

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's waterfront.

Total Grant Amount

18,000.00

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 Days that engage 185 unduplicated individuals in equitable health and wellness activities.

Canal Dock scheduled 6 Community Boating Days but were only able to conduct 5 due to persistent inclement weather throughout the summer. During these Community Days we were able to engage with 126 individuals.

Due in part to the persistent inclement weather hampering the attendance of our Community Boating Days, we looked for other ways to engage community members in activities on the water at no cost. We were able to sponsor a Dragon Boat for adult residents living at or below the LMI during our Dragon Boat Regatta as well as a youth boat that was powered by New Haven Public School students, a total of 35 additional people were able to access our

waterfront during the Regatta. We were also able to engage an additional 80 New Haven middle and high school students during our Physical Education take overs, which are conducted on the platform at the boathouse.

2. Pilot a sailing program that engages at least 50 individuals in sailing and learn to sail activities.

In July of 2023 Canal Dock launched Sail Haven, one of the only sailing program in New Haven designed to provide equitable access to small to mid sized sail boats. Last season we were able to enroll 54 members in this program. We reserved no-cost slots for residents living below the Area Median Income level; however, we did not offer lessons in 2023. Therefore, not many people took advantage of this opportunity. In 2024, we plan to offer sailing lessons and will reserve one third of slots for low to moderate income residents.

3. Partner with a local high school to promote dry land activities that introduce youth and families to New Haven's waterfront.

Canal Dock partnered with three New Haven high schools and one middle school to introduce students to New Haven Harbor by engaging them in programs on our platform, which promote fitness and wellness activities while overlooking the waterfront. During these activities, we inform youth about other opportunities at Canal Dock, such as free membership opportunities for low/moderate income families, free youth clinics and programs, Community Boating Days, and dry land fitness programs.

4. Increase community partnerships to increase the volume and diversity of services provided by Canal Dock, such as swim-to-row programming, environmental education and mentoring for youth participants.

This year we partnered with LEAP to conduct swim tests in their pool, Discovering Amistad for leadership development and to teach our youth about the history of the Amistad, Youth Entrepreneurs for academic and work force development instruction and with Yale Crew for mentoring activities. We also worked with volunteers from our own membership to assist with on the water assistance and tutoring activities for youth.

5. Recruit 40 middle and high school students in Canal Dock's summer programs.

In 2023, we were able to engage 42 youth in summer programs where youth engaged in dry land fitness, rowing in single and team rowing shells, and kayaking. During summer programming, youth are able to row and paddle in New Haven Harbor and the Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers. This exposure allows New Haven's youth to engage in healthy, outdoor activities and also give them exposure to New Haven's greatest natural resources.

6. Provide at least 10 hours of on-the-water instruction and activities per week for youth participating in the Canal Dock youth Programs.

Canal Dock offers 12 hours of on and off of the water instruction and activities for youth in our Row Haven Youth Program during the Spring and Fall, 10 hours of on and off the water instruction for students during the Winter months, and 20 hours of programming for 5 weeks during the Summer. Youth

enrolled in our programs are able to engage in on the water athletic instruction, environmental exploration, leadership development and receive academic assistance. We were able to provide an average of 12.6 hours of instruction per week for youth attending New Haven Public Schools.

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?

There were many areas where Canal Dock excelled this year including the expansion of services in our youth program, the addition of a Sailing program, growing our membership base, offering adult learn to row and engaging members of our community in activities on the water at no cost. We were able to enroll low-income individuals in adult learn to row classes, enroll 92% of youth in learn-to-row clinics at no cost and we also served 32 youth in our Row Haven Youth rowing program at no cost.

Despite weather challenges that we experienced throughout the summer we were still able to safely conduct five Community Boating Days, though we were forced to push our July and early September dates to later in September and early October, which affected the number of residents that we were able to serve. Despite this, we did find that our volunteer base, especially our youth volunteers, engaged at much higher levels than in previous years. During one Community Boating Day, The Amistad was in port in New Haven. One of our youth volunteered to guide a kayak tour (they were accompanied by and an adult volunteer) near the Amistad ship and proceeded to tell the tour the history of the Amistad. Though there were struggles throughout the year, we found successes, both small and large, in almost every aspect of our programs.

One area where we experienced a significant challenge was with a partner who provided a significant amount of funding for our year round youth program. We found that there could not be a resolution and made the difficult decision to part ways despite the financial impact. We were forced to eliminate the positions of two full-time staff members. That said, the remaining staff were motivated and took on the responsibility of ensuring that there would be no disruption in youth programming and that youth would continue to be served at a very high level. Though the loss of staff has been difficult, the current youth staff are engaging with our youth to ensure they continue to be connected to our program. We have identified funding sources that can replace the lost funding and are working diligently to apply for said funding. Though the loss of funding has been a challenge, we feel that the fact that we were able to limit the programmatic impact and adjust in a relatively seamless manner has been a success for the program and the staff that work with our youth.

Another challenge that we have experienced has been the lack of resources for swim testing and lessons. We have partnered with LEAP to swim test youth in the program and hope to work with LEAP to expand their offerings and implement a learn to swim program for teens. As of right now, LEAP only offers swim lessons for much younger youth and adults.

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?

There are many opportunities for our organization to grow and promote activities on and education about New Haven Harbor and Quinnipiac River. Canal Dock Board of Directors and Staff have identified several directions that can be taken to expand access and awareness of New haven's waterways such as adaptive water sports for disabled individuals, programs that educate about marine science and the ecology of the Quinnipiac River and Harbor, programs that engage veterans and programming that further engages underserved populations. Though our intention is to eventually expand programs to include all of these elements, it is impossible for us to undergo all of these task simultaneously. Therefore, Canal Dock is going through the process of renewing our strategic plan to help us to decide what type of program expansion should be prioritized. We will engage with stakeholders and residents to determine what is wanted and needed to connect the community to the waterfront.

Throughout the past 10 years, Canal Dock has received an abundance of donated equipment that has been used by programs in previous years. In the past twelve months alone, we received a enough donated sail boats to pilot an affordable sailing program. About 75% of our safety boats, 80% of our fleet of rowing shells, and 100% of our fleet of sail boats were donated to Canal Dock by individuals and other programs. Though we are very fortunate to be the recipients of the equipment, the boats and corresponding equipment often require repairs and maintenance to be functional. We are incredibly fortunate to have capable staff and dedicated volunteers to complete much of the required repairs and maintenance; however, there are times where professional interventions are required to ensure the boats are safe and functional. This requires monetary resources that are often scarce. As mentioned above, we have identified several new funding sources and are working diligently to ensure that the organization is funded well enough to

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

2023 QRF Expenses (1).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). Please include a description of each photo and, when known, the photographer to be credited.

Picture 1

image0.jpeg

Description and Photo Credit

A Row Haven participant volunteers during a Community Boating Day by teaching a group of kayakers the history of the Amistad.

Credit: Tamara Clayton

Picture 2

Community Boat.jpg

Description and Photo Credit

The Community Boat at the Dragon Boat Regatta. A New Haven Police officer decided to join after a resident had to leave the regatta early.

Credit: Taylor Valentine

Picture 3

Sail Boats SailHaven.jpg

Description and Photo Credit

Canal Dock's newest program, Sail Haven, was piloted in 2023 with much success. All boats were donated to Canal Dock from various programs and sails were donated to Canal Dock by Neal Pryde sails in Stratford.

Credit: Steven Machesney