

1. Project Name: Multipurpose Annex

2. Project Number: 27

3. Campus Name: Taft Middle School

4. Project Description:

Our school seeks funding for the construction of a Multipurpose Annex. The Annex will serve as a multipurpose space remedying several facility deficiencies at our school. Currently, our auditorium has a 391 person seating capacity while our student population averages 660 students. Additionally, we have one gym area while four of the five other similar schools have two. The new space will serve both as an auditorium with a 900-1000 seat capacity and as a gymnasium allowing expanded opportunities to be offered through our PE, performing arts, and extracurricular departments. Additionally, the space would be flexible enough to accommodate other purposes such as serving as a meeting space for Show Choir rehearsals (currently in the cafeteria), wrestling practice room (currently wedged behind the gym bleachers), Academic Support Classroom (currently in a hallway during lunch), and as a community space for leadership and community service groups.

5. Project Objectives:

By providing an adequate and flexible space, many groups of students, parents and community members will benefit. As a gymnasium, this space will allow for more student involvement and learning. More students would be involved during PE class instead of sitting out waiting for their turn, especially during our Crossfit fitness station program that emphasizes individual lifelong exercise. Currently, many students engage in 6am athletic practices which greatly inhibit their learning throughout the day. Increased space would allow most practices to be after school. The community (YMCA, adult education, student leadership groups) would also benefit. We currently have a long waiting list of groups that want to use our facility. As an auditorium, this space would allow for larger audiences for plays, musicals, and community presentations. Currently, our only possible space for a whole-school assembly is in the gymnasium. The flexibility of this new space would allow it to transform into a more formal auditorium - an excellent setting for graduation, class meetings, and community speakers. The space could be used by several elementary schools who currently request our auditorium for talent shows, etc. This space will serve as a cultural hub for the community. And as a community center, this space could be adapted to a wide variety of community groups looking for a convenient space on this side of town. Providing appropriate technology such as Wi-Fi and projection capabilities would offer both adult and student groups a 21st century meeting space.

6. General Information:

The best attribute of the proposed facility is its flexible nature. Student learning would be greatly enhanced by a variety of experiences such as fitness activities, fine arts performances, multimedia internet-based presentations, and community activities. Students will be offered the opportunity to both attain and demonstrate new knowledge. This space will serve as an anchor the neighborhood experiencing a high

level of new housing construction. Families must be given a reason to build in a neighborhood. A state of the art auditorium/gymnasium provides such a reason.

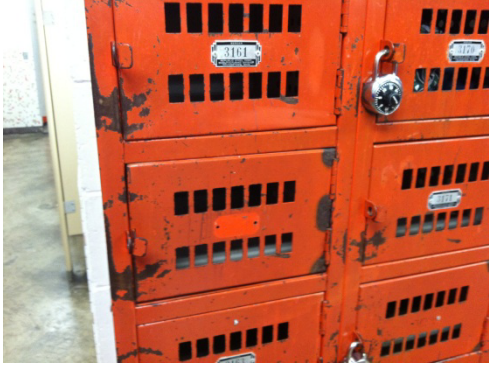
7. Summary:

Construction of a multipurpose space meets the needs of our school and community while holding true to key points of the District's Strategic Plan – Academic Performance, Student Development, and Community Involvement. The space allows for greatly enhanced opportunities in the areas of fitness and the performing arts as well as providing the community a safe, clean, and accessible meeting space in the evenings. The space will be attractive to families considering new construction and will rival similar construction by school districts in other parts of the city. Students and families must be given a reason to choose us over competing school districts.

8. Project Outcomes:

This project's effect on our school will be easily measured by the hours of school and community use as well as feedback from students, parents, and community groups. The project already has the endorsement of our PTA who sees the potential benefits for both our student body and the greater neighborhood. Additionally, the project's effectiveness will be measured by the increased opportunities for students such as an enhanced fitness program, additional performing groups, and expanded community program use. In an era where fiscal responsibility is of vital concern, this project is a winner.

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