

# Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society

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This attachment contains our narrative description of activities and additional explanatory information as requested for certain questions on form F1023. Each additional explanatory response is numbered as on the F1023 form. For ease of distinguishing questions and responses, our responses are in italics.

## **IV. Narrative Description of Your Activities**

Using an attachment, describe your past, present, and planned activities in a narrative. If you believe that you have already provided some of this information in response to other parts of this application, you may summarize that information here and refer to the specific parts of the application for supporting details. You may also attach representative copies of newsletters, brochures, or similar documents for supporting details to this narrative. Remember that if this application is approved, it will be open for public inspection. Therefore, your narrative description of activities should be thorough and accurate. Refer to the instructions for information that must be included in your description.

*CHEARS, the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the health of all who share the Chesapeake watershed environment. We are a tribe of friends and volunteers, natural and social scientists, artists, educators, and families who are learning together and empowering others in ecology, stewardship, and artistic expression for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and its major drainage basins -- the East-Shore-MD, East-Shore-VA, Patuxent, Potomac, Rappahannock, Susquehanna, West-Shore-MD, and York basins. We take inspiration from all cultures that recognize the inter-connectedness of all organisms and places within the web of life.*

*We have a special focus on the cross-species, cross-place, and cross-time linkages. We explore linkages between our homes in urban, suburban and rural areas in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Equally important to us are the temporal linkages, as we look to connect our past heritage and our future visions for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and our relationship to the past, current and future worldwide Earth community.*

*Chears projects are conceived, developed and implemented by volunteers who have realized that if we are to restore the health of the Bay and its inhabitants, we need to change many things about the way we live each day. Chears was created to be a support and vehicle for folks to join with others in the fight to save the Bay in a cheerful way, recognizing the urgency, but wanting to take time to enjoy our earth along the way.*

*As noted above, Chears is primarily a volunteer organization. We currently have a board of stewards of 5 individuals. We also have an executive coordinator who is planning to work about one half day per week on CHEARS business. As a way of organizing we have identified five interrelated areas and we are developing an organizational structure that involves having a council composed of two individuals representing each of the goal areas (we call them goal tenders). We also have members who are coordinating various projects.*

*The following is a description of our five goal areas. The projects and events described below are designed to foster achievement of these goals.*

*Goal 1: "To restore, steward, and enhance the physical and spiritual health of our Chesapeake Watershed, in its multiple dimensions, as expressed by its diversity of air, land, water, plants, animals, and natural and managed ecosystems*

*Goal 2: "To share knowledge of our watershed, with education projects that effectively engage us in learning about our diverse bioregion."*

*Goal 3: "To foster artistic expression related to our watershed's human, natural and environmental issues."*

*Goal 4: "To engage in research directed towards innovative problem solving in stewardship of our bioregion and our planet."*

*Goal 5: "To work towards creating a sustainable, equitable, and nurturing society within our bioregion, recognizing our linkages in space between rural, suburban and urban life--and in time between our bioregion's past, current and future generations. We seek to foster egalitarian modes of organization to achieve our goals, promoting community among our members."*

*CHEARS is a new organization, incorporated in February of 2006. The CHEARS web site [www.chears.org](http://www.chears.org) includes descriptions of most of the CHEARS current projects. Because we do not want to reinvent the wheel, we emphasize partnering with other like-minded groups. Below is a summary of the projects in which members are working or planning and which have CHEARS sponsorship. As specified in the IRS directions we give information on the activity name; what it is; who is involved and when and where it takes place and how it connects to our purposes noted above.*

