

GDEF Announces Bruce J. Anderson Grant to Implement “Integration of the Arts” Project

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce it has once again been awarded a grant from the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation, a supporting organization of the Boston Foundation. GDEF recently received a \$4,000 grant to continue the “Integration of the Arts” project. This exciting endeavor will allow us to offer additional enrichment opportunities specifically in the area of arts education for every child in our school district. We encourage you to please read below for more information on GDEF’s existing grant process and further details on the “call for proposals” for the “Integration of the Arts” project or visit the Bruce J. Anderson link on our home page at www.gdefinc.org to learn more about the “Integration of the Arts” project and grants previously funded through this program.

We hope that providing this information will allow you time to generate ideas and research grant opportunities in advance of our April 2, 2010 grant cycle deadline.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Kerri Figueroa, GDEF President, at KFigueroa@gdefinc.org or 978-449-9690 or Lorrie Morgan, GDEF Director, at LMorgan@gdefinc.org or 978-448-6898.

GDEF Background Information

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF) grants funds towards creative classroom and curriculum programs as well as professional development opportunities within the public school system, with the goal of inspiring students and educators to strive for the creativity and applied learning necessary to achieve more than they could have solely utilizing public funds.

Philosophically, the GDEF believes that public education is the responsibility of the public – of the people of the towns of Groton and Dunstable – as are public health and public safety. The GDEF was started with the understanding that, even in the best of economic times, there is always more that our communities want to achieve relative to the education of their children. There are always inspiring, motivating programs that “don’t make the cut,” or creative ideas that are never proposed because they probably won’t or can’t be considered due to budget (or other) constraints. These are the ideas and programs that the GDEF is interested in potentially funding.

The GDEF does not use, nor has it ever used, its funds to make up for state cuts to its schools’ operating budgets. As a private foundation run exclusively by volunteers, it has no direct organizational ties to the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. The by-laws address conflicts of interest, including limiting officer positions and membership on the Board of Directors to individuals not employed by the School District.

Grant Applications

The GDEF holds two grant cycles per year: a fall mini-grant cycle with consideration given to grant requests of less than \$500 (deadline November 6, 2009) and a spring grant cycle (deadline Friday April 2, 2010) with no limit on the dollar amount of grant requests. Anyone interested in supporting the enrichment of education in the public schools in the communities of Groton and Dunstable may apply. The GDEF encourages a partnership between educators and other community members, including parents, students, and senior citizens, in proposing innovative and creative programs. While the GDEF's vision focuses on academic- and arts-oriented programs, any programs which seek to engage a student's curiosity, encourage a lifelong love of learning and desire to strive for excellence, and embrace the overall development of the student will be considered. A copy of the GDEF Grant Application Form can be found at www.gdefinc.org by clicking on the "Applications and Forms" menu.

Grant Guidelines

The GDEF will take the following guidelines into account when reviewing grant applications:

1. Funded programs should supplement the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District budget, not supplant it. Grants are intended to provide the seed money necessary to pilot programs which would not otherwise be possible. The GDEF discourages dependence upon grants for ongoing programming.
2. Priority will be placed on programs that have a direct impact on students, present opportunities across the student population, and ensure continuity between the elementary, middle, and high school curricula.
3. The GDEF will consider each grant request, without regard to precedence, based on its own merits.

Grant Evaluation

All grant applications must be postmarked by the published deadline. Copies of all applications are given to each Director as well as to each member of the Grants Review Committee. This advisory committee, comprised of community members with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise including educators employed outside of or retired from the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, is chaired by the GDEF Director of Grant Disbursement. It is the responsibility of the Grants Review Committee to evaluate each application on its individual merits and in relation to the mission, goals and objectives of the GDEF. The evaluations and recommendations of the Grants Review Committee are presented by the Chairperson of the Committee to the GDEF's full Board of Directors, who vote on the approval of applications by a majority vote.

Allocation of Funds

Allocation of funds is completely discretionary based on the merits of individual proposals. There is no set ratio or percentage allocated to each town or school within the school district.

Call for Proposals for the “Integration of the Arts” Project

The GDEF is issuing a special “call for proposals” for its *“Integration of the Arts”* project. The goals of the *“Integration of the Arts”* project are as follows:

1. To increase enrichment opportunities in arts education for every child in the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District by enabling teachers to pursue creative enhancements to their curriculum that might not otherwise be accessible to them. Enhancements can include classroom programs and/or professional development opportunities.
2. To include planned cross-curriculum application if possible
3. To encourage collaboration with community organizations

The deadline for proposals is the same as that of GDEF’s spring grant cycle, **April 2, 2010**.

Applications are available at www.gdefinc.org by clicking on the “Applications and Forms” menu. Submissions for the *“Integration of the Arts”* project should use the appropriate grant application (either mini-grant application for requests of less than \$500 or regular grant application for all other requests) and be clearly labeled as being considered for the *“Integration of the Arts”* project. Visit the Bruce J. Anderson link under “News and Events” on our home page to read about the six exciting grant opportunities previously funded through the *“Integration of the Arts”* project.

Criteria

Proposals will be considered in the Arts subject areas (e.g., music, visual arts, drama, dance, and English language arts such as poetry) as well as any subject area where integration of the arts will bring that subject area alive on many levels for its students.

Proposals may be pilots at a single school or a district-wide initiative and must adhere to the general guidelines established by GDEF (as outlined above).

In keeping with the GDEF’s current grant procedures, proposals can be initiated by educators, parents, students, and community members. The GDEF strongly encourages applicants to partner with local artists, performers, and cultural institutions to foster relationships with and benefit from these community resources. These could include but are not limited to:

Indian Hill Music Center
“Arts Integration Specialist” to work with classroom teachers on art projects to enhance the core curriculum
NOA Gallery School
Fruitlands Museum (historic dramatization)
The Groton, Dunstable, and Townsend Historical Societies
The Groton Public Library
Music ensembles and local performing troupes
Community service groups of Groton School and Lawrence Academy

Grants will be funded solely on the basis of merit and not merely to fulfill a budget. Therefore, if the proposals of merit for the *“Integration of the Arts”* project from the fall 2009 grant cycle do not equal or exceed the existing budget, grant applications for this project will continue to be accepted for our spring cycle in March 2010 and beyond as necessary.

In accordance with GDEF’s existing “Grant Terms and Conditions,” as outlined on page 6 of the Grant Application form, both a progress report and completed Grant Evaluation form will be required of grant applicants whose grants are awarded by GDEF.