

MVCC Education, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting  
Mar Vista Farmers Market, Grand View at Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90066  
Sunday, January 10, 2009, 10:30 AM-12 PM  
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/yllhxco>

Chairs: Kate Anderson and Babak Nahid

*Draft Agenda*

1. Introductions and Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Funding motion: Learning Garden Venice High School CIG Application
4. Funding motion: PS Arts CIG application.
5. Discussion of outreach to schools: progress reports on compiling area contact list.
6. Discussion of next Education Summit
7. Future Agenda Items
8. Adjourn

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**ATTACHMENTS**

***Attachment 1a:***

**Mar Vista Community Council  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

**Date:**

**Amount Requested:** \$2,201.35

**Contact Person:** Julie Mann  
310-306-8291  
[Ma13nn@aol.com](mailto:Ma13nn@aol.com)

**Project Leader:** Marianne Brown  
[m\\_p\\_brown@ca.rr.com](mailto:m_p_brown@ca.rr.com)

**Community organization:** The Learning Garden (at Venice High School), 13000 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

**Authorized signature:** Julie Mann, Chief Financial Officer

**Description of project:** Two Water-wise Demonstration Gardens for the Mar Vista community

The Learning Garden at Venice High School is a teaching garden – not only for high school students, but for the whole community. We are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm to visitors and volunteers. Our classes and workshops teach sustainable organic horticulture, composting, permaculture, nutrition, medicinal herbology, healing arts, alternative energies, water conservation and many other subjects connected to plants and the environment. Due to ecological reasons, it is imperative that our community change their thinking in regards to their use of water, and use of their land.

In order to educate community members about how to garden in a water-wise way, we propose the creation of two on-site demonstration gardens that show both the beauty and utility of changing lawns into

water-wise gardens. We will create an 18 x 5 foot drought tolerant ornamental garden and a 31 x 14 foot water-wise vegetable garden utilizing drip and soaker hoses connected to a sensor/timer. The gardens will exhibit techniques and tips for reducing water usage while creating attractive and functional displays. The best way to teach is to show, and when the residents of Mar Vista see what can be done in their yards, they will have all the resources at The Learning Garden for them to accomplish these changes. The Learning Garden makes water-wise gardening education, mulch, seeds and plants available to our neighboring schools and community.

The project will begin upon award of the grant, and take place over a six month period, involving high school students and community volunteers, starting from design, soil preparation, drip system installation, planting, and signage installation to publicize their existence on the Walgrove Avenue and Venice Boulevard sides of the garden, as well as signs in each demonstration garden which describe how the garden was created, cost per square foot, and websites where other related information can be obtained. The Learning Garden at Venice High School will plan to be a stop on the Mar Vista Green Garden Tour in the spring of 2010 to present these gardens, and we will also publicize their existence in other community venues such as schools, churches, and libraries.

**Enclosed:** Budget and support material, map, IRS determination letter.

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**Attachment 1b:**

THE LEARNING GARDEN  
 Mar Vista Community Council Grant Budget

<i>AMT</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Price Each</i>	<i>Total</i>
	TOOLS			
12	Spading Forks	Sears	24.99	299.88
12	Metal Level Head Rakes	AM Leonard LH14R	31.99	383.88
12	Leaf Rakes	AM Leonard MSRC218	19.99	239.88
		Shipping for above	39.25	39.25
	IRRIGATION SUPPLIES			
				0
3	100 ft rolls soaker hose	Peaceful Valley IRP 660	49.99	149.97
100	Barbed cuplers	Peaceful Valley IRC610	.44	44.00
30	Elbows	Peaceful Valley IRC615	.75	26.70
30	Barbed Ends	Peaceful Valley IRC 641	.74	22.20
4	Hose Fittings	Peaceful Valley IRC625	1.42	5.68
6	Tees	Peaceful Valley IRC620	.89	5.34
200	Hose clamps	Peaceful Valley IRC607	.59	118.00
4	Flushable filters	Peaceful Valley IRF175	11.99	47.96
3	Pressure Regulators	Peaceful Valley IRH820	4.99	14.97
3	Vacuum Breakers	Peaceful Valley IRF1000	3.99	11.97
		Sales tax on above	36.87	36.87
		Shipping on above	22.31	22.31
1	Melnor Acqua Timer	Home Depot	39.90	39.90
		Sales tax on above	3.89	3.89
	B&B Hardware, etc.	Misc irrigation supplies	50.00	50.00
	OTHER			
				0
3	Brother label tape rolls	Office Depot TZ241	19.39	58.17
		Tax	5.67	5.67
2	Signs	VHS Woodshop	50.00	100.00
3	Hrs Installation Labor	David King	50.00	150.00

