



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date 5/12/26

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Mill at Anselma
 Address: 1730 Conestoga Rd, Chester Springs, PA 19425
 Phone: 610-827-1900
 Website: <https://anselmamill.org>
 Year Incorporated: 1998
 FEIN: 23-2971911

ED/CEO Name: N/A
 ED/CEO E-mail: N/A
 Board Chair Name: Ernie Holling
 Board Chair Approval (check here):
 Primary Contact Name: Ernie Holling
 Primary Contact E-mail:
development@anselmamill.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

x	Arts, Culture, Heritage	x	Education, Library		Environment, Animals
	Health		Human Services		Social Justice, Civic Engagement
	Religion		If other, please describe:		

Mission: The Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark, inspires people in creative ways to discover The Mill’s authentic technology and importance to its community over three centuries of operation.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Chester County

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

The Mill at Anselma serves on average 2,000 people a year, including schoolchildren, families, scholars, tourists, and Chester County residents.

Annual Budget \$108,709	0	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
75 % of budget for program expenses	9	# of Board Volunteers
18 % of budget for administrative expenses	30	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
7 % of budget for fundraising expenses	1,500	# of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources: individual donations, grants, and venue rentals

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

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

	Contingency Planning		Partnerships, Collaborations		Merger, Closure
	Mission, Vision, Strategy		Board Engagement & Leadership		Marketing, Communication
	Resource Development		Operations		Technology
	If other, please describe:				

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please) The Mill at Anselma is pleased to submit this request for a grant to support general operations as we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary and provide special programming.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

The Mill at Anselma is an extremely rare example of a small 18th century custom grain mill with a completely intact counter-shaft power train maintained in its original form. The milling system still functions today as it did when it was first built. It was built in 1747 on Pickering Creek in Chester County by Samuel Lightfoot, a surveyor, to produce flour and animal feed. It has been exactly maintained in its original structure and function—so much so that when George Washington's mill at Mount Vernon was reconstructed, the team from Mount Vernon studied our mill as a model for their reconstruction.

The Mill remained in private ownership until the passing of its last miller in 1982. The property transitioned in 1998 to The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust, a nonprofit to create an innovative historical site for schoolchildren, families, scholars, visitors, and residents. The Mill secured funding in the early 2000's for an extensive restoration of the Mill and Miller's House to enable visitors to explore our nation's industrial and agricultural past.

The Mill is a designated National Historic Landmark and recognized as the most intact authentic example of a custom water-powered grist mill operating with its original Colonial-era power train in the United States. The Mill is not only a collection of rare historic buildings, but also a working colonial factory that uses waterpower to grind flour and cornmeal, just as it did when the citizens of this new nation toiled in summer heat and winter cold to help feed the fight for freedom. This process, featuring large rotating wooden gears and massive mill stones, plays out in front of visitors young and old. Visitors can see the results of this process by buying flour and cornmeal made on-site at the Visitor's Center.

The Mill at Anselma provides a very human-based view of life in Chester County, Pennsylvania over three centuries. The history of The Mill and its various owners and operators encapsulates the history of the nation—from founding in the 18th century, through wars, depressions, economic upheavals, and civil rights progress. Much of the material in the collection which is used for educational instruction touches directly or indirectly on the history of the area, region, and the nation. As Henry A. Jordan, former chairman emeritus of the board of directors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation said in 1985, "The Mill [at Anselma] provides a history of five families and their use and adaptation of milling technology. The use of waterpower links man and machine to the environment. Water determines the site of the mill; political, cultural, and economic events intertwine with nature's water and man's wheel."

Through its educational programs, tours, demonstrations, and events, The Mill at Anselma's visitors experience the evolution of technology and its impact on commerce, free enterprise, and transportation over three centuries in America.

The Mill at Anselma is a place that enables visitors to explore our nation's industrial and agricultural past. It illustrates the impact of changing technology on the mill industry over the course of three centuries and celebrates Chester County's pivotal role as the breadbasket of colonial America.

2. Funding request

The Mill at Anselma requests a grant to support general operations as we welcome many new and returning visitors for America's 250th anniversary celebration and provide special programming.

To prepare for this momentous year, we embarked on an ambitious capital campaign to restore our historic site and buildings to their former glory. Thanks to very generous foundations, government agencies, and individuals, we are proud to report that we have raised 81% of our goal. With this grant to support a significant portion of operating expenses, we can continue to direct other funds raised toward reaching our capital campaign goal in 2026.

This incredible support from our community has enabled us to restore and preserve the water wheel, add new interpretive signs on the grounds, install a new roof on the Visitor's Center, and add new low voltage lighting in the Mill Building. We recently were awarded a major grant to preserve the Mill Building's trim and gables, and plan to complete this project by June.

We also developed a full slate of programming to tell our story, including exhibits by colonial era craftsmen at our monthly Demo Days, History Days featuring lectures from the Chester County Historical Society and local historians.

The Mill opened for the 2026 season on April 11. Opening Day featured educational tours and live milling demonstrations, and visitors came from near and far to experience our National Historic Landmark. We also kicked off our special America250 programming, which included:

- Blacksmith Demonstrations by P.C. Janusz Historical Blacksmith & Stone Works
- Traditional Bread Baking with flour milled fresh on-site
- Live Music by the Lenape Brass Ensemble
- A ribbon cutting for a new display of The Mill's history

Up next was a special Demo Day & Mother's Day Celebration on May 9. We highlighted traditional crafts and women's contributions to early American life. In addition to our monthly mill operations and tours, special activities included fiber arts demonstrations, a presentation by a colonial surveyor, children's crafts, bread baking, tea tasting, and live music by the Blue Belles.

With the excitement developed in with the events above, we will celebrate July 4th in a significant way. The Lenape Brass Ensemble will raise our collective patriotic pride throughout the day. In addition to milling operations and tours, we will have children's activities, readings from the Declaration of Independence, and gifts of special handheld Declarations for visitors. These programs are generously supported, in part, by Chester County Community Foundation's Dare to Declare and Let Freedom Ring grants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to support The Mill at Anselma's general operations during our America250 commemorative season—a year of history, community, and celebration.

- **What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?**

The Mill has a dedicated team of both full-time and part-time volunteers, achieves its goals without paid staff, and is supported solely by donations and grants. In recent years, many of The Mill's operating costs have increased. This includes rising insurance costs and ongoing maintenance costs. This has left our budget very lean and limited our ability to fund major preservation projects or special programming; we must seek additional funding to implement them.

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

The Mill at Anselma is a centerpiece in Chester County's America250 celebrations and anticipates welcoming thousands of visitors this year. This is a unique and special opportunity to increase its visibility, audience engagement, and future sustainability. The Mill is an active member of the Chester County America250 planning group and is collaborating with Brandywine Valley Tourism to promote its special programming.

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

Impact and results of efforts during this momentous year will be demonstrated by increased visitation, local press, donations, and volunteer applications; and growth in mailing and email lists, website visitation, and social media engagement.

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
2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:**
See attached
3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** <https://news-from-the-mill-at-anselma.beehiiv.com/p/happy-new-year-from-the-mill-at-anselma>
4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL:**
See attached
5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
6. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.

As a small nonprofit without paid staff, The Mill at Anselma has not had the resources to conduct a formal strategic planning process. There is a dedicated Strategic Committee of the Board dedicated to discussing, planning, and executing strategic initiatives.