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# 2006 Annual Report

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**21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY  
SCHOOL FUND**

IMPROVING URBAN PUBLIC  
SCHOOL FACILITIES

**Creating**



**Community**



**Anchors**



**[WWW.21CSF.org](http://WWW.21CSF.org)**





# 21st Century School Fund Annual Report 2006

## Table of Contents

Letter from Executive Director	3
Mission and Vision	4
About 21st Century School Fund	5-6
Program Areas	
Innovative Practice	7
Research	9
Communications	11
Civic Engagement and Government Reform	12-13
Audited Financial Statements	14-17
Board of Directors & Staff	18



Dear Friend of Public Education,

The 21st Century School Fund has continued to make significant contributions to building public will and capacity for high quality school facilities for low income families in urban communities within DC and nationally.

Through our research, policy advocacy, and leadership we see an increase in the public participation and policy support for better public school facility planning, design and construction.

A major initiative of 21st Century School Fund, Building Educational Success Together (BEST) combines the knowledge and experience of our BEST partners to bring insight and leadership to the issues of equity, adequacy and community engagement associated with public school facility conditions, design and utilization. BEST released a major new report, *Growth and Disparity: A Decade of U.S. Public School Construction*. BEST documented the expenditures of \$300 billion in hard construction costs in K through 12th grade school construction. This groundbreaking report also found that even with major investment by school districts for school construction, school districts with high proportions of children from low income families spent far less than their more affluent counterparts.

Looking to 2007, we anticipate another busy year working to continue research on schools and housing; a study on charter school facility finances with the Office of the State Superintendent; and facilities work with education advocates and local communities to secure high quality schools for students throughout DC. Across the country, we will engage new state and local partners in the Building Educational Success Together collaborative; launch new research to measure the impact of facilities on educational outcomes and neighborhood dynamics; and share the groundbreaking findings of the continuing inequity in school construction detailed in our 2006 report - Growth & Disparity.

The work we have done this year and the work to come in 2007 is only possible with your support. Thank you again for your commitment to ensuring a high quality education for every student.

Sincerely,



Mary Filardo



## **Mission**

To build the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities.

## **Vision**

A country where every child learns in an educationally appropriate, healthy and safe school that serves as a community anchor and is built and maintained in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.

# 21st Century School Fund

## Our History

When the 21st Century School Fund was founded in 1994, DC Public Schools (DCPS) had operated for over 25 years without a long-range facilities plan. It had underfunded maintenance and had not built a new school in over 20 years. With student enrollment in the District declining, many schools were threatened with closure. Many schools did, in fact, close temporarily due to fire code violations. Contributing to these problems, the District did not have the leadership that could help set a course to rebuild the school system. From 1995 to 2001, the District went through four superintendents, four different governance structures, and four directors of facilities.

In this environment characterized by crisis, the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF) was founded to help develop the first district-wide facilities master plan in two decades and to manage a public/private partnership for the DCPS Oyster Bilingual Elementary School. Through our work on these projects we amassed information and developed expertise on the facility needs and challenges facing the District's public schools.



Oyster Elementary School

Beginning in 2000, we expanded our focus from the District of Columbia to include urban communities nationwide. 21CSF and its Building Educational Success Together (BEST) collaborative partners have developed a joint research, constituency building and communications agenda to improve urban school facilities. Founded and managed by the 21st Century School Fund, BEST is a structured network of education reform, community development, and civil rights organizations that have collaborated to meet the need to bring new ideas and energy to the considerable challenges of urban public school quality throughout the nation.

## Our Work in DC

21st Century works directly with the community, school district personnel and individual public officials on building the District of Columbia Public Schools infrastructure. 21CSF consistently provides technical advice, advocacy, information, policy analysis, and development to other districts and nonprofit organizations. Through innovative projects, our expertise in public/private partnerships continues to create quality school environments that are helping to sustain and revitalize neighborhoods.

