



Classroom Innovation Grant Application (*formerly Venture Grants*)

Deadline - October 27, 2010

Overview

The information that you will include in the attached application form will provide the LPEF Grants Committee with the data needed to determine whether or not to fund your project. Applications may be from staff, students, parents or community members who partner with School District of La Crosse staff. Applications for other opportunities with the Foundation are available for download on our website at www.lpefonline.org.

Guidelines

- Grants must serve the students in the School District of La Crosse.
- Projects must be innovative, creative and new funding initiatives within the School District of La Crosse.
- The grant may be denied if another funding source might be more appropriate.
- Project funds must be spent by May of 2012.
- Interim and final reports will be required.
- Payments for services of La Crosse School District employees are prohibited.

Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Priority is given for Classroom Innovation Grants that:

- meet multiple educational objectives
- align with district/school/curricular goals
- impact a variety of students and/or schools
- are collaborative
- are sustainable

Please see the Classroom Innovation Grant evaluation rubric for the grant proposal evaluation criteria. Although most applications are worthy of awarding, the committee has limited funding and must set priorities that help the foundation fulfill its mission.

Instructions

- € Complete the following grant application.
- € Save as a Word document. Name the document the same name as your grant proposal.
- € Print page 1 of the application. Sign and obtain other necessary signatures. Submit a paper copy of page 1 to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation at Hogan via inter-school mail or by mail to P.O. Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602-1811.
- € Submit the entire application electronically to lpef@centurytel.net.
- € Both the paper copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Geva Thole at 608-397-0176.



**La Crosse Public Education Foundation
Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

Section 1: Personal Information:

Name : Lisa Boyer/Dirk Hunter

School: Summit

Position/Title: Specially Designed PE Teacher, Principal
Chair of the Unique "Green" Features Committee – Summit School

School Phone: 608 789-7980

Section 2: Basic Project Information:

Project Title: Innovative Treescape – Bringing the Outdoors In

Total Request \$2500.00

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Principal _____

Signature of IT Department Rep (if applicable) _____

The intention of the Foundation is to fund projects not covered by the regular school budget. Please document that regular avenues of funding have been exhausted. (i.e. requests to Principal and curriculum supervisors)

We have been given a budget from the School District of La Crosse to get our environmental focus school up and running. However, there is no money available for this proposed innovative structure or for any of the outdoor learning areas we hope to develop as well. Given the tight budget times we live in, we are committed to finding other sources of funding for these types of physical improvements focused on the environment. The district just spent over a million dollars on other improvements to Summit including new HVAC Systems and a new pick up and drop off area for parents and buses. Later in the grant you will notice several other grants we are in the process of writing to support work in other areas. We have \$2,500.00 in matching funds to go along with the \$2,500.00 we are requesting from the LPEF for this project.

Section 3: Project Description:

- I. “Innovative Treescape – Bringing the Outdoors In”
- a. This grant will help to provide a unique visual treescape to be built into our school foyer as a permanent structure which will be an interactive site for all of our students for years to come. We are working with a local whole tree architect who will design, construct and install this natural treescape which will serve as a focal point for our environmental work. This treescape will be completed by April 15, 2011 resulting in our students beginning to use this site as an instructional resource and demonstration area for their environmental work.

II.

Objectives of Project	List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)	State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.
<p>Develop a unique interactive learning structure that all students, regular education and special education students, can use to...</p> <p>... demonstrate the environmental knowledge and concepts they have learned,</p> <p>... to allow our staff to identify some key environmental learning themes or essential questions for our students to think about each month,</p> <p>...to help our students learn the importance that plants play in our lives and the different uses of trees and plants</p> <p>...to demonstrate for our students the use of other more natural building materials that don't have long term negative affects on the environment</p> <p>...identify to parents, students and staff that Summit School is truly a unique environmental learning community</p>	<p>School Goals include...</p> <p><u>Overall Goal</u> Help students become environmentally aware so their own actions will help to build a balanced environment.</p> <p><u>Sub Goals...</u> ...Students will demonstrate an understanding of the natural environment and the interrelationship among natural systems and people. ...Students will develop an understanding and commitment to environmental stewardship. ...Students will be able to identify, investigate and evaluate environmental problems and issues, be able to communicate this understanding to others, and use this information as they become active citizens. ...Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the many different recreational opportunities that exist in the natural environment and how their recreational activities impact environmental systems.</p>	<p>Sample Instructional Outcomes:</p> <p>..Each teacher will submit a list of the different student activities, projects, etc., they have done incorporating the treescape structure</p> <p>... Keep a list of the essential questions that will be posted on the tree throughout the year and samples of student responses</p> <p>...4th & 5th grade students will be asked to identify building materials that are better for the environment long term</p> <p>...Get feedback from students, parents and staff re: effectiveness of the structure</p>
	<p>We are following all the district curriculum and the interactive environmental units are all directly aligned with our</p>	

	current elementary science curriculum and units.	
	We are also designing our instruction around the five tenets of environmental education which are very similar to the goals above.	

