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Application ID	2170888
Submitted	Jan 14, 2026
Status	Awaiting review
Applicant(s)	susan lane (susan.lane@ppsne.org)
Organization	Canal Dock Boathouse, Inc. 475 Long Wharf Drive, , CT, 06511-5902, United States
Program and cycle	TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Grant cycle
Tags	No tags
Forms	<a href="#">TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Final Report</a>

## Grant Details

### Organization Name

Canal Dock Boathouse, Inc.

### Grant Description

to support boating and environmental programming that bring New Haven area residents in contact with New Haven's waterfront.

### Total Grant Amount

\$20,000.00 USD

Report Questions

# Report Questions

**1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable).** \*

New Haven Community Boating extends its sincere gratitude to Quinnipiac River Fund for its continue support for making water sports and boating education accessible to all New Haven residents. In 2025, Canal Dock Boathouse Inc officially became New Haven Community Boating. This year our staff and members delivered 700 hours of programming to more than 1,700 participants, increased our membership across sailing, rowing, and dragon boating, and welcomed over 400 community members through our open house events. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2026 and continuing to serve as a recreational and educational resource for the New Haven area residents.

1. Community Days: Provide 5 Community Days that engage 150 unduplicated individuals in equitable health and wellness activities.

Community Boating held three, eight- hour Community Das and one Rowing Open house sessions between May and October and welcomed 400 visitors. These day long sessions featured hands-on rowing, kayaking, and dragon boating plus guided harbor sailing adventures. Includes instruction and equipment.

2. Canal Dock Memberships: Engage an additional 50 individuals in sailing, rowing and kayaking activities, for a total of 200 participants.

Community Boating sailing and rowing memberships have exceeded our goal: By the end of 2025, we had 228 active Sail Haven members and 73 Community Rowing members (adults). Our sailing program, launched in 2024, took off in 2025. See below for list of programs and participants:

**SAILING:**

Open Sailing: 32 Days, 604 participants

Members can rig and sail one of 25 sailboats, ranging in size from 14' to 19'.

Sailing lessons: 8 courses, 12 hours per course, 79 participants

Students learn to sail with a US Sailing certified instructor covering safety, rigging, sail trim, and steering.

Sail Haven Work Parties, 7, 3-hour sessions, 140 participants

Volunteers work together to maintain the fleet of sailboats.

Summer & Fall Racing, 13, 90-minute to two-hour races, 195 participants

The racing series provides an opportunity for members to boost their sailing skills.

**ROWING:**

Open Rowing: May to October,

Members able to row on New Haven harbor throughout the day in singles or self-organized team boats.

Learn to Row Class: 2 courses; 5, 90-minute sessions. 5 participants.

Students progress from rowing machine basics to single scull boats by learning stroke fundamentals, safety and navigation from an experienced coach.

3. Youth Program: Serve 30 students (all at no charge) in our year-round program for high-school students that combines rowing, paddling, and social development. Recruit 50 middle and high school students for Canal Dock's summer camps, and pilot an off-water program for middle school students. At least 30% of camp slots will be provided at nominal or no charge.

Between June and September 2025, Community Boathouse provided summer sessions to 62 middle and high school students. This includes three weeklong sessions lasting 4 hours each day, for a total of 60 hours of programming. Designed for students in grants 2 to 12, the sessions included 2-3 daily rowing/fitness sessions, snacks, and water. All skill levels welcome, no experience required.

An additional 13 students participated in Row Haven, our spring and fall rowing teams. This included 19, 90-minute training sessions for a total of 28.5 hours of programming. Participants had the opportunity to scull in single, double and quattro shells, allowing for both individual skill development and team building experiences. The vast majority of summer Youth program participants and all Spring and Fall rowing members participated at no charge. We surveyed 47 Summer Youth Participants and found: 70% live in New Haven; two thirds were high school students; 32% are female; 21% are Hispanic; 13% are Black/African American and 6% are Asian.