Involving the community in school reform issues is paramount in our efforts and 21CSF has helped the District of Columbia School System engage the community in a participatory master planning process in every district wide master plan since 1995. We also utilize technology to manage school facilities issues, have developed software to increase public participation in school facilities planning, and provide limited assistance to public charter schools on school facility issues in the District of Columbia.

### **Our Work Nationally**

BEST is an initiative of experienced constituency-building, research, and communications leaders from diverse organizations, who come together in a community of practice to develop and advance a coherent agenda for:

- Linking school facilities to educational outcomes
- Comprehensive participatory educational and community planning
- Schools that serve as centers of community
- School facilities management and oversight; and
- Secure, adequate, and equitable school facilities funding

Visit [www.BestSchoolFacilities.org](http://www.BestSchoolFacilities.org) for more information.

The Building Educational Success Together (BEST) Collaboration in 2006 was made up of the following organizations:

**21st Century School Fund** – Washington, DC

**Educational Law Center** – Newark, NJ

**KnowledgeWorks Foundation** – Cincinnati, OH

**National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities** – Washington, DC

**National Trust for Historic Preservation** – Washington, DC

**Neighborhood Capital Budget Group** – Chicago, IL

**New Visions for Public Schools** – New York, NY

**Center For Cities & Schools, University of California –Berkeley** – Berkeley, CA

# Innovative Practice

The 21st Century School Fund continued to create innovative approaches for improving public school facilities through practical application of our ideas, processes and methods – including the use of technology, community partnerships and alternative financing. Some of our key innovative projects over the last year included:

**21<sup>st</sup>CSF D.C.** Joint and Shared Use Development: 21CSF completed a feasibility study for the full renovation of the existing District of Columbia Public School, Savoy Elementary. The feasibility study includes the development of a community educational and recreational campus with recreation areas, a full sized gymnasium, fitness room and parent center, and physical education and recreation support spaces shared between Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School, Savoy Elementary and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation.

**21<sup>st</sup>CSF D.C.** Birney Co-location Project: 21CSF started planning for the co-location of Savoy Elementary into Birney Elementary while the Savoy facilities are being modernized. The co-location plan will improve the Birney facility so it is healthy, safe and will support the education and social programs and services of the Birney and Savoy students, but lays the groundwork for continued improvement in programs and services and enrollment growth at Birney once Savoy has left.

**21<sup>st</sup>CSF D.C.** New Orleans Rebuilding Support: 21CSF Staff and BEST Partners surveyed damage to five school buildings. 21CSF prepared a public-private partnership concept plan to re-open public schools in New Orleans and used Edward Hynes elementary school as a model.





21st Century School Fund completed a feasibility study for the full renovation of Savoy Elementary School in South East District of Columbia. Above is the front of Savoy and the entrance to the community center today. Below is Savoy and the center tomorrow (planned to be renovated by January of 2009).



# Research

The 21st Century School Fund is dedicated in producing high quality research, analysis and recommendations on many issues concerning school facilities. 21CSF collects and disseminates data and information on school facilities and sponsors research projects. Some of our key research projects over the last year included:

**21CSF D.C.** **Housing and Schools:** 21CSF established a working relationship with the Urban Institute and provided them with construction and educational data and worked with them to create new analytical frameworks for understanding the relationship between housing development and schools. This work helped generate Fannie Mae's research release, *Housing in the Nation's Capitol 2006*.



**21CSF D.C.** **School Choice:** Prepared numerous maps and charts for public meetings to inform parents on school utilization. We created a new section on our website called "Data Shop" where we post data and maps for broad public access. Through the contract with DCPS, 21CSF revived its website with comprehensive information on DCPS schools, now called DCPS School CloseUps. This gives parents and the public up-to-date information for making informed choices about DCPS schools. ([www.21CSF.org/schoolcloseups](http://www.21CSF.org/schoolcloseups))

**21CSF D.C.** **State Education Office:** In late 2006 21CSF started a joint research analysis on enrollment patterns in DC with the Urban Institute and Brookings. This research will help identify how neighborhood change has affected enrollment throughout DC.