Activity Name: <b>Shuman Workshop — Creating a Sustainable Local Economy - CHEARS Co-Sponsored Workshop</b>
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What: CHEARS and the Democracy Collaborative co-sponsored "The Small-Mart Revolution: Intensive Course on Creating a Sustainable Local Economy" with Michael Shuman, author and economist. In this course, Mr. Shuman demonstrated the rationale and strategies for successfully creating a local economy rooted in local ownership, self-reliance, sustainability and justice.
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Who <i>Project Coordinators</i> — Carol Iverson; Joan Clement; Participants—30 persons.
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When: March 17, 2006
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Where: University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
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How connects to purpose: This CHEARS workshop was designed to educate participants on the local economy and how participants can support or establish local businesses to foster the health of the Chesapeake Watershed
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Activity Name: <b>EarthBonding — Connecting With Nature: Mindful Walks</b>
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What: We offered a series of three Mindful Walks. Our emphasis was on slowing down, breathing and letting Nature guide us, focusing on ways to deepen our relationship with the natural world. The walks began with a brief dialogue, setting the focus for the evening and then go into silence, to appreciate what Nature has in store for us, as we bring to the trail aspects of our own lives. We concluded with a brief conversation sharing our experience. Cost was \$6 per walk. Registration was required no later than the preceding Monday of each walk, with a maximum of 10 walkers.
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Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Dr. Beverly Winterscheid Founder of the Institute for Nature and Leadership.
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When: May and June 2006
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Where: Greenbelt Park, MD; Rock Creek Park, DC; Brookside Gardens, MD
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How connects to purpose: Fosters connecting with nature and also mental health of those who live in the Chesapeake Watershed.
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Activity Name: <b>Mother Jones Earth Squad/Tutoring Project</b>
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What: Partnering with Adelphi Friends Meeting and supporting Mary Harris, Mother Jones, public elementary School in Prince Georges County, Maryland, this project combines tutoring/mentoring with an "Earth Squad," a club using the <a href="#">Earth Charter</a> as a guide. Over three-fourths of the students are children of recent immigrants, the majority of whom are Spanish speaking. Eighty-five percent of the students in the school are eligible for free and reduced lunch.
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Margaret Cahalan and Kathy Selvagio; the project had 8 volunteer tutors and 14 children participating
When: We tutored on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:00 during the second semester of the 2005-2006 school year and held environmental projects one Saturday a month. The project will begin again in the fall of 2006 and continue through the school year.
Where: University Gardens Apartments community room, Adelphi Maryland
How connects to purpose: Project involves using “place based” education with a focus on learning about the Anacostia Watershed in which the children live as a way of motivating children to increase reading and math skills as well as environmental literacy

Activity Name: <b>Eco-Yard Co-op — One Yard at a Time Eco-Friendly Landscape Co-op</b>
What: Households support each other in re-designing their yards to be healthy for people and wildlife by such activities as planting diverse native and edible plants, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and establishing rain gardens to help reduce toxic runoff.
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Joan Clement; Participants---Carol Iverson, Maggie Cahalan, Danielle Rolli, Marcia Freeman
When: This is a planned activity to begin in fall 2006. As a forerunner a group of persons who took a permaculture class together have been meeting monthly to help each other with eco-friendly landscaping
Where: Participants’ yards in Maryland
How connects to purpose: On a per acre basis, urban runoff contributes twice the excess nutrient and toxic load to the Bay that agricultural areas contribute. Aided by <a href="#">Permaculture</a> principles and <a href="#">Chesapeake Bay friendly landscaping plans</a> , a CHEARS strategic objective is to significantly reduce urban and suburban run off by changing our dominant monoculture lawn-based form of landscaping.

Activity Name: <b>Greenbelt Greenman Festival</b>
What: CHEARS supported the second annual Greenbelt Greenman Festival held by hosting a day long festival of environmental films and also organizing a booth with information on Permaculture and rain gardens Space was provided for folks to work on designing their own yards with Permaculture principles.
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Maggie Cahalan; Volunteers---Carol Iverson, Joan Clement; Bob Cahalan; Gabe Cahalan; twenty-five persons attended films and received information from the booth
When: May 13 and 14 2006
Where: Greenbelt, Maryland
How connects to purpose: Films and booth were designed to foster greater environmental literacy about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and to provide tools for more Bay friendly landscaping

Activity Name: <b>Permaculture Design Courses</b>
What: Several CHEARS members have completed a 72 hour Permaculture Design course and CHEARS is

planning to sponsor additional courses and related activities focused on urban, suburban, and rural permaculture.
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Carol Iverson
When: Planned for 2006-07
Where: DC metro area and Bedford PA
How connects to purpose: Directly related to CHEARS purpose of helping to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and also to our goal of trying to link rural and urban persons and interests

Activity Name: <b>Flows — <i>Water Quality Tracing</i></b>
What: Place Based Education and Research Project---This project involves partnering with groups involved in water quality monitoring and adopting a site to monitor over time. There are 355 flow sites being monitored by the Chesapeake Bay program. It also involves following the water from a point in just inside the western most part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in PA to the Atalantic Ocean. We are also planning to partner with other groups in adopting a portion of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System to clean and monitor starting in fall of 2006
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Bob Cahalan
When: Planned for 2006-07
Where: A spring on Wild Meadows Farm near the Eastern Divide in Pennsylvania, Bobs Creek, Dunnings Creek, the Juniata River, the Susquehanna River, and the Cheseapeake Bay.
How connects to purpose: Directly related to CHEARS research purpose and to educating members

