

Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund For Allston-Brighton Application for Funding, Spring 2017

Total Amount Requested \$66,660

Applicant Organization Name: Gardner Pilot Academy

Organization Address: 30 Athol Street City: Allston Zip: 02474

Contact Person: Lauren Lafferty

Title: Director of Extended Services

Telephone Number: (203) 518-2749 (cell)

E-Mail Address: lfogarty@bostonpublicschools.org

Is Applicant a 501(C) (3) organization? Yes ☒ No ☐

Federal Employer Identification Number: 22-2514422

Executive Director: Erica Herman

Phone Number: (617) 635-8365

Email Address: eherman@bostonpublicschools.org

Board President: Carroll Blake

Phone Number: (617) 635-8365

Email Address: cblake@bostonpublicschools.org

Application submission(s) must be authorized and signed by an authorized signatory of the Organization.

Name and title of Authorized Signatory: Lauren Lafferty, Director of Extended Services

Signature of Authorized Signatory:

Applicant Information

Name of entity(ies) applying for funding and name of project: Gardner Pilot Academy Community Garden

Primary contact person name, phone number, e-mail: Lauren Lafferty,
(203) 518-2749, lfogarty@bostonpublicschools.org

Key personnel involved in the project: Erica Herman, Principal of GPA, Joe Sara, Assistant Principal of GPA, Lauren Lafferty, Director of Extended Services, Khadijah Brown, Department Head of Boston Public Schools Facilities Management and Sarah Moylan, Project Manager, Green City Growers

Any partner organizations/property owners to be involved in project:
Property is a public school overseen by the Boston Public Schools and this project will work in collaboration with Green City Growers

If applicant is a non-profit organization, provide qualifications and prior history of executing similar projects: The Gardner Pilot Academy's fiscal agency is the Boston Educational Development Foundation (BEDF). The GPA has used BEDF to manage grant funds for over 10 years. GPA has undergone our first capitol project in Summer 2016 to renovate our basement space and create science laboratories for our 7th and 8th grade students.

Project Information

Briefly describe the proposed project. Include a description of the site with a map and identify all property owners. If the applicant is not the sole property owner, please include letters of support from property owner(s):

Site description: Located in North Allston, the Gardner Pilot Academy (GPA) is a full-service community school currently serving 401 students in grades K0-8. The GPA building is over 100 years old. To achieve the school's mission: "to provide quality learning and social opportunities for our diverse student body, engage families, and offer health and community services through innovative programs and partnerships", GPA provides high quality teaching along with a range of programs that focus on social, emotional and academic development delivered through an array of community partners. GPA opens its doors to welcome 30 current community partners including: University partners, physical and mental health providers, partnerships that support the Arts and sports and recreation. Over the past 13 years, GPA has evolved from a traditional school to a highly functioning community school that supports the whole child.

Over 65% of GPA families reside in Allston/Brighton, over 85% of the students meet the federal poverty guidelines to participate in the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program, 25% of our students have diagnosed special needs requiring an

individualized education plan (IEP) and English is not the first language for over 60% of the student body. GPA students and their families speak over 13 languages ranging from Spanish to Khmer. 12.7% percent are African American, 64.3% percent are Hispanic, 13.2% percent are white, 5.5% percent are Asian and less than 4.2% percent are coded as “other”.

Background of project: At GPA, we work very hard to close the opportunity gap that exists between low-income youth and their more affluent peers. We offer comprehensive, 21st Century programming to meet the social, academic, emotional and health needs of our students, their families and the community – all within a 100 year-old building. GPA traditionally served students in K-1 through 5th grade however over the last four years we expanded to serve students in K-0, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. While embarking on this expansion, we recognized the need to not only ensure that our programming was of the highest quality but also that we needed to renovate and enhance our facilities to meet the needs of our 21st Century learners.

GPA achieved the first critical milestone of phase 1 of our capitol improvement project to renovate our basement when Harvard University Community Benefits awarded GPA \$500,000 to renovate GPA’s boys bathroom into new science laboratories. The Boston Public Schools matched this amount in order to complete the renovations. Construction concluded in September 2016 and the results include: state of the art science laboratory for students, new bathrooms and movement space for students to utilize for P.E..

This proposal is requesting funding for renovations needed to transform the GPA garden and outdoor classroom. The GPA garden and outdoor science classroom sits in the GPA playground yard alongside Brentwood Street in Allston, MA. These renovations would achieve the following goals: 1.) Equip the GPA garden/outdoor classroom with the necessary water source and resources to have a fully functioning garden 2.) Enable the GPA to grow and sell fruits and vegetables to the community via community events (potential site for future farmer’s market in North Allston – conversations pending) 3.) Beautify the GPA outdoor facilities to make the space inviting and welcoming to the Allston community.

At GPA, we have been in communication with Green City Growers regarding the renovations needed for the GPA garden/outdoor classroom. Green City Growers came for an in-depth site visit in January 2016. At this time their feedback was that lack of water source irrigation would prevent the installation of a fully functioning garden. Therefore the request of this proposal includes the funds needed to provide this water source in addition to costs associated with partnering with Green City Growers to provide the infrastructure, installation and programming needed. *See budget on excel sheet for further description.