**B&ST** **Growth & Disparity: A Decade of US Public School Construction 1995–2004:** In October of 2006, BEST partners published Growth & Disparity, a report based on a comprehensive research that revealed two major findings:

- First, there was unprecedented spending and growth in public school facility investment across the country between 1995 and 2004. Public Schools spent nearly \$600 billion including interest payments, "soft" costs (e.g., architectural and engineering fees), and land acquisition costs.
- Secondly, public dollars spent on school construction have not been equally available to affluent and low-income communities. Specifically, we found that poor school districts made the lowest facility investments (\$4,800/student), while affluent school districts made the highest investments (\$9,361/student).

**B&ST** **Growth & Disparity: Model State Companion Report for California:** Following the release of the national Growth & Disparity report, BEST partners began work on a companion report focusing on California state level construction spending and resource distribution, using the same linked data set. The analysis is currently in process.



21st Century School Fund staff and BEST Partners traveled to New Orleans to observe and research how to help devastated schools. In this classroom within Hynes Elementary School, witness the damage water and mold has created. In 2006, 21CSF developed a public-private partnership model to fix Hynes Elementary School and other public schools throughout New Orleans.

# Communications

The 21st Century School Fund continued to build awareness of the importance and impact of school facilities to education, community and political leaders around the country. Over the last year, our communications efforts were concentrated in four areas: building a new national web portal, ongoing media outreach, community outreach and presentations, and publication dissemination.

## **BEST Web Portal**

In 2006, 21CSF began working on the first stand alone web portal for BEST. The new BEST web portal is an integrated marketing, collaborative, and knowledge management tool that enables the partners to communicate to policy makers, researchers, advocates, and others. It enables the BEST members to showcase collaborative projects as well as their own projects that incorporate the BEST model policies. To begin with, the BEST web portal will target four key audiences – policy makers, researchers, advocacy groups, and the press – with specially designed entry points for each audience with predefined search links to important features within the site. In addition, visitors can search innovative practice, research, policy and publications pages selectively or go to a state profiles page for comprehensive and up-to-date facilities information focused on their state. The BEST web portal is scheduled to be publicly released in summer 2007. [www.BestSchoolFacilities.org](http://www.BestSchoolFacilities.org)

## **Media Outreach**

The primary media outreach strategy of the last year was tied to the release of the Growth & Disparity report. The report offered a coherent and compelling “hook” to continue spreading BEST’s message about the state of public school facility in the US. Our outreach efforts led to a front page article coinciding with the report’s release in Education Week on October 26th and over 30 other articles in various media throughout the US, including key venues in the mainstream, education and political press such as the Washington Post, Education Daily, Chicago Tribune, and several TV stations. Our media efforts have also advanced our federal policy advocacy resulting in key coverage in venues read by policy makers, praise in Congress by Senator Barack Obama, and ultimately the use of Growth & Disparity as critical evidence and background for a number of Congressional proposals for investment in school construction.

## **Community Outreach and Presentations**

One of our ongoing ways to reach our key audiences of educational, political and community advocates and leaders is to participate in gatherings and conferences across the country. 21CSF and our BEST partners presented at several dozen conferences, symposia and other gatherings across the country including key conference organized by the American Institute of Architects, American Planning Association California Coalition for Adequate School Housing, Coalition for Community Schools Annual, Council of Educational Facility Planners, Fannie Mae Foundation, National Center for Education Statistics, National Housing Institute, National School Boards Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and more.

## **Publication Dissemination**

We continue to actively disseminate copies of our research reports and publications through our web presence, presentations, and conference attendance. Perhaps our most effective method of dissemination of BEST’s work has been our partnership with NCEF – over 56,000 copies of our publications were downloaded in the last year including 24,573 copies of *Do School Facilities Affect Outcomes?* and 17,947 copies of *The Effects of School Facility Quality on Teacher Retention*, our two most popular research publications.

