



U X B R I D G E

Community Enrichment Program

21 S. Main Street, Uxbridge MA 01569
kknapik@ubridge.k12.ma.us

Monthly Report: July 2007 – September 2007

Karin D. Knapik – Director of Grants and Community Enrichment Programming

Overview of Activities

The Attic Museum, VAS and Millworks Gallery

As I went looking for a template to complete my report for the month, I was reminded of the fact that I lost six months worth of electronic information related to the fire. Not too bad considering my computer has melted and transformed into some material unrecognizable to me.

I have had an opportunity to speak with a number of you about what was lost in the fire but I thought it worthwhile to provide an overview for the committee. I have good news and bad news, as the story often says. The good news was that the Attic Children's Museum sustained only minor damages; mostly related to water and smoke. The museum was filled with exhibits that had been created for the elementary students by our high school's Explore and Discover classes over the past 10 years. I was brought to tears when I saw, with my own eyes, that most of these exhibits are salvageable. It is truly amazing when you see the damage that has been sustained on the bottom and attic floors of that building. I can only assume some firefighter said "try not to break those stained glass windows" (also created by students) that hung in each of the museum's windows that kept the space and its contents relatively unscathed.

The bad news – the Visiting Artist Studios, along with the Millworks Gallery, are completely and totally gone. As Chief Ostrosky said "Karin, I watched it burn, then melt, then fall through the floor". The district lost approximately \$35,000 in materials, supplies, and equipment, along with artwork that had been donated to the space over the years by visiting artists, studios and others involved with the VAS. We also lost all of our grant files with the exception of FY06 (which I happened to have at home with me that weekend). The visiting artists themselves also lost all of their belongings along with years and years of artwork. It was, and still is, devastating for all. The community support has been wonderful and the VAS has received donations of supplies and materials, primarily through the Art from the Ashes event that was held by Alternatives to benefit all the VAS artists. Another bright moment came when I realized I had a backup of my computer from last January which meant I didn't have to start from scratch while writing things such as this school committee report to you and many of the grants that we have written proposal for in the past.

We have been looking for new space for the VAS, the Museum and the Gallery. Dan and I have been exploring a variety of options and hope to have a plan ready in the near future.

The VAS will be offering free crafts to the community during First Holiday Night utilizing the Mosaic Mill space at the Unitarian Church.

The After Hours Program

The fall schedule for the After Hours program has gone out to students and sign-ups have begun (see attached). We have a number of exciting offerings this semester that we are sure will keep kids engaged and excited during the after school hours.

Grants

The grant season is here!! I have been busy writing grants for federal and state RFPs and entitlement grants along with private foundation requests. Here is a summary of what I has been submitted, what is in the works and what's on my plate for the future.

Since July I have written the following grants;

1. Federal NCLB consolidated grant packet
2. The DOE's Alternative Education grant, which was subsequently declined.
3. The DOE's Quality After School grant, which we will hear about in the next few weeks
4. The Department of Justice's Secure Our Schools Grant which was declined
5. A grant to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation for assistance with rent to get the VAS and Attic Museum's back up and running again.

Currently I am working on the following grants for the month of October;

1. Preventing Youth Violence through the Department of Health, due Oct. 1.
2. Wellness Grant through the Department of Health, due Oct. 5th
3. Adams Art Grant through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, due Oct 5th
4. Gifted and Talented Planning Grant, due Oct. 7th
5. Uxbridge Cultural Council grants, due Oct. 15th.

In the future I am working toward;

1. Shade Foundation grant due in December
2. Energy Audit Grant due in February
3. Creative Schools grant due in February

I will have a full grant report ready for the committee by your next meeting.