Beyond the infrastructure, installation and programming needs, we are requesting funding for outdoor seating around the new garden space. This seating will be open to the community during non-school hours and the community will be actively invited in to enjoy this space a minimum of three times per year:

- 1.) GPA's Friendship Feast 2018 (Tentative date: June 1st, 2018) will be the first community event to unveil our community garden, beautification to space and outdoor seating. This will be an opportunity for the greater Allston community to learn about the many GPA programs and partners who serve the community beyond GPA parents and families including: string programming, health programming, adult education courses and more. There will be fresh fruit and vegetables for sale from GPA's garden as well as music, student talent show and games for all to participate.
- 2.) GPA/YMCA Summer BBQ (Tentative date: August 8th, 2019) will be an opportunity for the community to enjoy some summer fun while having a cookout and utilizing GPA's outdoor seating. This will be an opportunity to engage the community update all on the opportunity to reconnect at Back to School Night 2019. This night will include outdoor music as well as fresh fruits and vegetables for sale from GPA's garden.
- 3.) Back to School Night 2018 (Tentative date: September 26th, 2018) will be an opportunity for the community to learn what the GPA has to offer for community members beyond the GPA community including: string programming, health programming, adult education courses and more which are all open to the greater Allston community. This night will include a potluck, picnic style, outside in this new space. This evening will also include local partner and business info tables, sign-ups for programming and services as well as outdoor music and fun.

*With this funding, these three yearly events would include an open invitation to the greater Allston community with a targeted outreach approach.

Describe public benefits of the project with reference to review criteria: The public benefits are vast if this proposal is granted. This garden would greatly enhance the aesthetic quality and user experience of the GPA outdoor space while users would have the opportunity to hear about the many high quality programs that GPA offers to community members. The community would have access to this space for learning opportunities as well as an outdoor picnic space during non-school hours. An additional public benefit is the promotion of community collaboration between GPA's partner programs and the greater Allston community. Beyond this, the sale of fruits and vegetables will be a benefit to this community as there is no longer a Farmer's Market in North Allston. We have started conversations about GPA holding a regular Farmer's Market beyond

the three events detailed above. Lastly, this project will provide a wonderful venue to showcase the unique qualities of the Allston neighborhood by increasing access to and awareness of GPA's community school model.

Explain why HAPRFF funding is required: HAPRFF funding is required because the benefit to the Allston community is great. The impact would be direct and positive for many members of the designated impact area of North Allston/North Brighton. Community members would benefit in the following ways: improved aesthetic quality of the neighborhood, connection to opportunities for community programming at the GPA, public outdoor seating for gathering with one another, ability to learn about gardening through visiting the space and through the GPA events and access to fresh fruit and vegetables. The research has demonstrated that when there are high quality public spaces for the community to enjoy with one another, the community grows stronger and more stable as a result. The current dollars through an anonymous funder dedicated to the GPA garden/outdoor classroom do not include the finances needed to provide the key infrastructure, installation and programming but rather would improve the current space and not enable growth beyond the GPA students and families.

Explain if this project/funding would be part of a larger phased project, and if HAPRFF funding would be sought for future phases: This funding is part of the larger renovations, phase 1, described above as we work toward the goal of all areas of learning at the GPA both indoors and outdoors to meet the needs of a 21st Century community. At this time, we are in the process of securing funding for a full-service kitchen at GPA and have made great progress in this endeavor. Our goal is that the garden and kitchen become a reality within a similar timeline in order for these fresh fruits and vegetables to be shared with the greater community at nightly dinners offered at GPA. Nightly dinners may become a reality once all full-service kitchen funding is secured. At this time there is not a proposal for future funding; however future phases of capitol improvements may be planned after this renovation is complete.

Timeline (start date, end date, milestones): Start date would ideally be Fall 2017. BPS facilities would oversee this project alongside our partner, Green City Growers. Quotes for the requested work have been sought and received. Our budget requested would enable programming through August 2019; however we anticipate that this funding would enable sustainability measures to be put into place with minimal future funds needed.

Project maintenance requirements, protocols, and sources of funding: Maintenance requirements would all be fulfilled by the Department of Facilities at the Boston Public Schools as well as by Green City Growers. Requirements and protocols are set by the Department of Facilities at the Boston Public Schools and this renovation will be done in collaboration with this department. Sources of funding currently include an anonymous private donor.

Anticipated project sustainability/lifespan: The length of use of this garden/outdoor classroom does not have an end date. It would be used on a daily basis as a component of our science learning during school day as weather allows and lifespan will be dependent on wear and tear.

Anticipated regulatory review and necessary permits: Any regulatory review will be completed by the Department of Facilities at the Boston Public School and permits will be acquired and kept by the Boston Public Schools.

Materials

Budget, including anticipated total cost and percentage to be funded by the HAPRFF: See excel attachment labeled BUDGET. The percentage of total budget to be funded by HAPRFF is 62.5%

Other funding sources, if applicable, and amount and status (e.g. funds granted, requested, date when status will be known): See excel attachment labeled BUDGET (page 2)

Images, renderings, and other relevant information: See below for images of current space. #1 – Picture taken from inside current garden, Brentwood Street in background, #2 – Picture taken from inside (opposite corner), Brentwood Street in background, #3 – Side view picture of garden space – Brentwood Street to right of garden and #4 – Front view picture of garden space

Letters of support: See attached. Second one pending, will be sent prior to presentations on 6/7/17.







