

I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org
This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date March 20, 2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Inis Nua Theatre Company
Address: 1700 Sansom St, Ste 800, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-436-9006
Website: www.inisnuatheatre.org
Year Incorporated: 2008
FEIN: 20-2417990

ED/CEO Name: Kathryn MacMillan
ED/CEO E-mail: macmillan@inisnuatheatre.org
Board Chair Name: Anne Vogelmann
Board Chair Approval: Yes
Primary Contact Name: Patricia Toy
Primary Contact E-mail: toy@inisnuatheatre.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest: Arts, Culture, Heritage

Mission: Inis Nua's mission is to produce compelling contemporary plays from Ireland, England, Scotland, & Wales that reflect those cultures' identities in today's world. We seek to reveal the rich diversity of these regions and explore their relevance to Philadelphia with theatrical productions of the highest quality. Irish and UK plays - tackling big issues with some of the greatest dramatic writing in the world - are the lens through which we explore important ideas affecting Philadelphia: economic and education inequities, changing neighborhoods, health care and housing insecurities, addiction. Seeing our challenges reflected in the context of other cultures gives us new insight into our own conflicts. We also seek to lift up Philadelphians with stories of joy: recent productions have dramatized deep friendships, long-lasting love, embracing gender and sexual identities, and hopeful opportunities to overcome crises and despair.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): the Greater Philadelphia region including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery Counties, New Jersey, and Delaware

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County & # or % served.)

The population we serve is mainly adults, senior citizens, and young adults. Last season, for our 88 performances, we had a total attendance of 4,542.

Annual Budget \$562,535

64 % of budget for program expenses

34 % of budget for administrative expenses

2 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

2 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

7 # of Board Volunteers

8 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

24 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: MKM Foundation, The June 16 Fund, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Straus-Harris Foundation

This grant proposal is for: Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or Capacity Building

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$3,500

Proposal Summary: Inis Nua Theatre Company is requesting a grant for general operating funds in support of 2026/27 season, our 23rd, which will include two mainstage productions, two pop-up plays in a pub, and a free 3-play reading series. These continue to be challenging times for theater nationwide shaped by compounding existential threats: rising expenses, earned revenue volatility, and funders' shifting priorities. A grant from Chester County Community Foundation in support of our general operating expenses for FY 26/27 would help Inis Nua meet some of our needs for the year and help us continue to bring engaging, affordable theatre to Philadelphia audiences.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

Brief History, Key Achievements & Distinctiveness

Inis Nua, which translates to “new island” in Gaelic, is the only theatre company in the US with our unique mission: to produce contemporary, provocative plays from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. Founded in 2004 by Tom Reing (Artistic Director Emeritus and member of the Board of Directors) with his love of Ireland and Irish culture, and just a \$1,200 budget to produce a show for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Over the next three years Inis Nua would become a featured, popular Philly Fringe performer. The quality of our work attracted funders and within four or five years we grew into a mid-sized theatre company with a strong reputation for excellence. In our 22 year history the company has garnered 45 Barrymore Nominations and 10 Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre, including the prestigious **June & Steve Wolfson Award for an Evolving Theatre Company**. That same year our work was recognized with 6 Nominations and 5 Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre for *Midsummer (a play with songs)* including Best Overall Production of a Musical, Outstanding Musical Direction, Outstanding Production of a Musical, and Outstanding Lead Actress. We continued to grow our audience and receive accolades: our 2016 production of *The Radicalization of Bradley Manning* won a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Play. Our 2018/19 season earned a total of 13 Barrymore nominations for our three mainstage productions - *The Monster in the Hall*, *Box Clever*, and *Untitled*.

In September 2022, Inis Nua hired Kathryn KC MacMillan as the new Artistic Director, following the retirement of founder Tom Reing after eighteen seasons. KC brought to this leadership role a new vision for the company and a goal to chart a bolder course, believing now more than ever, theater companies like Inis Nua must make the strongest case we can that theater makes unique, vital contributions to our lives and our understanding of one another. In 2023/24 our production of *Lovesong* earned four Barrymore nominations, and our production of *Once Upon A Bridge* received the prestigious **Philadelphia Award for Social Insight**, which came with a \$25,000 grant. Our 2024/25 season production of *The Playboy of the Western World* received three Barrymore nominations and one award for Scenic Design. Also, that season our Pop-up Play in a Pub, *Drip*, earned two Barrymore nominations and was awarded both, for Excellence in Acting in a Musical, and for Excellence in Direction of a Musical. Our second Pop-up Play that season, *Square Go*, earned four Barrymore nominations.

