

QUINNIPIAC RIVER FUND FINAL REPORT- 2019

Please complete and submit completed form via e-mail to dcanning@cfgnh.org at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven by March 31, 2020 (or as otherwise stated on the terms of grant).

Date: March 30, 2020

Group/Organization Name: Canal Dock Boathouse, Inc.

Address: 475 Long Wharf Drive

City, State, & Zip: New Haven, CT 06511

Telephone #: 203-668-3776

Project Name: Staffing for boating programs to increase public access

Grant Number: 20190129

Name & title of person completing this form: Hollis Martens, Executive Director

E-mail address: hollis@canaldock.org

Please respond to the following statements:

- 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).**

Since first receiving a Quinnipiac River Fund award, Canal Dock has relied upon this funding to support the salaries of key staff members in order to develop and conduct boating programs and events. Canal Dock's boating programs promote and support community access to the Quinnipiac River and awareness of its ecology. Canal Dock accomplishes its mission by providing residents of The Greater New Haven area with affordable access to boats and kayaks. Our staff provides instruction to individuals, allowing them to row and paddle up and down river. These boating programs include free after school and summer activities for students attending New Haven Public Schools, fee-based programs for other students both after school and summer, club

boating programs for adults, boating events, such as our Dragon Boat Regatta, Indoor Rowing Relay and Community Boating Day events which are open to the general public.

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?

Last year we had experienced great success in helping community members access New Haven's waterways, through our boating, paddling and rowing programs. These programs are integral in allowing members of the community access to the Quinnipiac River, New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound. In addition to access, our goal is to promote health and wellness, and a connection to the ecology along New Haven's waterways. Canal Dock was able to achieve the following outcomes during the program year:

- The Dragon Boat Regatta was hosted at the Canal Dock Boathouse for the first time. Nearly 200 paddlers participated.
- Nine (9) teenagers participated in "intro to rowing" summer camp operated by one coach/volunteer.
- On Sunday, August 20, 2019 over 50 members of the New Haven community joined us on the water in every type of vessel owned by Canal Dock in the first of two "Community Day" events; thirty-seven new participants took part on Sunday, September 22.
- This summer Canal Dock partnered with New Haven Parks and Recreation Department to host paddle board instruction. Fifteen individuals learned to paddle board during this event.
- In addition to its continuing partnership with Metropolitan Business Academy (Metro Boating), Canal Dock added new fall programs partnering with Common Ground High School, LEAP (Leadership, Education & Athletics in Partnership), and Notre Dame High School.
- This past winter, Canal Dock began a partnership to train students from the Sound School. This has led to an increased number of young people paddling and rowing on The Quinnipiac River.

Unfortunately, last year Canal Dock's assistant program manager and coach left the organization on June 1, 2019 to pursue other opportunities out of state. Though Canal Dock felt this loss acutely, the departure of such an integral staff member enabled us to rethink program delivery, community outreach, and how best to message Canal Dock's mission of opening New Haven's waterfront for adventure, discovery and growth. The assistant program manager's resignation also led to a tremendous gain in the form of community support through the development of a robust and active volunteer program. These volunteers were largely recruited through Canal Dock's adult boating club. Because of this loyal group of individuals, Canal Dock was able to host its 4th Dragon

Boat Regatta; ran two successful summer camp sessions; hosted two of our popular “Community Days” in August and September; added three new student programs to the fall schedule; and began training one new public school student group during the winter in preparation for the spring rowing season. Once again, due to the support of our volunteers, we were able to achieve more and reach new heights.

This winter Canal Dock hired a new program manager whose vision for the future of the organization has brought new energy into the boathouse. His vision for the future of Canal Dock will incorporate program components that will increase our scope and outreach to increase our community impact.

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?

The opportunities for Canal Dock to continue to expand and grow programs is limitless. We have expanded the number of youth served, and plan to increase our adult and family programs. We hope to increase the number of community boating days scheduled for the summer and fall of 2020. We hope to incorporate more educational programming options to help educate the public on the ecological needs of the Quinnipiac River, as well as the harbor and Long Island Sound. Finally, Canal Dock has been considering including sailing programs into its boating programs, and though circumstances may prevent this from happening this year, we are confident that future boating programs will include sailing options.

The development of new programs will lead to an increase in the number of individuals served and an increase in exposure to New Haven’s waterways and their ecosystems. Currently, our greatest need is increased funding to assure our mission is achieved. We are currently attempting to support an expansion in programming options by including a sailing program. We are in the process of planning an environmental education program to improve awareness of the ecology of The Quinnipiac River, the harbor and Long Island Sound. We would like to expand the number of kayaks that Canal Dock has available for public use, to serve a greater number of individuals during our community boating days.

Though there is much work to do, we feel that we have made great strides in achieving our goals last year and are confident that we will reach even greater heights this year.

4. Also, please email a photo or image that can be uploaded along with your report to The Quinnipiac River Fund website to dcanning@cfgnh.org.