

Neighborhood Development Grants Program
2011 Neighborhood Development Project Application
 deadline: noon, 12/17/10, City Hall, CEDO offices, 149 Church Street
 attn: Jenny Davis, 865-7172, jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us

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Wards: 1 and 6	
Contact Person(s): 1) Laura Massell (Ward 6) 2) Scott Richards (Ward 1)	
Mailing Address: Edmunds Middle School Drama 275 Main Street Burlington, VT 05401	Phone(s): 1) 2) E-Mails: 1) 2)

Project Name:	Edmunds Stage Curtain Replacement
Project Location/Address:	Edmunds School Gym/Theater 275 Main Street Burlington
This Grant Request	\$8,500

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Steering Committee Signature(s): _____ (see paper copy) _____ _____	
City Department Signature(s)	
Department: _____	Signature: _____
Department _____	Signature: _____

1. What is your project? What do you hope to accomplish? Please be specific:

The **Edmunds School Stage Curtain Replacement Project** involves replacing the existing worn 40+ year old stage curtain located in the Edmunds School Gymnasium, the room that doubles as the performing arts space and assembly hall for the Edmunds Middle and Elementary Schools.

The **Edmunds School Stage Curtain Replacement Project** will accomplish 3 critical aims:

1. **Achieve a Higher Degree of Safety:** The May 2010 Journal of School Planning & Management reports that stage curtains should be updated every 12-15 years for optimal flame retardancy. The EMS curtain lifespan significantly exceeds that period.
2. **Improve Curtain Function:** Heavy and prolonged use has resulted in fabric that has begun to tear, and is prone tear with normal wear and tear.
3. **Enhance Aesthetics:** The faded and worn look of the curtain detracts from, rather than enhances the celebratory functions and arts performances.

2. What particular neighborhood need or problem will the project address? How was it identified? Is it part of or coordinated with a larger municipal plan? How will it benefit low-moderate income residents?

At its November 2009 Board Retreat, the Burlington School Commissioners affirmed “Enriched arts, math and sciences, and wellness experiences” as one the School District’s seven key Hallmarks of Excellence. The **Edmunds School Stage Curtain Replacement Project** will ensure that this district priority is carried out in a safe and cost effective way.

Fortifying the Performing Arts and Meeting Hall spaces is definitely part of a larger municipal plan. Beginning this year, the first graduates of the **Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler are “aging up” and entering Edmunds Middle School.** The Burlington School Department worked for two years to create this arts magnet to achieve the district’s stated goal of Equity and Excellence in the Burlington Schools, and to directly improve the academic and social outcomes for low to moderate income Burlington residents. It is imperative that these students have **arts spaces that foster their continued artistic endeavors.**

The need for the replacement was identified by the Edmunds Parent/Teacher Drama Committee, in conjunction with the Edmunds Elementary and Middle School Music Departments. Burlington resident expert, Chris Hadsel, Project Director of Vermont Painted Theater Curtain was consulted about options for curtain replacements, and she highly recommended Show Works Theater Supply.

3. How will the project improve the neighborhood? Please be specific:

Located in Edmunds Middle School, the stage is part of the large gymnasium which doubles as the performing arts space for both the elementary and middle schools, a combined total of 792 students.

Edmunds Middle School serves low to moderate residents of Wards 1, 6, 2/3 and 5 from the three feeder elementary schools: Edmunds, The Integrated Arts Academy at H. O. Wheeler, and Champlain). **In 2009-10, 41% of EMS students were approved to receive Free or Reduced Lunch.**

Ensuring that the **schools attended by low to moderate income residents are safe, engaging, and appealing** is a critical to achieving **academic and social outcomes that will result in securing the education and careers that will allow individuals to emerge out of poverty.**

4. Who will the project benefit? How will it specifically benefit people living in poverty?

The Edmunds School Complex serves **792 students** (Vt. Dept. of Education, 2010) in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Located in the Edmunds Middle School, the stage is part of the large gymnasium which doubles as the performing arts space for both the elementary and middle schools.

Edmunds Middle School serves low to moderate residents of Wards 1, 6, 2/3 and 5 from the three feeder elementary schools: Edmunds, The Integrated Arts Academy at H. O. Wheeler, and Champlain). **In 2009-10, 41% of EMS students were approved to receive Free or Reduced Lunch. 100% of the EMS students participate in assemblies and concerts.**

Edmunds Schools has a thriving and vibrant performing arts program which consists of the Grade 6, Grade 7/8 and Chamber Choruses, Grade 6 Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Stage Band, and the Grade 6 Orchestra and Grade 7/8 Orchestra.

Additionally the two Edmunds Parent/Teacher Organizations sponsor three hallmark drama productions each year, and involve over 200 children between the Elementary and Middle Schools. **There is a modest fee to participate in these programs and PTO scholarships cover 100% of this fee for ALL low income students.**

In addition to serving students and their families, Edmunds is a space **accessible by public transportation** that is used throughout the year, at low cost, by **community groups such as First Night, Burlington Parks and Recreation, Burlington Dance, and Burlington Kids Afterschool.**

5. Is there clear community support for the project? How has it been demonstrated?

The Edmunds Middle and Elementary School Music Departments – school personnel most closely attuned to the **need** and **impact** of this project were surveyed in December 2010 and reported unanimous support for the **Edmunds School Stage Curtain Replacement Project: “A priority project that will significantly enhance the experience of the EMS students, their families and the broader Burlington community that takes advantage of this historic resource.”**

Likewise, the Edmunds Middle School Drama Committee which sponsors two productions annually, in which more than 100 students participate, voted this project as **“The most significant permanent enhancement to be made.”**

6. How will the project leverage matching dollars, volunteer commitments or other community resources? What, specifically, are those commitments?

This project is one of a series of improvements undertaken to improve the performance arts capacity at Edmunds. Specifically, the Edmunds PTO Drama Committee **purchased microphones to amplify the sound of individual and group performers** (5 at \$100 last year, and will purchase another 5 @ \$100 this coming year; **\$1,000**)

Additionally the **Edmunds PTO purchased a high quality, used Stage Piano** last year (**\$800**).

7. Who will carry out the project? How will they be accountable to the neighborhood?

The **Edmunds Middle School PTO Drama Committee** will oversee the contract and installation. Laura Massell agrees to be the accountable person, who will notify Wards 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6 when the project is complete. She successfully oversaw the installation of Acoustic Sound Tiles installed in the Edmunds Elementary School Cafeteria, and funded by the CDBG Neighborhood Grant in 1998-99.

8. What is the timeline for completing the project (funding is available no earlier than 7/1/10 through 6/30/11)? What City departments will be involved in the project? Have those departments been consulted about the project?

As soon as funds are made available, a contract will be signed and carried out in the Summer 2011. Burlington City School Department Facilities Director, Chris Giard, has signed off on the project.

9. How will the project will be sustained / maintained over the long term?

The Burlington School Department will assume routine maintenance of the curtain, as it does for all schools in the district.