# Civic Engagement and Government Reform

The 21st Century School Fund leverages our local and national constituencies to develop, advocate for and monitor public policies, procedures and practices in support of our policy agenda to improve urban public schools and reconnect them to their communities. In Washington, DC, some of our key efforts included:

**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Working as part of the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education Uniform Per Pupil Funding Formula Technical Working Group to rationalize the allocation of facilities funding between public charter schools and DCPS schools.

**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Supporting a consortium of small schools facing extraordinary budget cuts in the fall of 2006. With 21CSF support they made a successful case to the superintendent that they constituted the few fully utilized small buildings – as opposed to small populations in large buildings – and that they warranted the continuance of special subsidies.



**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Partnering with the local business community to push DCPS to create well-run management, maintenance, and capital programs. We have helped assemble and continue to work with an ad hoc committee of local business leaders including representatives from the Federal City Council, DC Building Industry Association, Board of Trade and PROP 100%. This committee, staffed by 21CSF, developed a draft management plan for DCPS; reviewed the DCPS facility management plan; suggested revisions that were accepted by DCPS; and testified on the management plan to the Council.

**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Providing DCPS principals and parents assistance in understanding and planning for relocation into swing space. In particular, over the last several months we have been working with School Without Walls HS, Hardy MS and Savoy ES.

**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Supporting charter school directors as they are looking for school space. 21CSF is the only information source available that will engage with them actively to consider excess DCPS space and co-location possibilities with DCPS schools.

**21<sup>CSF</sup> D.C.** Developing recommendations for DCPS policy improvements on shared and joint use of public school facilities and sites. We have been working with two school collocations as pilots (Savoy and Birney Elementary Schools, and Raymond ES and EL Haynes Public Charter School) to create a standard and efficient process for identifying, planning, getting agreements made and sustaining co-locations of schools in shared buildings.

**21CSF D.C.** Facilitating the ongoing work of the DC Education Advocates, an informal collaborative of local organizations working to improve the DC Public Schools. Members of the DCEdAdvocates include the DCPTA, Parents United, DC VOICE, SHAPPE, School Modernization Campaign, Youth Education Alliance and PROP 100%. The DCEdAdvocates continues to convene regularly to discuss strategy and define positions on DCPS educational and facility planning and budget issues.

In the past year, 21CSF has also continued to work with our BEST partners on a variety of policy and practice reform projects to transform urban public school facilities at the state and federal level. Key examples include:

**BEST** Revising BEST model policies for school facilities. These policies focus on: 1) integrating public school facility design with educational outcomes, 2) school facilities planning, 3) schools as centers of community, 4) school facilities management, and 5) facilities funding. In 2006 we developed clear introductions and rationales for each model policy area, conducted a thorough state-by-state review and update of sample policies, and combined all model policies in a single easily readable document for easier dissemination. This update and refinement of the model policies provides a coherent tool for BEST partners to use in their local work and for leaders in other municipalities and states to use themselves. It has also generated new interest in our policy work with an invitation to present them to the National Governors Association in 2007.

**BEST** Over the past year, 21CSF and BEST has introduced a new city into our geographic scope – New Orleans – which continues to face challenges in rebuilding the school system following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. 21CSF staff visited New Orleans after hurricane Katrina in January, March and June of 2006. This work culminated in the decision to support Angela Daliet's launch of Save our Schools (SOS) as a local advocacy group working with parents and community members in New Orleans to rebuild their public schools and to invite SOS to become the newest member of the BEST community of practice.

