

## Instructions

### QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND GRANT AWARD - FINAL REPORT QUESTIONS

This form is to be completed by all nonprofit organizations that received a grant through the Quinnipiac River Fund.

## Grant Details

### 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 Harbor and Quinnipiac River, highlighting the waterfront's importance to the community.

Total Grant Amount

20,000.00

## 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).

1. Provide 5 Community Boating Days that are compliant with city and state rules regarding social distancing and COVID safety and engage 185 unduplicated individuals in equitable health and wellness activities . This is a 22% increase over 2021.

In 2022 Canal Dock held 5 Community Boating Days between May and October. Unfortunately, our June event was cut short due to unexpected high winds. This presented a safety hazard to anyone on the water and we take the safety of our members and guests very seriously. Due to the unexpected high winds we were only able to engage with 4 individuals during our June Community Boating Day. Because of this unexpected turn of events, we were able to engage 146 unduplicated community members in rowing and paddling activities in 2022.

However, we did engage with an average of 36.75 unduplicated individuals during the other 4 Community Boating Days in 2023 compared to an average of 29 unduplicated individuals per Community Boating Day in 2021. This is a 22.1% increase per event in 2022. Presuming the June event served on average the same number of individuals as the other four events, we would have engaged 188 individuals in activities on the Harbor.

2. Increase Canal Dock membership to 75 a 19% increase over 2021.

Canal Dock was able to increase membership significantly between 2021 and 2022. During this time we were able to grow our membership from 61 total members to 97 total members, which is a 27% increase. This includes members that are engaged in rowing, kayaking, dragon boating, dry land exercise programming and the Yale Graduate Crew Team.

3. Partner with a local school to pilot a middle school rowing program.

In 2022, Canal Dock partnered with St. Martin de Porres school to conduct dry land rowing programming on the platform at Canal Dock. St. Martin is a school that provides tuition-free, extended day education for children from low-income families in the New Haven area of Connecticut. 100% of youth attending St. Martin de Porres school are from low-income families and receive scholarships to attend St. Martin. We chose to partner with this school because of our overlapping mission of providing opportunity to underserved populations.

Students enrolled in St. Martin's 6th, 7th and 8th grade came to Canal Dock during the Spring of 2022 to engage in dry land fitness classes on Canal Dock's platform. Youth would use Concept 2 rowing machines to work out while viewing New Haven Harbor. We are continuing to work with St. Martin de Porres and other youth serving organizations such as LEAP and the New Haven YMCA to help these young people overcome the barrier of not being able to swim so that they can engage in activities on New Haven Harbor and the Quinnipiac River. Until this time, we will continue to partner with St. Martin to keep these young people engaged in activities near New haven's waterfront.

4. Serve 40 middle and high school students in Canal Dock's summer camps.

Last summer we were able to provide 43 youth with on the water rowing instruction and academic enrichment programming over the summer.

5. Explore providing sailing instruction and activities

Canal Dock staff and volunteers have spent a significant amount of time and energy over the last year developing a sailing program plan, sourcing donations and developing web content to pilot a sailing program in 2023. To date we have received twenty-three sail boat donations and have enrolled 15 new sailing members. We intend to begin programming for our newest program "Sail Haven" on Memorial Day Weekend in 2023!

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?

The past two years have been a time of tremendous growth for Canal Dock. After a tumultuous 2019 and 2020, we were able to regroup, collaborate and develop an effective strategy which reaffirmed our mission and helped us to become financially stable. Our main focus has been to dedicate all of the organization's energy and resources to helping the most disconnected residents begin to form a relationship with our most underappreciated and underutilized resources: New Haven's waterways.

In 2022 we expanded the size and scope of our existing programs and have made plans to launch new programs. The purpose of expanding the size scope and number of programs that we offer is to engage people who do not have a solid understanding of the beauty or the importance of our waterways. Many people who had no interest in rowing or paddling came to us to participate in different activities and ended up learning how to paddle in a kayak or our dragon boat. Many people reluctantly came to a Community Boating Day with a friend and ended up returning for multiple events. Our year round youth program increased enrollment from 17 to 30 youth, most of which had never engaged in on the water activities prior to coming to Canal Dock. We have been working diligently this year to plan for the launch of a sailing pilot program in the Spring of 2023. We believe that this program will engage an even greater number of people in activities on the water, providing more community members with much needed access and information about New Haven's waterways.

It is beyond a doubt that 2022 further cemented the need for the programs that we provide to the community. The past year was an extremely productive year for Canal Dock Boathouse, but there are so many more opportunities for growth. We are continuing to work with partner organizations to develop a swim-to-row program so that more youth and adults can experience the harbor and rivers in boats and

kayaks. We plan to continue our partnership with NHPS to pursue an environmental science program that engages youth and families. Finally, we have engaged in conversations with the owner of AFI Prosthetics to partner on an adaptive rowing, paddling and sailing program for his clients who have suffered limb loss so that all people can enjoy the beauty of our waterways. Finally, we intend to renew our strategic plan in 2023, which will provide the organization with guidance on a clear path moving forward. The strategic plan will be instrumental as we continue to grow as an organization.

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?

As mentioned above, there are many opportunities to expand program offerings and engage a wider, more diverse group of people. Developing new programs and expanding the scope and services of existing programs is a priority for Canal Dock. Additionally, providing services that help people to prepare to get on the water, such as swim-to-row and swim-to-paddle courses and dry-land fitness opportunities is a priority for us. We feel that the opportunity for Canal Dock to become a hub where all people can learn about and have access to New Haven's waterfront is there. With a sailing program on the horizon, our next priority should be to develop environmental education programming and adaptive programming respectively. The overarching goal in 2023 will be to expand our own definition of "equitable access" to the waterfront by incorporating programs that engage a greater number of individuals that are disconnected from New Haven's waterfront.

It is up to the staff, Board of Directors and executive leadership at Canal Dock to aggressively pursue all opportunities presented to achieve these goals and all parties are passionate about the work being done at Canal Dock. We need to expand our network of partners and utilize all available resources to ensure that all residents can access and be educated about the New Haven Harbor and Quinnipiac River. Partners like The Quinnipiac River Fund act as credible messengers of our mission and our ability to effectively engage individuals by providing equitable access to the waterfront. In the upcoming years we intend to continue to collaborate with other, like-minded partners to further our mission of making New Haven's waterfront accessible to all.

## Attachments

**Financial information (required):** Please provide a detailed accounting of how the specific grant dollars were spent based on the budget submitted in the grant application.

Detailed Accounting

QRF Financial Information 2022.xlsx

**Pictures (optional):** Please attach one to three pictures in JPEG format, in the highest resolution possible, of activities that have occurred throughout the grant period as a result of grant funding. By providing pictures, your organization is consenting to unlimited use of the pictures by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and/or the Valley Community Foundation in publications in print and online (including [www.thequinnipiacriver.com](http://www.thequinnipiacriver.com)). Please include a description of each photo and, when known, the photographer to be credited.

Picture 1

Resized\_20220813\_104103.jpeg

Description and Photo Credit

A Crew Haven participant volunteering during a Community Day teaches a younger youth how to operate a Concept 2 rowing machine on the platform at the Boathouse.

Photo: Mitz Carr

Picture 2

IMG\_8179.jpeg

Description and Photo Credit

Summer Rowing Camp youth learn teamwork in a double rowing shell.

Photo: Tamara Clayton

Picture 3

IMG\_6655.jpeg

Description and Photo Credit

The Assa Ably team works together to finish the race at the 5th annual Dragon Boat Regatta.

Photo: Lawrence Lopez