

West Chester Borough Council
401 Gay Street
West Chester, PA 19380

RE: StoryWalk© proposal – plan

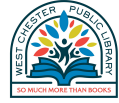
Dear Members of Council,

After meeting with the Public Works committee on 1/10/23 and in response to the committee's request, please see below for a formal proposal for installation and maintenance of a StoryWalk© in one of the Borough parks.

We are excited about this opportunity to apply for a Family Engagement Grant, a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. We look forward to partnering with the Borough on this project.

Included in the proposal are details outlining the proposed location, selection of books, and chain of maintenance responsibility for the installation, as requested by Council.

1. Grant timeline:
 - a. Application due 1-20-2023
 - b. After installation hold two events to help promote the StoryWalk© by September 1, 2023
 - c. Submit reimbursement requests by August 1, 2023
 - d. Final report and financials due September 15, 2023
2. 20 stops consisting of a purpose-made frame on post along a .25 to .5 mile walk-way – See example of a StoryWalk© installation at Exton Park and Rosetree Park (Del Cty). [Map of Rosetree Park StoryWalk](#)
StoryWalk© once installed must be in-place and maintained for a minimum of three years. (Note – Exton Park StoryWalk© has been in-place for 5+ years with few problems)
3. Materials –
 - a. Initial set-up paid for through grant
 - b. Subsequent years – library will supply any replacements as needed, cleaning and maintenance supplies.
4. Book selection will be done in conjunction with West Chester Borough Council – library will suggest a list of books for council approval (see examples listed below)
5. Frequency of changing books out – twice/year, Spring and Fall recommended



6. Responsibilities:

- a. Library:
 - i. Apply for and manage grant
 - ii. Plan and present the two events the grant requires
 1. Launch event
 2. Event as part of Summer Reading Program
 - iii. Monitor the installation for damage and maintenance needs
 - iv. Provide supplies needed for maintenance
 - v. Carry out any basic maintenance needed – cleaning
 - vi. Switch out stories at least twice/year
 - vii. Work with volunteers to carry out some of the maintenance and story switch-outs
 - viii. Promote the StoryWalk© to library customers
 - b. Borough:
 - i. Provide memorandum of understanding to include with grant application
 - ii. Provide site for the StoryWalk©
 - iii. Provide labor/supervision of initial installation
 - iv. Assist with any major maintenance – e.g. replacing a post
 - v. Agree to have StoryWalk© in place for three years per grant rules
 - vi. Work with senior library staff to select books
7. Recommend Hoopes Park for this project – as Council member Bernie Flynn mentioned, it is the park without a special installation. Would be helpful to have this included in the memorandum of understanding as well as buy-in from Hoopes Park Friends group.
8. StoryWalk© installation locations, stories chosen, and any/all maintenance subject to West Chester Borough Council approval.

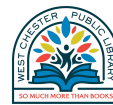
Potential books in no particular order:

[Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora](#)

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself? Debut author-illustrator Oge Mora brings to life a heartwarming story of sharing and community in colorful cut-paper designs as luscious as Omu's stew, with an extra serving of love. An author's note explains that "Omu" (pronounced AH-moo) means "queen" in the Igbo language of her parents, but growing up, she used it to mean "Grandma." This book was inspired by the strong female role models in Oge Mora's life.

[Daniel Finds a Poem by Micha Archer](#)

What is poetry? Is it glistening morning dew? Spider thinks so. Is it crisp leaves crunching? That's what Squirrel says. Could it be a cool pond, sun-warmed sand, or moonlight on the grass? Maybe poetry is all of these things, as it is something special for everyone—you just have to take the time to really look and listen. The magical thing is that poetry is in everyone, and



Daniel is on his way to discovering a poem of his own after spending time with his animal friends in the park. What is poetry? If you look and listen, it's all around you!

[Be A Tree by Maria Gianferrari and Felicita Sala](#)

Stand tall.

Stretch your branches to the sun.

Be a tree!

We are all like trees: our spines, trunks; our skin, bark; our hearts giving us strength and support, like heartwood. We are fueled by air and sun. And, like humans, trees are social. They “talk” to spread information; they share food and resources. They shelter and take care of one another. They are stronger together. In this gorgeous and poetic celebration of one of nature’s greatest creations, acclaimed author Maria Gianferrari and illustrator Felicita Sala compare us to the beauty and majesty of trees—and gently share the ways in which trees can inspire us to be better people.

[The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions by Anna Llenas](#)

One day, Color Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad, and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through color. As this adorable monster learns to sort and define his mixed up emotions, he gains self-awareness and peace as a result. Everyone will enjoy sharing this concept book that taps into both socio-emotional growth and color concepts in a simple, friendly way.

[Ocean! Waves For All by Stacy McAnulty and David Litchfield](#)

Dude. Ocean is incredible. Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Indian, Southern—it's all excellent Ocean! Not part of any nation, his waves are for all. And under those waves, man, he holds so many secrets. With characteristic humor and charm, Stacy McAnulty channels the voice of Ocean in this next "autobiography" in the Our Universe series. Rich with kid-friendly facts and beautifully brought to life by David Litchfield.

[If You Find a Leaf by Aimee Sicuro](#)

Every year, gusts of wind blow colorful autumn leaves to the ground. Some leaves make a crunch under foot, and others are so beautiful they deserve to be saved. In this story a young artist draws inspiration from the leaves she collects and every leaf sparks a new idea. She imagines turning a Japanese Zelkova leaf into a boat to sail far away, a Honey Locust leaf into a swing to sway in the gentle breeze, and an American Basswood leaf into a hot air balloon to float high above the trees. Any young reader who turns the pages of this beautiful book will be inspired to use their own imagination as they hunt for leaves this fall.

[The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats](#)

In 1962, a little boy named Peter put on his snowsuit and stepped out of his house and into the hearts of millions of readers. Universal in its appeal, this story beautifully depicts a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever. The quiet fun and sweetness of Peter's small adventures in the deep, deep snow is perfect for reading together on a cozy winter day.



[We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury](#)

We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. Will you come too? Join a father and his four young children as they cross a field of tall, wavy grass, wade through a deep, cold river, struggle through swampy mud, find their way through a big, dark forest, fight through a whirling snowstorm, and enter finally enter a narrow, gloomy cave. What will they find there? You'll have to read on to find out!

Misc:

1. "The StoryWalk® is installed along a ½ mile paved walkway surrounding two playgrounds and a picnic area. The project consists of 20 reading stations" (Exton Park description) <https://chescolibraries.org/news/new-storywalk-unveiled-exton-park>
2. Volunteer groups from local businesses or civic groups to help with story update installing.
3. Williamson Trade School students could do initial installation under supervision of Public Works (they installed Rosetree Park StoryWalk©) Victoria Dow will contact.

Victoria Dow, Director

Rachel Kagan, WCPL Board of Trustees