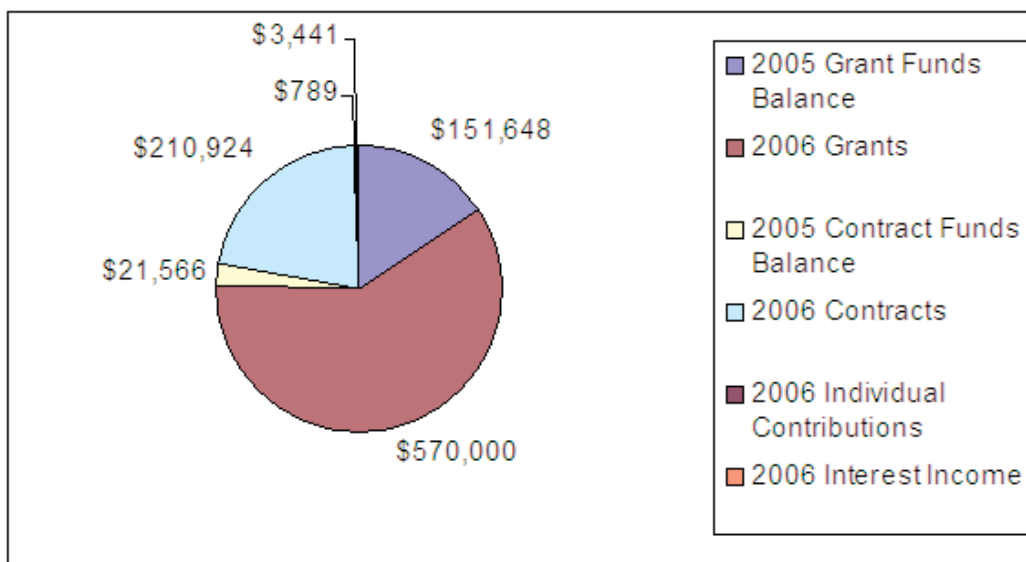
**“BEST has illustrated the disparities in provision of funds for school construction, and provided valuable policy suggestions that should receive serious attention.”**

**- Senator Barack Obama**

# Audited Financial Information

<b>ASSETS</b>			
		<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
	Cash	\$132,207	\$21,960
	Accounts receivable	119,552	182,851
	Grants receivable	612,610	58,110
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>864,369</b>	<b>262,921</b>
	Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	11,206	18,526
	Security deposit	1,000	1,000
	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$876,575</b>	<b>\$282,447</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
	Accounts payable	\$5,792	\$59,945
	Accrued expenses	115	115
	Consulting fees payable	54,726	78,969
	<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>60,633</b>	<b>139,029</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>			
	Unrestricted net assets	173,124	143,418
	Temporarily restricted net assets	642,818	0
	<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>815,942</b>	<b>143,418</b>
	<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$876,575</b>	<b>\$282,447</b>

