

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 **\$1,000-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/10)

- ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve only 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. 10** are eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$1,000-\$5,000**.

- 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) 696-8211** 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: Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts	ED/CEO Name: Lisa Biagas, COO
Address: 128 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102	ED/CEO E-mail: lbiagas@pafa.org
Phone: 215-972-7600	Board Chair Name: Donald R. Caldwell
Website: www.pafa.org	Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Year Incorporated: 1805	Primary Contact Name: Alison Campbell
FEIN: 23-1352256	Primary Contact E-mail: acampbell@pafa.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: As the first art museum and school in the United States, PAFA celebrates the transformative power of art and art making. PAFA inspires the public by expanding the stories of American art through its collections, exhibitions, and programs, and educates artists from around the world to be innovative makers and critical thinkers with a deep understanding of traditions and the ability to challenge conventions. Through its world-class museum and school, PAFA nurtures and recognizes artists at every turn in their career.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Philadelphia/5-County Region/Greater Philadelphia Area

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: PAFA's exhibitions use its collection of over 16,000 works of art to tell inclusive stories across the history of America, from the founding of the nation to today. These exhibitions, along with PAFA's accessible public programs, serve audiences of all ages and backgrounds. This includes a robust slate of youth and family programs for K-12 students throughout the 5-County Region, along with their teachers and families, placing an emphasis on reaching low-income and under-served populations. Specific programs serve subsets of PAFA's overall audience. For example, PAFA's K-5 Partnership Program works with four primarily Latinx schools to provide year-round, arts-based education. The combined student body is 1,300, and students are approximately 65% Hispanic/Latinx, 26% Black/African American, and 100% from low-income families. Many of the students are also from recently immigrated families and learning English as a second language. PAFA also serves K-12 students more broadly, including students visiting PAFA from across the 5-County Region for interactive gallery tours supporting the classroom curriculum. PAFA offers pre-college programs promoting college readiness, including the After School Studio Art Program, Youth Council Program, and Summer Academy. For adult audiences, PAFA offers curator talks and tours, art history lectures, scholarly programs, artmaking workshops, and a wide variety of continuing education opportunities, as well as Certificate programs offering training for fine artists. PAFA welcomes approximately 75,000 visitors annually through its exhibitions, programs, workshops, and classes.

100 % total

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) seeks support from generous donors with a passion for the arts and arts education. Directing a donor advised gift to PAFA allows the organization to continue presenting exhibitions that use art to tell surprising and engaging stories, presenting accessible public programs for audiences of all ages and backgrounds, educating artists, and preserving a cultural treasure for generations to come. In 2025-26, PAFA will present two key exhibitions - *Pictures of Belonging* *Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo* (October 2, 2025 – January 4, 2026), and *A Nation of Artists* (April 2026-September 2027). *Pictures of Belonging* features the work of three Japanese American female artists from the pre-World War II generation, tracing their prewar, wartime, and postwar artistic production, illuminating an expanded view of the American experience. *A Nation of Artists* is an ambitious collaborative project with the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Middleton Family Collection, bringing together 250 years of American art from three collections, across two institutions, as the nation celebrates its Semiquincentennial. These exhibitions will be accompanied by a robust slate of educational engagement programs for audiences of all ages and backgrounds, including interactive gallery tours for K-12 students using art to support the classroom curriculum, hands-on family artmaking workshop, pre-college programs for high school students, behind the scenes tours, artist talks, lectures, and many more. PAFA makes every effort to ensure its programs are broadly accessible by offering them free or at a low-cost. For its partner schools, PAFA also provides free bus transportation for all tours. Making a gift to PAFA also allows the organization to train fine artists through its Certificate programs and continuing education classes, as well as care for its historic collection of over 16,000 artworks spanning from the founding of the nation to work being made today. General operating funds are critical in helping PAFA serve the community with engaging exhibitions and programs, showing the transformative power of art by making it accessible to all.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