2	Fence Banners	Kinkos	162.43	324.86
	TOTAL			2201.35

**Attachment 2a:**

**Mar Vista Community Council  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

The aim of the MVCC Community Improvement Grants (CIG) program is to provide funding to appropriate projects intended to improve the quality of life the people of Mar Vista. Please contact the MVCC chair at info@marvista.org for more information.

Community Improvement Grants must normally be approved at committee level and then approved by the Board of Directors. Attendance at these meetings is not mandatory but highly recommended to help answer stakeholder questions about your application. For meeting dates, please visit www.marvista.org.

**Date:** 11/23/09

**Amount Requested:** \$2,700

**Name of contact person filling out this application:** Alison Forbes, Development Officer

**Telephone number of contact person:** 310-586-2386

**Email address of contact person:** alison.forbes@psarts.org

**Name of community organization to receive grant funds on behalf of applicant:** P.S. ARTS

**Address of organization named:** 11965 Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90066

**Authorized signature of sponsoring organization:**



Howard Spector, P.S. ARTS Executive Director

**Description of your project:**

P.S. ARTS' mission is to restore arts education to Title I public schools by providing children with comprehensive, skill-based, sequential classes in Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. The goals of our programs are to engage young minds, develop creative skills, improve observational powers, increase receptivity and develop problem solving tools—skills that serve children in all areas of their academic and personal development. In addition, P.S. ARTS programs help students develop grade-level appropriate concepts and skills in the arts and help them identify connections between the arts and core subjects like language arts, social studies, math and science.

P.S. ARTS has become a leader in the field of arts education by providing programs to schools in disadvantaged areas, serving children who live at or below the federal poverty level. Currently, P.S. ARTS serves nearly 11,000 elementary and middle school students in five school districts including Los Angeles Unified, Lawndale, Santa Monica/Malibu, Lenox, and Reef/Sunset. Of the students served, approximately 70% are Latino/Hispanic, 13% are African-American, 12% are Caucasian, 4% are Asian, 1% are Filipino, 1% are Pacific Islander, and less than 1% are Native American. About 75% live at or

below the Federal Poverty Level (\$22,500 for a family of four), 50% are English language learners, and 10% have special needs.

**Project:**

P.S. ARTS began its relationship with the Mar Vista Schools in 1994. P.S. ARTS started programs at Grand View Elementary School by providing about 600 students with comprehensive, skill-based arts education. In 1998 and 1999 Beethoven and Walgrove Elementary Schools were added. Today, P.S. ARTS serves approximately 1,300 students in Mar Vista. Of those students, about 63% are Latino/Hispanic, 8% are African-American, 23% are Caucasian, 2% are Asian, 1% self-selected multiple or no response, and less than 1% are Native American. About 66% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 35% are English Language Learners.

