages exploration, creativity, and social interaction. Named in honor of Lily Macalester, daughter of Glen Foerd's original owner, this program has become a community favorite, with nearly every session selling out. The Lily PADS program serves approximately 300 students annually.

Project Implementation Strategies & Impact

Funding from the Erb Charitable Trust will help Glen Foerd advance its mission by supporting its efforts to provide experiential educational initiatives and public programs to communities throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. Partnerships with local schools and community organizations help ensure that the programs are well-designed and meet community needs. For the past six years, these programs have become essential for communities across Greater Philadelphia. Together, they broaden students' horizons, equip them with essential skills, and foster meaningful cross-cultural connections that strengthen communities.

Project Urgency, Timeline, and Anticipated Outcomes

The need for additional funding is urgent, as school budget cuts have significantly reduced resources for extracurricular education, leaving many students without meaningful opportunities for enrichment. This need is further heightened by the expected loss of federal grants that have previously supported Glen Foerd's educational and public programs. As these funding sources phase out, Glen Foerd must secure new funding to maintain its programming, ensuring continued access for underserved communities.

Over the next year, Glen Foerd will deliver more than 100 educational and public programs to youth and members of the public. More than 400 students and 1,000 community members will participate in the initiatives described in this proposal over the course of the grant period.

Demonstration of Impact & Results

Glen Foerd will measure the impact of these programs through attendance and participation numbers; surveys and feedback from program participants; evaluations from educators and community partners; and growth in community engagement and audience reach. This data will be used to assess the effectiveness of Glen Foerd's programs and will guide future program design and implementation strategies.