

State of Maryland

2007 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3240	SB865	2123	HB805	Mount Washington Outdoor Classroom
3. Senate Bill Sponsors			House Bill Sponsors	
Gladden			Rosenberg	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City			\$125,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
Grant to the Board of Directors of the Mount Washington Elementary Parent Teachers Organization, Inc. for the design, construction, repair, renovation, and capital equipping of the Mount Washington School outdoor classroom.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
Grantee shall provide and expend a matching fund. No part of the grantee's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.				
8. Special Provisions				
None				
9. Contact Name and Title			Contact Phone	Email Address
Rebecca Redett			410-542-3999	rredett@yahoo.com

10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)

The Mount Washington Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), a non-profit 501c(3) organization of families and teachers, is a very active, integral part of the Mt. Washington School #221, an elementary school in the Baltimore City Public School System. Officially established in 1986, the PTO organizes community-building activities that bring families and neighbors into the school for social interaction, student recognition, and artistic expression. The PTO also engages in a variety of fund-raising activities. Its organizing and fund-raising efforts have a direct and vital impact on the quality of the every day school experience. Monies earned are used to purchase much-needed school supplies and improvements, and to fund numerous activities that enhance the school environment for students and teachers alike. Additionally, the PTO acts as a liaison between parents and teachers, as well as serving on the School Improvement Team. Finally, the PTO Board works with the school's principal to support and promote the educational mission of the school.

The Outdoor Classroom Project is the PTO's most ambitious effort undertaken to date, but it is very much in keeping with the organization's mission as the Outdoor Classroom will be a tremendous educational asset to the school, and the addition of open accessible green space will promote a connection between the school and the larger community. The PTO recognized the large scope of this project and the need to supplement its board with additional members in order to accomplish the outdoor classroom project. Thus, the Outdoor Classroom committee was created in 2005. The sole mission of the Outdoor Classroom committee is to perform the activities, duties and responsibilities that accompany the revitalization plan.

The PTO is a volunteer organization. However, this does not mean that the project lacks dedication and expertise. The committee has devoted thousands of hours and has a strong commitment to continuing this work ethic to see the project to completion. Additionally, the committee has been able to draw on many personal and professional talents of its members. Committee members have contributed their expertise in architecture, legal affairs, finance, fundraising, writing, graphic design, public relations, art, gardening, community organizing, civil engineering, and construction management. As the project has progressed, however, more and more parents and other neighborhood volunteers have joined in the effort to make the OC project a reality.

11. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)

The purpose of the Outdoor Classroom Project is to transform a deteriorating, asphalt playground at the Mt. Washington Elementary School into a vibrant outdoor space that beckons students, teachers, and the broader Mt. Washington community to engage in artistic expression, academic instruction, social gatherings, or free play.

In 2006, an old, unsafe wooden play structure, the only feature on this asphalt lot, was removed along with a buckling retaining wall. Today, this empty space and eroding hillside is essentially an eyesore. However, despite its unsightly appearance and lack of amenities, this area is the largest and most significant outdoor space on the school grounds. There is a tremendous need to renovate this space to make it more useful and attractive for the school and neighborhood as a whole.

Furthermore, there is strong community interest in maintaining open spaces that carries over into the renovation of the school's asphalt lot. Currently there is no public space for conducting community events and performances. The school is situated in the heart of the Mt. Washington, near its small business center and adjacent to a community-managed arboretum. This empty lot could be an ideal space to act as a gateway to the Mt. Washington neighborhood, serving as a venue for Clayworks events, the Wine & Jazz Festival, and other community activities. However, in its current state the space is nothing more than a sign of urban deterioration.

In addition to this large underutilized vacant space, the physical space within the school building itself is very limited. The multi-purpose gymnasium doubles as a performance space for assemblies and concerts; after school clubs and the aftercare program vie for its use. The school would like to offer a fuller complement of cultural enrichment programs for the students, including more opportunities for the children to perform and to benefit from professional performers.

The Outdoor Classroom committee of the PTO of the Mt. Washington School has plans to renovate the premises. The proposed renovations (illustrated in the schematic drawing), derived from significant community input, include:

- Construct amphitheater in hillside
- Create wide arched entryway, decorated with student artwork
- Build garden beds for educational use
- Install cable climbing structure
- Plant trees inside fence perimeter
- Add drinking fountain
- Install paved walkway to a labyrinth
- Landscape and add new signage at Kelly & Lochlea Roads
- Replace chain link fence
- Resurface part of asphalt
- Paint assorted games on the asphalt

This revitalized space will offer elements that both the school and neighborhood communities desire for the vacant space. Instead of a parking-lot appearance, the attractive green space will provide an innovative setting for the expansion of the cultural, academic, social, and recreational opportunities for the both student body and broader community in Mount Washington.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	None
Design	\$22,000
Construction	\$170,000
Equipment	\$58,000
Total	\$250,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Source	Amount
Office of Neighborhoods	\$25,000
Mayor O'Malley's Neighborhoods First Capital Grant	
Community Appeal/ Direct Mail Campaign	\$56,000
Delegate Sandy Rosenberg/Baltimore Community Fdn.	\$5,000
Mt. Washington PTO	\$5,000
Mt. Washington Improvement Association	\$5,000
Corporate Donations	\$14,000
Foundation awards	\$10,000
Fundraisers	\$5,000
State Grant	\$125,000
Total	\$250,000

14. Project Schedule

Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
2/06	4/07	7/07	11/07

15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2007	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
\$99,880	2,000	4,000

18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years

Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose
None		

19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee	Project Address (If Different)
Mount Washington Parent Teacher Organization, Incorporated 1801 Sulgrave Avenue Baltimore, MD 21209	

20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	41st
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21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)

Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. Grantee Legal Representative	23. If Match Includes Real Property:
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Name:	Zelda Gilliam, PTO President	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No	
Phone:	410-493-8619			
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		
c/o Mt. Washington Elementary School 1801 Sulgrave Avenue Baltimore, MD 21209				
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site				
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget	
None	None	\$250,000* One time planning/ construction expenditure.	\$250,000* One time planning/ construction expenditure	
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)				
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			The property is owned by the Baltimore City Public School System.	
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			n/a	
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			n/a	
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:				
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased	
Not applicable.				
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:				
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew		
Not applicable.				
26. Building Square Footage:				
Current Space GSF	26,250			
Space to Be Renovated GSF	26,250			
New GSF	None			

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	Not applicable. No structures exist on this site.
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)	
Please see the attachments that follow for photographs of the site and the schematic drawing of the proposed renovations.	