Inis Nua’s five highest-grossing shows in our company’s history have all taken place since 2024. In FY26, in order to meet this demand, we invested more resources in securing the Proscenium Theatre, a larger 120-seat venue, for our mainstage productions rather than the Bluver Theatre, a blackbox 80-seat maximum venue, where we usually presented our mainstage shows in the past. Our productions have also grown over the last two years in terms of cast size and production values.

Now in our 22nd season, at a time when the federal government is pushing an ethos of America First, Inis Nua believes that inviting audiences to see our own struggles and opportunities reflected in other cultures is a vital way to fight isolationist thinking. By connecting Philadelphians with plays from Ireland and the UK and helping them see that we share the same struggles, joys, hopes, and fears, we can build the capacity for empathy, action, and curiosity within our region and beyond.

We do this through:

Important conversations that have been silenced: Inis Nua often chooses work that keeps alive the important conversations that the current presidential administration would like to silence, such as the climate crisis, or those that have been manipulated and weaponized by the far-right, like anti-semitism.

For our 2026/27 season, we will produce *The Beautiful Future Is Coming* by Flora Wilson Brown, a play that takes place in three time periods to trace the beginnings of the climate crisis through one possible future affected by it. In 1856 New York, scientist Eunice discovers something in her experiments that points to disaster. In 2027 London, Claire falls in love amidst ever-worsening floods. And in 2100 Svalbard, Ana tries desperately to get some seeds to germinate during an 86-day storm. Called “a thought-provoking masterpiece” and “an urgent triumph” by critics, this play asks audiences to reckon with what brought us to where we are, what our futures could look like, and most crucially, where we can find hope to make change. Also next season, we will produce *Irishtown* by Ciara Elizabeth Smyth, which uses a wickedly satiric tone to address American and Irish cultural tropes and the assumptions we make about each other.

Why It's Important to Fund Now

We believe that theater can have a great impact on people's lives and on communities. Experiencing theatre is an opportunity to experience diverse perspectives. It can expand human capacity for engagement, empathy, and responsiveness not only in the art we make but how we make and share it—when powerful nationalist forces want us looking after only ourselves, Inis Nua is committed to making art in ways that strengthen the interconnected communities of Philadelphia: people living across economic, racial, cultural, gender, and generational divides, and reaching across those barriers. Theatre is an important art form that should be available to all.

Inis Nua requests general operating support for our ambitious artistic programming, audience and artist development, and for building international partnerships as we aim to meet this important political moment with conversation-provoking theatre.

- In our artistic and cultural practice, we seek to meet this urgent political moment for Philadelphia and the US at large by investing in international relationships with artists who are creating vital global narratives necessary for Philadelphia.
- We will continue to select artistic projects, as well as commission new works from international artists, that foster crucial conversations with our audiences and attract significant numbers of new audiences. Expanding our audience deepens our impact on our region.
- We will continue to select artistic projects and produce them in ways that reflect our commitment to equity, inclusion, and access for both audiences and collaborators.
- We will continue to invest our recent contributed revenue growth to strengthen our relationships with both our artists and our partnerships with other local companies through the sharing of our resources.

How Results and Impact Will Be Demonstrated

In our 2025/26 season Inis Nua continues with a vision to dramatically increase our impact. We have increased investment in programming—devoting more funds to cast size, artists compensation, and production budgets. Each of our programs—mainstage shows, pop-up plays, and reading series—has seen significant growth. This season our subscriber base has grown 51% since 2022, with more than half subscribing to our full season and 86% of subscribers renewing their subscriptions. Total attendance (paid and free programming) has grown by 78% and we have more than doubled our nights of programming/performance. Our investment in programming is an investment in sustainability—reaching more Philadelphians, in repeat visits, with the highest quality theatre possible. Also, increasing our investment in programming is likely a major contributing factor in Inis Nua receiving 10 Barrymore Award nominations for our productions in our 2024/25 season.

For our 2026/27 season we will continue with our vision to increase impact and increase our investment in our art—investing in cast size, artists compensation, and production budgets. We will also invest more in marketing to reach a wider audience. We can measure the results through attendance, subscriptions and ticket sales.

A grant from Chester County Community Foundation in support of our general operating expenses for FY 2026/27 would help Inis Nua meet some of our needs for the year and help us continue to make our theatre affordable and to bring engaging theatre to Philadelphia audiences.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter - Attached
2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations - Attached
3. Most recent **annual report** - We do not publish an annual report.
4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** - Attached - **Audited Financial Statement for FY 2025/24**
5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
Attached - **Operational Budget for FY25** and **Operational Budget for FY26 through January 2026**
6. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why - See statement below**.
Inis Nua does not have a current strategic plan. We have received funding to develop a strategic plan and expect to have it completed by the end of 2026 or beginning of 2027.