Founded in 1805, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) – the nation's first and oldest museum and art school – has provided leadership in the arts and support for artists for 220 years. PAFA has trained, employed, educated, and nurtured the careers of some of the nation's most innovative artists, including Henry O. Tanner, Cecilia Beaux, Maxfield Parrish, Charles Demuth, Barkley L. Hendricks, David Lynch, Sarah McEneaney, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, and Orit Hofshi, among many others. PAFA is unique in the Philadelphia and 5-County Region for its focus on American art and its dual role as a teaching institution and museum. PAFA's collection of over 16,000 works of art spans from the founding of the nation to work being made today. PAFA tells inclusive and surprising stories through its exhibitions and provides opportunities for audiences of all ages and backgrounds to engage with the arts through a wide range of accessible public programs.

Audiences come to PAFA from across the Philadelphia and 5-County region, the country, and the world. It is critically important to PAFA that its exhibitions and programs reflect the diversity of the American story. In its goal to celebrate and cultivate innovation in the fine arts, PAFA strives to be a space for ongoing artistic conversations, where voices from every background are amplified, and where artists at every age and stage of development gather to create, explore, learn, and form a community. PAFA has long been committed to collecting and exhibiting the work of artists typically under-represented in the canon of American art. As PAFA further expands its permanent collection, its exhibitions and programs become richer and a better reflection of the true racial and cultural diversity of American art.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**

Key Initiatives at PAFA in 2025-26

Pictures of Belonging *Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo* (October 2, 2025 – January 4, 2026), is an exhibition originated by the Japanese American Museum and traveling to PAFA. Featuring the work of three Japanese American female artists from the pre-World War II generation, the exhibition brings together over 100 works of art and illuminates an expanded view of the American experience. With seventy paintings and drawings, ranging from sweeping landscapes to intimate portraits, along with the artists' sketchbooks, this exhibition spans eight decades and reveals the range and depth of these artists' oeuvres and highlights connections between them that have not been previously explored.

A Nation of Artists (April 2026-September 2027) will be the largest exhibition of American art ever seen in Philadelphia. Celebrating 250 years of American art in conjunction with the nation's Semiquincentennial, the exhibition brings together three stunning collections from PAFA, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Middleton family to uncover surprising stories and allow visitors to experience history in a new way. At PAFA, the exhibition will include work from the founding of the nation to work being made today, installed in thematic groupings that will place artwork from across time periods into direct conversation with each other. Themes such as Looking West, Prosperity and Abundance, and Geometry, Industry, and Modern Imagination, will spark curiosity, inspire civic pride, and show how artists helped shape the nation at its founding and how they continue to do so today.

PAFA's K-5 Partnership Program works with four schools - Gloria Casarez Elementary, Feltonville Intermediate, Isaac A. Sheppard Elementary, and William Cramp Elementary – to provide free, year-round arts-based education programming. Together, PAFA's partner schools serve some of the most vulnerable K-5 students in Philadelphia; the combined student body is 1,300, and 100% of students come from low-income families. Every element of the program is designed to help students build and maintain literacy skills; promote community building and intergenerational communication; and support the classroom curriculum. PAFA involves teachers and families as well, understanding the role they play in children's learning, and how art helps neighborhoods thrive and grow. Students visit PAFA for interactive galleries tours and hands-on artmaking activities, receive outreach lessons, and PAFA makes family and teacher workshops available for the community. An outdoor festival at PAFA with artmaking and family-friendly activities and performances celebrates the community annually. The program is entirely free; PAFA provides all artmaking materials and subsidizes transportation to and from the museum for all tours.

PAFA's Pre-College Programs foster 21st Century skills, enhancing communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, and supporting students' work in other academic subjects. The long-running After-School Studio Art Program for High School Students provides free, college-level fine arts training, preparing students for college, helping them build skills, and helping them navigate the college admission process. The Youth Council is a free paraprofessional opportunity for a small group of high school students to go behind the scenes and gain hands-on arts administration experience. Participants work across museum departments to plan programs, conduct research, develop exhibitions, and create social media strategies, among other projects, building skills and gaining exposure to variety of different career paths within the arts.