Activity Name: <b>Fall Equinox Fund raiser — <i>Arts Council</i></b>
What: The CHEARS ARTS Council will be setting up several activities. One is a fund-raiser which will include eats, entertainment and exhibits.
Who: <i>Project Coordinator</i> — Marcia Freeman
When: Planned for September 24 2006
Where: Greenbelt, Takoma or Adelphi MD.
How connects to purpose: Will foster artistic expression related to health of Chesapeake Bay and raise funding for CHEARS volunteer project materials

**Part V ----Compensation and Other Financial Arrangements With Your Officers, Directors, Trustees, Employees, and Independent Contractors (*Continued*)**

**The following “Yes” or “No” questions relate to *past, present, or planned* relationships, transactions, or agreements with your officers, directors, trustees, highest compensated employees, and highest compensated independent contractors listed in lines 1a, 1b, and 1c.**

**2a Are any of your officers, directors, or trustees related to each other through family or business relationships? If “Yes,” identify the individuals and explain the relationship.**

*Although we have no one listed in 1a-1c---two of the officers are related as husband and wife (Robert and Margaret Cahalan).*

**5. Have you adopted a conflict of interest policy consistent with the sample conflict of interest policy in Appendix A to the instructions? If “Yes,” provide a copy of the policy and explain how the policy has been adopted, such as by resolution of your governing board. If “No,” answer lines 5b and 5c.**

*We have adopted the conflict of interest policy included below. The policy was sent to all board members and discussed and reviewed at a board meeting held on July 18, 2006. After discussion, the policy was adopted by the board by consensus. This policy is based on the sample provided by IRS. CHEARS will follow this policy for future procedures with regard to compensation and potential conflict of interest situations should they arise.*

## **CHEARS Conflict of Interest Policy (This policy was adopted by the CHEARS board on xxx, 2006---it was adapted from IRS Appendix A: Sample Conflict of Interest)**

### **Article I**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Chesapeake Education, Arts Research Society a.k.a CHEARS) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of CHEARS or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

### **Article II**

#### **Definitions**

##### **1. Interested Person**

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

##### **2. Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a.** An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which CHEARS has a transaction or arrangement, **b.** A compensation arrangement with CHEARS or with any entity or individual with which CHEARS has a transaction or arrangement, or **c.** A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which CHEARS is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

### **Article III**

#### **Procedures**

##### **1. Duty to Disclose**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

##### **2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

##### **3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest**

- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in CHEARS's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

#### **4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**

- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

#### **Article V**

##### **Compensation**

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from CHEARS for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from CHEARS for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from CHEARS, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

#### **Article VII**

### **Periodic Reviews**

To ensure CHEARS operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a.** Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b.** Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the CHEARS 's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

### **Article VIII**

#### **Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, CHEARS may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

## Additional responses (continued)

### Part VI Your Members and Other Individuals and Organizations That Receive Benefits From You

The following “Yes” or “No” questions relate to goods, services, and funds you provide to individuals and organizations as part of your activities. Your answers should pertain to *past*, *present*, and *planned* activities. (See instructions.)

**1a. In carrying out your exempt purposes, do you provide goods, services, or funds to individuals? If “Yes,” describe each program that provides goods, services, or funds to individuals.**

*In carrying out our exempt purposes we provide the following goods and services to individuals.*

- 1. We are planning to offer small items such as the book “Ecoscaping Back to the Future---Restoring Chesapeake Landscapes” (valued at \$12) and potentially a reusable lunch kit (valued at \$15) to members upon joining the organization.*
- 2. We offer free tutoring to students at Mary Harris Mother Jones Elementary School in Prince George County Maryland for one hour per week and one Saturday a month to about 14 children during the school year*
- 3. We maintain a web site where project coordinators can post information about their projects*
- 4. We sponsor workshops and activities open to the public on environmental issues and provide coordination and speakers for the workshops*
- 5. We plan to provide a vehicle for environmental artists to display their work*

**1b. In carrying out your exempt purposes, do you provide goods, services, or funds to organizations? If “Yes,” describe each program that provides goods, services, or funds to organizations.**

*In carrying out our exempt purposes we provide the following goods and services to organizations:*

- 1. We are in the process of adopting a trail in the Anacostia Tributary Trail System as part of a program called Adopt a Trail sponsored by the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) Prince George’s area.*
- 2. While we have no other specific plans in this regard, we plan to apply for grants from private and public sources in the future*

