

2020 GREATER HARRISBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION DATE DUE: AUGUST 1, 2020

Thank you for applying to the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund of the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Tell your story clearly and concisely. Attachments are required; follow all directions. Failure to answer questions, utilize this template, or provide required materials will disqualify your application. **Answer all questions using information that applies to the project seeking support of grant funds.** Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at 717-236-5040 or jstrechay@tfec.org with questions.

APPLICANT SNAPSHOT

Applicant Organization Name

Lykens Valley Children's Museum

Provide your organization's name as currently recognized by the IRS

- Check box if the Applicant Organization Name above is a "Doing Business As" name and the provided 501c3 letter states a different name. To be recognized by the "Doing Business As" name, attach ONE legal document using the provided name. If not provided, TFEC will utilize the 501c3 name.**
- Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here**
Click or tap here to enter text.

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader

Lisa Dity, Executive Director/Board President, lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be addressed to the individual provided here

Applicant Organization's Physical Address

33 S. Market Street, Elizabethville, PA 17023

Applicant Organization's Address for Mailed Communications

PO Box 719, Elizabethville, PA 17023

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be sent to the address provided here

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Contact Completing Application

Lisa Dity, Executive Director/Board Presiden, lykensvalleychildrensmuseum@gmail.com, 570-809-6379

If application questions arise, this individual will be contacted by TFEC staff

Counties to be served as part of project; check all that apply.

- Cumberland Dauphin Franklin Juniata Mifflin Lebanon Perry
 Northern York (Dillsburg Area)

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer questions 1-5 clearly and concisely; no limit (except for Project Snapshot)

PROJECT TITLE Lykens Valley Children's Museum Valley Strong Initiative Project
Project Title must match title listed throughout application and online

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an interactive play and hands-on learning museum where we provide a child-centered environment to inspire children's creativity, curiosity, imagination and a love for life-long learning. We are building a community supported place where play and learning are forever connected for all the children and families in Lykens Valley and beyond.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

1. Capture your project and the community need it seeks to address in 200 words or less.

The LVCM has created a fun environment where learning is as easy as play with a strong emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering Art and Mathematics). STEAM needs to be where the children are. In school, after-school; during the summer, and in our local communities. Also, STEAM needs to be introduced at a young age when they are most curious. Between 2017 and 2027, the number of STEAM jobs will grow 13 percent, compared to 9 percent for non-STEAM jobs—with positions in computing, engineering, and advanced manufacturing leading the way (Economic Modeling Specialist International 2017.) We want to ensure that the families, that we serve, are ready!

LVCM serves the immediate communities in Dauphin County. In Northern Dauphin, communities encompass 4 school districts (Halifax, Millersburg, Upper Dauphin, Williams Valley), with a population of just over 31,000 people with almost 1 out of 4 families living 200% at or below the poverty level.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

2. Describe the proposed project, the geographic area it will serve, and the audience to be served; state why this audience was selected. You **MUST** use and complete the following statement within your answer, "Grant funds will be used to _____". Include when and where the project will take place. List dates and locations as appropriate in chronological order and state if provided dates/locations are confirmed, estimated, or to be determined.

Grant funds would be used towards funding the LVCM Valley Strong Initiative, which will provide free admissions to underprivileged families who cannot afford admission into the LVCM and bring in special program events into the museum for all to explore.

The Valley Strop Initiative Project would also help with special programming for 2021 for the LVCM. Which could include Mr. Mike with his Dinosaur game, Ryan the BugMan, SkyDome Planeatirum, family paint nights, STEAM events among other special guests/events. With the free admission tickets this will allow more families access to the programming.

Now more than ever, the children need guidance and support to propel them into adolescence and adulthood. Nearly 50% of the families in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties are on free or reduced lunch.

Albert Einstein said it best “Play is the highest form of research.” But today, at school and at home, children have less time for unstructured play, instead children are entertained by television or other means, but relying on television, movies, and video games, children are pulled away from real imaginative play, and children today desperately need to play and explore their world with their hands and imagination.

It is the desire of the Lykens Valley Children’s Museum that they can be an oasis for those young learners in these challenging times and continue to bring joy of learning as they grow up. After all children are the future and if we want a bright future for them, we need to prepare them for the future with learning through play.