Along with the key initiatives described above, PAFA also cares for its historic building and collection; trains artists through its Certificate programs, offering scholarship support to allow talented students to enroll regardless of their economic situation; hosts free monthly artmaking workshops for families; runs a wide variety of fee-based programs with scholarship support available, including workshops and intensive classes; and draws on its exhibitions and collections to inspire programs for adult audiences including lectures, artist talks, behind-the-scenes tours, artmaking opportunities, and more.

- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

PAFA's suite of programs for Youth and Family audiences helps fill the need for accessible, arts-based education that not only serves students themselves, but engages families, teachers, and entire communities. PAFA offers several of its key programs entirely free of charge, including the K-5 Partnership Program, free family artmaking workshops, the After-School Studio Art Program for High School Students, and the Youth Council program. For its fee-based programs serving Youth and Families, PAFA makes every effort to keep the cost low and make scholarship support available, including for its Summer Camp, Summer Academy, and Weekend Classes. PAFA's Youth and Family Programs are designed to support the classroom curriculum, help students build and maintain literacy skills, prepare them for higher education, and give teachers and families tools and resources to support creativity across students' daily lives. They also provide socioemotional benefits, as students form new relationships, work collaboratively in a creative environment that caters to their interests, and build critical thinking skills that can be applied to other areas of their lives. Along with making the programs themselves free, PAFA removes additional barriers to access by providing free buses to and from the museum for its partner schools, provides all materials and art supplies, and provides translated materials for its partner schools as many of the families are learning English as a second language.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

As many of PAFA's Youth and Family programs are offered at no cost, there is no associated revenue to support them. PAFA relies on the generous contributions of foundation, corporate, and individual donors to continue making these programs available to the community. The need for support is even more critical now as shifts in federal funding have led to the cancellation of major grants which supported the programs in the past. If PAFA is unable to fund these programs through alternate sources, it risks having to reduce the number of individuals served or scale back the programs by no longer offering free buses, or running workshops and tours less frequently. For PAFA's partner schools, this would be a devastating loss. PAFA's partnership with this community has been in place for over ten years now, and the students at these schools have come to think of PAFA as their museum. The program is designed to grow with the students as they progress from grade to grade, and many of these students have been experiencing and making art at PAFA alongside their classmates, teachers, and families, for over half of their lives.

- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

PAFA measures the impact of its exhibitions and programs by tracking attendance, seeking direct feedback from participants and visitors, and in the case of exhibitions, through critical feedback and media reviews.

With its K-5 Partnership being a long-term commitment working with the same partners year after year, program staff see firsthand the program's impact as students grow in skill and knowledge and apply previous lessons to new learning activities. Lessons and activities are tailored by grade level and can include both written and verbal exercises in response to artwork, which further allows program staff to see growth and change in students' level of knowledge, their confidence in sharing their opinions, and improvement in skills such as vocabulary.

Along with evaluation through direct observation, PAFA also works with teachers and parents to measure impact through regular surveys and feedback sessions. This allows PAFA to ensure that lessons, tours, and activities meet individual classroom learning goals and allows teachers to share their own observations regarding students using new skills and applying knowledge from their tours and lessons to other areas. Similarly, feedback from parents allows PAFA staff to see how the lessons, workshops, and tours impact students' creativity at home.

For general audiences, PAFA participates in the COVES audience survey program designed by the Art Bridges Foundation. These surveys gather feedback directly from gallery visitors about their museum experience.

PAFA shares annual impact reports with stakeholders including donors, program participants, members, students, and the community. More in-depth reports and program results are shared directly with individuals, foundations, and corporations who support specific programs.

- *For capacity building grant proposals:*
 - *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
 - *How will this impact be measured?*
 - *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

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.
- Use this form @ www.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
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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