**2a. Do any of your programs limit the provision of goods, services, or funds to a specific individual or group of specific individuals? For example, answer “Yes,” if goods, services, or funds are provided only for a particular individual, your members, individuals who work for a particular employer, or graduates of a particular school. If “Yes,” explain the limitation and how recipients are selected for each program.**

*We answered yes to this question. The only service we have that is limited to a particular group of individuals is the tutoring which is currently limited to students in grades 3-6 who attend Mary Harris Mother Jones Elementary School, a public school in Prince George County Maryland. Any student attending in these grades is invited to participate by means of a flyer distributed by the teacher to each child in the applicable grades. All students who sign up with parent signatures are invited to participate by phone. Students are served on a first come first serve basis. This past year all interested students were served.*

*All other CHEARS sponsored events are open to the public and are announced on our web site. Our by-laws specifically state that membership is open to all regardless of sex, race/ethnicity, disability status, or sexual orientation.*

## **Part VIII Your Specific Activities (Continued) page 6**

**Do you or will you undertake fundraising? If “Yes,” check all the fundraising programs you do or will conduct. (See instructions.)**

Attach a description of each fundraising program.

*The following are brief descriptions of our fundraising plans with regard to each of the “programs” listed on the form. As we are a new organization, we have not developed a fundraising program as of yet.*

**Mail solicitations:** *Once we have 501c status, we plan to engage in periodic mail solicitations—probably 2 times a year. We have not yet formulated a plan for these mailings. We anticipate that they will include a letter on our letterhead and a brief newsletter describing our activities. The letter will invite membership according to our membership schedule. The current description of membership as taken from our website is below.*

**Email solicitations:** *Email will be the most common method of communication with members and also with persons interested in learning more about the organization. We are building an email listing—for example 25 persons signed up for more information at the Greenman Festival. We anticipate that we will send out 4 emails a year that directly solicit funds to support our on-going activities. There may also be special requests as occasion may arise. We plan to give potential donors information about how the donations will be used. This will be in the form of public availability of our budget and expenses each year.*

**Personal solicitations:** *We also plan to solicit funding from persons known to us who have an interest in supporting environmental, education, artistic, and research activities related to the Chesapeake Watershed. We will keep detailed records of all contributions and give each donor a receipt. .*

**Vehicle, boat, plane, or similar donations:** *We have no plans to solicit these types of donations but would not refuse them if offered.*

**Foundation grant solicitations:** *We are planning to apply for applicable grants that are related to our mission.*

**Phone solicitations:** *We do not plan to use this method*

**Accept donations on your website:** *We have already set up a procedure to accept donations on our website through Pay Pal.*

**Receive donations from another organization’s website:** *We do not plan to use this method.*

**Government grant solicitations:** *We plan to apply for government grants when eligible in the areas related to our mission. As two of our board members are currently federal government employees, they plan to not become involved in grants from their agencies.*

**Other:** *We are planning to hold a fundraising event in September of 2006 that will involve display and auction of art, a dance performance, and food. Attendees will be asked to make a donation to CHEARS*

**6a. Do you or will you engage in economic development? If “Yes,” describe your program.**

**6b. Describe in full who benefits from your economic development activities and how the activities promote exempt purposes.**

*On a per acre basis urban and suburban areas contribute twice the damaging run off into the Chesapeake Bay as do rural areas. As part of our commitment to promote more environmentally friendly landscaping throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, we plan to establish a landscaping cooperative enterprise that provides services to homeowners in designing and implementing more Bay friendly landscapes that include such things as using native plants, edible landscaping, rain gardens to reduce run off, and engaging in land stewardship that eliminates or reduces the use of pesticides and fertilizers for lawns. This enterprise will hopefully contribute to the local economy and provide living wage employment for workers who will also be owners of the cooperative. We anticipate that the worker-owners will be drawn from those living in Hyattsville, Bladensburg, Brentwood, and Mt. Ranier MD—neighborhoods that are in enterprise zones of Prince George’s County Maryland. In establishing this cooperative, we hope to work with the Prince George’s County Economic Development and the Prince George’s County Community Development Corporation, and the Gateway Community Development Corporation.*

**8. Do you or will you enter into joint ventures, including partnerships or limited liability companies treated as partnerships, in which you share profits and losses with partners other than section 501(c)(3) organizations? If “Yes,” describe the activities of these joint ventures in which you participate.**

*We have no specific plans to enter into joint ventures or partnerships with other than 501 (c) (3) organizations; however, as noted above, we would like to establish a cooperative for purposes of promoting more Bay friendly landscaping. It may turn out that this will evolve to a joint venture or partnership. The activities would be consultation and implementation of landscape services.*