The LVCM encourages families of all demographics to come to the museum and want all to enjoy the benefits of learning through play. They want to help children in early education development and want to be an additional resource for parents, grandparents, caregivers. Children are the future and we want to help our school districts, our families and children to get there and be successful. We encourage social interaction not just between adults and children, but between the children AND the adults that come through our doors. The LVCM believes together we are building a stronger community and thus a stronger tomorrow.

The Valley Strong Initiative project will open up the museums doors to the families and caregivers who cannot afford to bring their children to the museum.

All events will take place at the LVCM and admission tickets will only be accepted at the LVCM.

Special events will be held throughout 2021. Example Mr. Mike with the Dinosaur game would come to visit in either Feb/March.

The free admissions would be available until the funding has been completely used.

FUNDING

3. Restate the amount you are seeking from TFEC and describe any other funding sources and amounts. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement the project as stated? Explain as needed.

The LVCM is currently seeking \$700 from the GHCF Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund Grant. They are also seeking , funding from other grants through the TFEC. The LVCM is also seeking private donations and business sponsorships. Currently this is the first grant they are working on for this project.

PROJECT SUCCESS

4. What will project success look like and how will project success be measured and documented (i.e.: how will you know the project is successful? Are you collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, photos, before and after images, or using other methods)?

Through this project the LVCM will be able to give 450 admission tickets to the museum to families that would not be able to afford admission otherwise. This will allow the families to enjoy the special guests along with everything else the museum as to offer to the families.

Measure of success of this program will be an increase the LVCM admissions by 25% over the course of the year.

Impacts of the project: As in all the LVCM exhibits is the hope is that it creates lifelong learners who will have the resources to succeed in life. Other impacts:

- a. Increase social interaction among children in a world of technology and isolation this is a must needed impact.
- b. Family social interaction and bonding.
- c. Help build on key developmental skills in toddlers, preschool and elementary age children.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

5. As a community foundation, TFEC fosters a climate of purposeful inclusion that values diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Please state how your project will be made accessible to all individuals who qualify for participation in the project and describe any accommodations, modifications, technologies, or services you will offer to ensure that all eligible participants experience the best possible services or outcomes.

The LVCM is open to all who want to Learn Through Play!

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Complete the Budget Worksheet below; a Project Total is required.

| ITEM OR SERVICE <i>Examples include: Contracted Services, Equipment, Personnel, Supplies; list your own as appropriate.</i> | DESCRIPTION OF ITEM OR SERVICE | REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS <i>List where funds sought through this grant opportunity will be applied.</i> | OTHER FUNDING SOURCES <i>List the names and amounts of all other funding sources.</i> | PENDING, COMMITTED, OR RECEIVED <i>Using a P, C, or R, indicate the status of all funding sources.</i> | \$ TOTALS <i>Add across to provide a total for each row. Total columns as indicated in bottom row.</i> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| LVCM Valley Strong Initiative | Free admission to families in need | \$200.00 | Martin M. Sacks memorial Fund \$500 Other donations \$1550 | P | \$2,250.00 |
| Special Events | Special guest throughout the year | \$500.00 | Martin M. Sacks Memorial Fund \$500 Business sponsors \$800 | P | \$6,800.00 |
| | | \$ | Emerging Philanthropist Program Grant \$5000 (Special Events) | P | \$ |
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| TOTALS | \$700.00 Total: Requested Grant Funds | \$8,350.00 Total: Other Funding Sources | | \$9,050.00 PROJECT TOTAL |
|---------------|--|--|--|---|



*33 S. Market Street
Elizabethville, PA 17023*

Board of Directors

Lisa Ditty: President -Retired US Navy

Christina Reiner: Secretary – Upper Dauphin Middle School Reading Specialist

Deana Twigg: Treasurer -Williams Valley High School Special Education

Erin Schaffner -Geisinger Radiologist

Andrew Ditty- Fairfield Middle School History Teacher and Army Veteran

Justin Zigner – IT specialist for Hearth and Home Technology and Army
Veteran

July 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

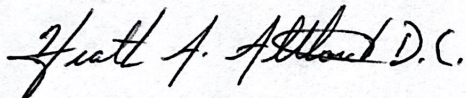
I am writing this letter in support of the application of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum. I have been a supporter of the museum and have personally know members of their board of directors for many years. I have seen the immense value that the museum brings to the children of the Northern Dauphin County community. As a local businessman and a member of numerous local organizations I truly believe in the mission of the children's museum.