P.S. ARTS offers the Mar Vista schools a conservatory model offering one or two traditional art disciplines per school. Schools may choose disciplines depending on their needs. Each discipline is taught by a professional Teaching Artist (a professional artist with classroom experience) for upwards of 30 weeks from September 2009 to June 2010. In addition, P.S. ARTS offers a professional development partner program between classroom teachers and Teaching Artists to support skills development and strategies for integrating the arts across school curriculum. All of P.S. ARTS' instruction is built upon the California Department of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Standards, and is responsive to the particular needs of each partnering school community. P.S. ARTS differs from many artists-in-residence programs in that P.S. ARTS' instruction is scheduled for the full school year during the school day along with core subjects, and serve the school's entire student population. In addition, P.S. ARTS has long-standing relationships with school partners and Teaching Artists, therefore the same artists serve the same schools, and students, consistently from year-to-year, giving the children a much needed sense of stability and continuity.

P.S. ARTS students are consistently recognized for excellence and technical mastery in the arts. They have earned top awards in numerous district and citywide art competitions this year, including the highly competitive Los Angeles County Student Art Contest, and the Cesar E. Chavez Art Contest sponsored by the California Teachers Association. Above and beyond exemplary arts skills, our surveys show that 80% of classroom teachers observed measurable academic and social gains in students participating in P.S. ARTS classes—including English language acquisition, vocabulary expansion, and key math and science concept development. School administrators have recognized the arts as uniquely suited to minimize the education inequities for those who are not fluent English speakers as well as those with special needs.

The direct benefits of the P.S. ARTS programs are clearly evident in the quantitative results of our multi-year program evaluation. An analysis of the survey data collected in the 2007-2008 school year indicates that over 95% of the teachers and administrators surveyed (N = 60) have observed artistic gains in their students participating in the P.S. ARTS program. 96% of respondents have observed social gains, and 75% have observed academic gains. These results, along with the breadth of research in the arts education field, indicate that more time allotted to arts in schools would contribute to substantial increases in students' academic and social performance. Additionally, we found that the average academic performance score in P.S. ARTS schools increased 11 points per year in comparison to the state average score increase of about 5 points per year in Title I schools.

**Funding Opportunity:**

Adequate music and visual art supplies are crucial to the success of our programs. For the 2009/2010 school year, P.S. ARTS will spend approximately \$6,900 on art supplies for Mar Vista schools alone. A contribution to the cost of music and visual art supplies is, therefore, greatly appreciated. A gift made to a specific school (or schools) is defined as a restricted gift, and it is tracked separately for each school. As a restricted gift for Mar Vista schools, funds will be designated specifically for Grand View Elementary, Walgrove, and Beethoven. Teaching Artists would request supplies as they need them, programs staff would buy them from the vendors we normally use, and the supplies would be charged to the grant. If funded, the grant award will be spent by the end of the school year—June 30, 2010.

Music and Visual Art Supplies for the 2009/2010 school year:

School	Cost of Supplies	
Beethoven Elementary School	\$350	Recorders for Fourth Graders*
	\$370	One Third of Visual Art Supplies for the year
Grand View Elementary School	\$500	Recorders for Fourth Graders*
	\$660	One Third of Visual Art Supplies for the year
Walgrove Elementary School	\$400	Dulcimer Instruments
	\$420	One Third of Visual Art Supplies for the year
Total	\$2,700	

\* Each year, fourth grade students at Beethoven and Grand View Elementary School receive a recorder, which they are able to bring home and keep at the end of school year.

#### Acknowledgements

P.S. ARTS recognizes all gifts on the website ([www.psarts.org](http://www.psarts.org)) and, if funded, P.S. ARTS would include acknowledgements of the gift from the Mar Vista Community Council on printed materials for the Mar Vista schools, such as school fliers, programs, etc.

#### Closing

We hope that you will join our efforts to restore the arts to our public schools with a grant of \$2,700 for music and visual art supplies. On behalf of the Board, staff, and—most importantly—thousands of children we serve, I would like to thank the Mar Vista Community Council for its consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me, Alison Forbes, at (310) 586-2386.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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#### Attachment 2b:

PSARTS\_501 (c)(3) letter.pdf  
[Download \(90K\)](#) [Print \(2 pages\)](#) [Plain HTML](#)