III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
Unique "Green" Features (UGF) Subcommittee will meet with Roald Gundersen to complete a design for this project within budget.	Lisa Boyer, Chair of this committee and the Unique "Green" Features Subcommittee	Time for committee to meet	December 1, 2010
Roald Gundersen will complete the final design of this natural treescape and present it to the UGF Subcommittee	Roald Gundersen & Lisa Boyer	Drawings	December 15th
The UGF Subcommittee will present the design to the EED Steering Committee for final approval...This will also include a timeline for Mr. Gundersen to start and complete the project.	UGF Subcommittee Roald Gundersen AIA CEO Architect Whole Trees Architecture and Construction	The final design	Completed at the EED Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for December 15 th
THE UGF Subcommittee will	UGF Subcommittee	Set of Guidelines List of Possible uses	February 15 th , 2011

develop a set of guidelines and possible interactive activities that will be implemented with this natural treescape.			
Grade level teachers will write in and develop plans for use of this interactive treescape as they continue to write their environmental units	Grade Level Teachers	Written Environmental Units	March 15 th , 2011
Staff will begin to use this treescape as soon as its construction is completed.	Environmental Education Steering Committee	List of themes or essential questions from the Env Ed Steering Committee, identified student projects/research/ideas to be posted	April 15 th , 2011
All staff will fill out an evaluation survey indicating the level of effectiveness of this structure and how it can be improved upon in the future.	UGF Subcommittee	Copy of the survey	May 2012

IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

This seed money will provide a unique visual, natural treescape to be built in our school foyer as a permanent structure which will be an interactive site for all of our students for years to come. This structure will not require any significant maintenance other than routine dusting.

V. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project? Explain your number.

We currently have 325 students at Summit and plan to grow this by about 20 students a year until we reach capacity. Because this environmental school concept is actually happening now and supported by our district and school board, for many years to come students attending Summit will all have the opportunity to enjoy and interact with this unique feature.

VI. Please state how you will collaborate with...

Other organizations in the community (if applicable)

As we developed our vision and mission for our environmental school focus we have been working with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) out of Steven Point for about 11 months. During this time they have been a significant partner with us providing inservices and

training for our staff. Most recently on October 6th, they visited our school for the third time, walked the grounds, met with our subcommittees to help us identify meaningful environmental projects our students could get involved with as we grow this concept. They have been a partner in developing plans for this area. Also, on October 6th, the WCEE led us through a unique visioning experience using a World Café Model where we invited in 15 Environmental Partners from this area who will be working with us as we move forward. These partners included people from the USGS Sciences Center, Myrick/Hixon EcoPark, Bluff Country Master Gardeners, US Fish & Wildlife, WI DNR, Recycling Coordinators, La Crosse County Sustainability Program, WI DPI Environmental Education Coordinator, representatives from UW-La Crosse, and some others. These partners will be working with our grade level teachers beginning this month to develop hands-on integrated environmental activities for our students. Our district Buildings & Grounds Department is on board and supportive of this innovative project.

Other schools in the district (if applicable)

We hope to become an environmental resource center/site for all our schools in the district. We hope to be able to provide outdoor areas for other schools to use which are right here on our site. We hope to serve as a resource for teachers throughout the district who can come to Summit and review resources or meet with our teachers regarding environmental activities.

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)

This new school focus is school-wide. All classrooms and grade levels are involved with designing activities and curriculum. We currently have more than 25 of our teachers serving on related committees focusing on different aspects of design and implementation.

VII. What will happen to the project at the conclusion of the grant? If it is to continue, how will it be sustained?

As was mentioned above, this environmental concept is the direction for Summit School for the next 30 years and beyond. We have already written the first of three integrated environmental units this summer, we have four committees that are very active including an Environmental Practices Subcommittee, our Unique “Green” Features Subcommittee, our Outdoor Education Area Subcommittee and our Environmental Education Steering Committee which oversees the work of all other committees. We have commitments from several partners to work with us over the course of the next several years. Our school will only continue to grow in its offerings and opportunities for students and families. This innovative treescape will not require any additional money to maintain.

VIII. How could the project be shared with other teachers and schools to benefit more students?

In addition to the comments listed, each summer in the month of June we plan to offer between 8-10 environmental classes for any student in the community to attend. We plan on calling this the Summit Summer Environmental Science Academy where teachers across the district could teach an environmental class here at Summit using this treescape, our outdoor sites and our resources.

Section 4: Budget Information:

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
Interactive Natural Treescape	Roald Gundersen	\$5000.000
...design, construction and installation		

Total request: \$2500.00

Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable):

None immediately.... Summit has had an on-going Student Activities Account entitled Environmental Activities. This is money that has been donated or raised. This money has been used for environmental enhancements to the school property, it has supported all-school environmental trips, etc. We will be using \$2500.00 of this account as matching funds to support this project. It is possible this project will come in under the \$5000.00 amount as we work through the details with the consultant and designer.

Total budget to accomplish project: \$5,000.00...\$2,500 to come from our environmental fund and \$2,500 to come from this LPEF Grant.

Section 5: Summary:

How will this project bring visibility to LPEF in the community?

We think this project is the type of innovative and unique project that the LPEF is hoping to support. It ties into a much larger school-wide vision and direction and will be sustainable for decades. This will be one of the major focal points in our school and will serve as a model for other projects the LPEF may want to support or fund in the future.

Please provide a one paragraph summary of your project including an explanation of why we should fund your project.

Creating an interactive natural treescape in our school foyer will serve as a focal point for everything we do here at Summit for many years into the future. It will clearly communicate that Summit School is a unique environmental experience for the students and families that attend here. It will serve as a constant reminder of our environmental goals and it will be a place where students become active participants in the environmental themes. One of the major goals of the LPEF has always appeared to be helping teachers to create a more authentic and meaningful approach towards their instruction for students. We believe teaching through environmental themes and hands-on activities in the outdoors and within our school supports the more authentic and unique learning goals of the LPEF. This project is one of many others we are developing. Others include creating outdoor education areas on our property that align directly with our environmental curriculum and units, developing environmental practices that are more environmentally friendly, and writing integrated environmental units at every grade level which will focus on hands-on outdoor experiences for our students and which involve many different community agencies and organizations as environmental partners working with our teachers.