**10. Do you or will you publish, own, or have rights in music, literature, tapes, artworks, choreography, scientific discoveries, or other intellectual property? If “Yes,” explain. Describe who owns or will own any copyrights, patents, or trademarks, whether fees are or will be charged, how the fees are determined, and how any items are or will be produced, distributed, and marketed.**

*We expect that to further our educational, artistic and research goals that we may have occasion to copyright, patent or trademark materials. CHEARS will own these copyright, patents or trademarks unless an agreement is entered into ahead of time for the individuals involved to maintain these rights.*

**11. Do you or will you accept contributions of: real property; conservation easements; closely held securities; intellectual property such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights; works of music or art; licenses; royalties; automobiles, boats, planes, or other vehicles; or collectibles of any type? If “Yes,” describe each type of contribution, any conditions imposed by the donor on the contribution, and any agreements with the donor regarding the contribution.**

*We have not been offered or accepted any such contributions thus far; however, should such offers be made we would review whether we could properly accept the contribution to further our mission. We would then work out appropriate legal agreements consistent with all government requirements.*

**Part 10. Public Charity Status (Continued)**

**7. Did you receive any unusual grants during any of the years shown on Part IX-A. Statement of Revenues and Expenses? If “Yes,” attach a list including the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, a brief description of the grant, and explain why it is unusual.**

*In order to cover the start up costs of the organization, Margaret Cahalan made a donation of \$15,000 in April of 2006. This money is being used to contract 4 hours a week services for an executive coordinator; and to contract services for web page development; and to purchase office equipment such as a computer and appropriate software. In future years, CHEARS is planning to do more public fundraising to cover the operating costs*



## Join CHEARS

### How can I participate in CHEARS Activities?

We welcome people from the entire Chesapeake Watershed to participate in a variety of ways, as you will see below. We hope that you will feel welcome and excited about sharing a skill you already have, or trying something new, and reaching out to others. We are very open to new ideas and want to support you in following your dreams.

#### Open to Anyone

Sign up for our free quarterly email newsletter with current news on a variety of topics relating to the health of the Chesapeake Watershed.

Free action alerts for those who want to impact public policy decisions on the local, state and federal level—when there are last minute issues that we know you'll want to hear about

Many volunteer opportunities—let us know your interest areas:

Water quality monitoring and other research projects,

Sustainable gardening

Linkage with other groups with similar missions

Nature and the arts projects

Outdoor awareness and healing programs

Many other activities offered by members for the community at large.

#### Membership Benefits

In addition to the benefits available to members and non-members alike, members get a number of special benefits. Members have a forum for posting your own publications, sharing your ideas or your art work, and expressing your love of this watershed and your ideas for how we can create a more sustainable way of life in our watershed.

CHEARS members can organize and lead their own projects and participate in CHEARS organizational activities and write articles for our society publications.

Members can become Coordinators, and for every CHEARS Coordinator we offer a homepage, as long as certain guidelines are followed. A secure web page is also available for each Coordinator to login and manage his or her CHEARS project, and to inform the public about the progress of the project.

#### Being a CHEARS Donor

Donors are members who decide to help CHEARS grow in a variety of ways. CHEARS depends on donations to support its many volunteer-run projects.

You can become a regular donor by pledging a fixed amount each month to be charged to your charge card or debited from your checking account.

You can make a one-time donation or multi-year pledge at any level that feels right for you.

You can volunteer to help with fundraising or inviting others from your local area to join CHEARS.

You can lend your expertise in publicizing important events, maintaining our member database, developing brochures, writing letters to the editor, performing or donating art work.

*Join CHEARS Now or on the Web at*

# <http://chears.org/>

Name\*    
first last

Affiliation

Address   
Street

city state zip

Telephone\*

E-Mail\*

URL  http://

## Primary Goal

Arts Chesapeake Education  
Research Society

## Project Interests

Fundraiser EarthBonding Local food and business  
Arts Workshops Earth Squad Eco-Yard Co-op  
Permaculture Design Flows

Kids: \$0

Kids \$0; Basic \$20; Family \$35; Organization \$50; Partner \$100;  
Sustainer \$250; Stewart \$500; Riverkeeper \$1000+; Restorer \$2000+; Healer \$3000+;  
Hero/Heroine \$4000+  
Family Members and above receive copy of **Ecescaping Back to the Future**—by Zora Lathan  
and Thistle A Cone of Chesapeake Ecology Center

## Membership Level