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Frequently Asked Questions – 2009-2010

(Please also review the Application Guidelines for Eligibility and Criteria)

1. What are the goals of the MPS Partnership for the Arts?

The primary goals are to:

- Expand arts-related experiences for MPS children, youth, and adults accompanying children in activities.
- Increase the number of enriching activities that connect the arts to academic learning.
- Strengthen existing and establish new community partnerships that motivate students to higher levels of academic and artistic achievement.
- Increase resources and support for arts education in the schools and community.

2. Who can apply for the MPS Extension Funds?

MPS schools and community organizations may submit a proposal for arts-related activities/programs. Extension Funds will only be released when a dollar-for-dollar resource match is received from outside MPS to support the project or activities. Schools and community partners are encouraged to work together to submit a proposal.

3. What is the time period for projects?

Proposals should be submitted for arts education activities for the 2009-2010 school year and summer 2010.

4. When are applications due?

The application deadline is Monday, September 14, 2009.

There is only one application period for 2009-10,

5. Is there a minimum project amount?

Projects must total a minimum of \$6,000 (\$3,000 from MPS funds and \$3,000 from required resource match.)

6. If we ask a partner to work with a school, does the partner need to be a new partner with MPS? If the partner already does work with MPS, are they eligible to apply?

Partners can be new or existing. However, the goal is to bring in new resources, thus expanding the service to more students.

7. Can a school partner with another school and/or multiple organizations?

Yes. A school may choose to partner with one or more organizations or groups. Likewise, an organization may choose to partner with more than one school.

8. What is considered an eligible resource match?

Matching resources must be current year resources from outside the MPS budget. Cash matches must be supported with a letter of confirmation from the funder(s). The cash match resources to support the project may not be submitted in more than one application.

9. Can the required match be in-kind resources?

Yes. In-kind services is defined as non-monetary support of arts-related activities that provide direct services to students and can be translated into a dollar value. Examples of in-kind services include: art supplies for arts activity, musical instruments, instructors' time, supervision of activity by partner support staff, staff training, and transportation. Administrative and overhead costs are not acceptable as matching resources.

10. What is the date that matching dollars should be received in order to be considered new resources?

Matching resources from outside MPS need to be for the current budget year – July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010. Matching resources must be designated for the program for which you are applying and can not be used for any other grant application.

11. Can the MPS Extension Funds be used to support activities during the regular school day?

No. Extension Funds may only be used for activities that occur outside of the regular school day, i.e., before or after-school programs, evening hours, Saturdays, summer programs, and inter-sessions of year-round schools.

12. Can matching resources secured from outside the MPS budget be used to support activities during the regular school day?

Yes.

13. How do schools find out the average salary for a teacher and other salaries to be budgeted?

The annual average teacher salary for FY10 is \$56,500. The part-time certificated rate is rounded up to \$25 per hour. The average teacher pay for extra days (weekends or summer) is \$37 per hour. The fringe benefit rate is 62.8%.

14. The grant proposal requests project goals and expected outcomes. How are these defined?

A *goal* refers to the overall change expected as a result of a project. Goals describe the overriding purpose of a project and are written as concise, general statements, not immediately measurable.

Example: To increase student participation in vocal music.

An *expected outcome* refers to *outcome objectives* for the project describing exactly what the student, population, or group is expected to know or to be able to do after participating in the project. The outcome objectives should be stated in measurable terms often referred to as "SMART" objectives. That is, S – Specific; M- Measurable; A- Appropriate; R- Realistic; and T – time specific.

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