Ten Fall program participants wanted to continue even after the rowing season ended in November and signed up for our first ever Winter Row Haven session. This after school program was open to all skill levels and offered off season, off-water training on “ergs” (rowing machines), stretching, strength building and running.

4. Environment Education: Provide at least 10 hours of environmental activities for youth participating in the Canal Dock Youth Program. Explore environmental education programs in conjunction with New Haven Public Schools.

Community was a co-sponsor with the University of New Haven’s Marine Biology center for “What’s in the Harbor Seminar” series. About 150 people attended the series of five 90-minute talks that featured discussions of what lives and happens in New Haven Harbor. These seminars included presentations by professionals in marine biology as well as students from the Sound School presenting on studies they had worked on.

**2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward? \***

Challenge: New Haven harbor and weather.

While Community Boating was primarily started by rowers and others looking to bring rowing to New Haven waters, it is clear that the harbor –with it’s tides and windy conditions—is better suited to sailing and dragon boating. We have expanded our Sail Haven membership and course offerings this year and in 2026 have added a dragon boating club, Connecticut Dragons. We are not abandoning rowing—but are aware of the need to use more stable boats, such as doubles and four-person shells, as well as a very stable “barge” for training novices.

Challenge: Youth programming

Getting the word out at the last minute; coordinating with programs that can certify participants’ swimming ability. Dealing with no-shows –which could mean great variability in the number of participants. This can be challenging in rowing when trying to fill out “boats”—four and eight person shells. Sent emails to no-shows, encouraging them to show up in the next session, even if for one day to give it a “go.” And many no-shows did turn up at later sessions.

Success: Hiring an expert when you need one

Hiring a part time Youth Program Coordinator who had extensive experience with youth rowing programs and was able to organize the program and mentor our part time coach. Being able to identify high school age participants who are interested in joining the Fall and Spring Youth rowing programs.

Success: Members are our best resource

Membership and participation in the Sail Haven program exceeded our expectations. One of the key drivers of this success is member participation: Members set the schedule, design the programs, perform boat maintenance. We are now employing many of these features into Community Rowing and Connecticut Dragons.

**3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River? \***

Now that Canal Dock Boathouse is becoming a center for boating and waterfront activities, we need to make sure we coordinate our resources between our different programs --this includes use of dock and deck area, and boat and equipment storage. We also to review and coordinate our safety policies and procedures so they are consistent and consistently applied across all members. In the next year we will be hiring staff to taking on many of the administrative duties currently handled by volunteers and board members, this includes a sailing director and administrative assistant. We are also looking forward to fully incorporating Connecticut Dragons (dragon boat club), which already has more than 20 members, and moving our annual Dragon Boat Regatta to the fall.

## Attachments

### **Detailed Accounting\***

See QRF25BudgetReport.pdf

### **Picture 1**

See YouthRowing--Learning to Row on the Barge.jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

This shows novices in one of our youth programs learning the basics of sweep rowing on what is called a "barge." This flat, wide craft is stable (no danger of tipping over) and allows a coach to walk between rowers to adjust their form. Credit: New Haven Community Boating, Inc.

### **Picture 2**

See Sail Haven--Member racing on New Haven Harbor.jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

Membership in Sail Haven remains strong and active. In addition to general sailing "hours" Sail Haven offered Learn to Sail programs for adults and a series of member racing sessions--to enable veteran sailors to tune their skills. Photo Credit: New Haven Community Boating, Inc.

### **Picture 3**

See P-erging\_Adapting rowing machines for dragon boat training.jpg

### **Description and Photo Credit**

Welcome to "P-erging." That's where rowing machines (known as ergometers, or "ergs") are adapted with paddle handles to provide off water training for dragon boating. In December, New Haven Community Boating adding new club to its roster, Connecticut Dragons. Within a month the dragon boat team had 20 members from across CT and had set up a training program. Photo credit: New Haven Community Boating, Inc.