The Lykens Valley Children's Museum has worked hard to provide a safe, educational, and fun learning environment for local children and their families. The museum recently took the initiative to find ways to support the children of the region during the pandemic and economic shutdown by working with local businesses to provide learning packets that were distributed to over 320 children.

As a nonprofit organization the museum is always looking for the best ways to create new and engaging learning experiences. I have seen firsthand how the museum has effectively utilized support from local businesses. The museum is made up completely of volunteers who give freely of their time, talents, and resources toward the greater good of trying to provide something remarkable and of immense value for the children of the Lykens Valley and surrounding communities.

As a lifelong member of this community and businessman I see how truly fortunate we are to have the Lykens Valley Children's Museum in our area. I would hope that you would see the merits in coming along side and supporting this tremendously altruistic endeavor.

Sincerely,



Dr. Heath A. Altland, DC
Altland Chiropractic, LLC
(717) 692-2349

July 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

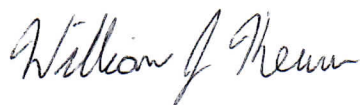
I am writing in support of the application of the Lykens Valley Children's Museum. I am currently the Technology Education Teacher at Millersburg Area School District. I am well acquainted with the museum as I have volunteered my time on several projects for the museum.

Mrs. Lisa Ditty and the board members have worked extremely hard to create a space for the children to learn, explore, and grow that is a fun and safe environment. The staff has created an engaging experience for the children through play that utilizes and encourages the children's creativity and imagination. There is a lot of care taken when planning individualized experiences for the children, such as the dinosaur theme or the live streaming of the NASA rocket launch during the space theme event. The staff can also tailor activities for groups that have rented the museum for gatherings such as birthday parties.

The staff have done a wonderful job of turning the rented location, formerly a dance hall, into a joyous location where children can come and learn using a variety of toys, technology, and more importantly their imaginations. The board members and staff have purchased and received donated toys and equipment which they have utilized in various educational stations and activities. These stations and activities can be customized to a wide variety of age groups for open hours or can be set for planned events.

The benefit of the children using the toys, technology, and their imaginations will only enhance their social well being and allow them to bring what they have learned into school as well as their everyday lives. I hope you find this endeavor worthy of your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kerr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

William J. Kerr
Technology Education Teacher
Millersburg Area School District

2020 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRUST FUND SIGN & SUBMIT FORM

Provide signatures from the applicant organization, below. Both organization representatives must sign.

By providing your original OR digital signature below, you agree that the provided information in this application is true to the best of your knowledge and may be submitted for review. Completion of this form is one component of your Complete Application.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | President/CEO | _____ | Lisa V. Dity |
| | | Ink Signature | Digital Signature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Board President | _____ | Lisa V. Ditty |
| | | Ink Signature | Digital Signature |

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO BE UPLOADED & SUBMITTED BY 4PM IN THE DEADLINE DATE

All grant materials must be submitted through the TFEC online application system by 4pm on the deadline date. This grant opportunity does not utilize delivered or mailed materials.

- Complete Application:** Applicant Snapshot, Project Narrative, Budget Worksheet, and Sign & Submit Form with original or digital signatures.
- Board of Directors List:** Professional affiliations (ie: work positions and/or titles as applicable) must be included.
- Letters of support are OPTIONAL for this grant opportunity but must be uploaded by the deadline date. No more than TWO letters of support with original or digital signatures may be provided.** Letters of support from the applicant organization's Board of Directors will not be accepted; identical form letters are discouraged.
- Applicants who utilize a FISCAL SPONSOR** must include a letter signed by the Executive Leader of the Fiscal Sponsor organization indicating agreement to serve as the Fiscal Sponsor. An original or digital signature is required.
- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter**
- 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990.** If 990 is not available, upload applicant organization's most recent audit or financial statement.

QUESTIONS

If you should have any questions regarding this form or TFEC grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040.