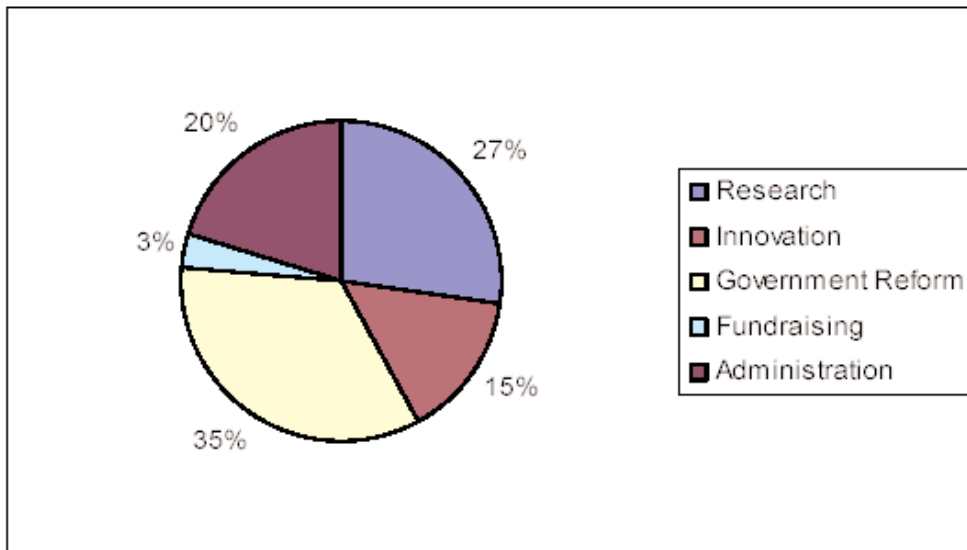
## 2006 Sources of Funds



## Statement of Activities – For the year ended 12/31/06 (with summarized financial information for 12/31/05)

Statement of Activities - For the year ended 12/31/05 (with summarized financial information for 12/31/04)		2006			2005
		Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Revenues:</b>					
	Grants	\$512,182	\$642,818	\$1,155,000	\$227,534
	Contracts	274,540	0	274,540	229,877
	Contributions	789	0	789	7,808
	Interest income	3,441	0	3,441	3,622
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$790,952</b>	<b>\$642,818</b>	<b>\$1,433,770</b>	<b>\$468,841</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
	Program services	\$572,581	\$0	\$572,581	\$758,327
	Management & General	164,122	0	164,122	142,335
	Fundraising	24,543	0	24,543	17,792
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$761,246</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$761,246</b>	<b>\$918,454</b>
Increase (decrease) in net assets		29,706	642,818	672,524	(449,613)
Net assets, beginning of year		143,418	0	143,418	593,031
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		<b>\$173,124</b>	<b>\$642,818</b>	<b>\$815,942</b>	<b>\$143,418</b>

## 2006 Uses of Funds



A substantial part of our programs (Research, Innovation, and Government Reform) expenditures was the support given to BEST and other partners.

## Statement of Cash Flows – For the year ended 12/31/06 (with summarized financial information for 12/31/05)

	2006	2005
Cash flows operating activities:		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 672,524	\$ (449,613)
Adjustments to reconcile net increase (decrease) in net assets provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	6,896	5,632
Gain on disposition of property and equipment	(1,322)	
Decrease (increase) in assets:		
Accounts receivable	63,299	(111,411)
Grants receivable	(554,500)	48,965
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Subgrants payable	---	(95,278)
Accrued expenses	---	115
Accounts payable	(54,153)	31,895
Consulting fees payable	(24,243)	---
Total adjustments	(564,023)	(120,082)
Net cash provided by(used in) operating activities:	108,501	(569,695)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,663)	(3,044)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	4,409	---
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	1,746	(3,044)
Increase (decrease) in cash	110,247	(572,739)
Cash, beginning of year	21,960	594,699
Cash, end of year	\$ 132,207	\$ 21,960

<b>2006 Grants</b>	
Ford Foundation	\$415,000
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	\$55,000
Fannie Mae Foundation	\$40,000
Meyer Foundation	\$40,000
Kimsey Foundation	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$570,000</b>
<b>2006 Contracts</b>	
JFW, Inc. and Bowie Gridley Architects - support for development of a renovated joint-use building and campus	\$141,384
District of Columbia Public Schools - support for development of a system-wide Master Education Plan	\$65,040
Urban Institute - support for research on the relationship between public schools and housing in the Washington, DC region	\$4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210,924</b>
<b>2005 Grants</b>	
National Science Foundation	\$147,534
Fannie Mae Foundation	\$40,000
Cafritz Foundation	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$227,534</b>
<b>2005 Grants Balance for 2006</b>	<b>\$151,648</b>
<b>2005 Contracts</b>	
District of Columbia Public Schools - support for development of a system-wide Master Education Plan	\$200,649
Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School - support for development of a renovated joint-use building and campus	\$56,996
KnowledgeWorks Foundation - assessment of Ohio School Facilities Commission policies and practices	\$10,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$267,873</b>
<b>2005 Contracts Balance for 2006</b>	<b>\$21,566</b>

### **2006 Individual Contributors**

Hugh Allen, Michael Bodaken, Kelly Butler, Gretchen Ellsworth, Ronald and Patricia Flagg, Carl Mintz, Thatcher Associates, Thurgood Marshall Academy, Elizabeth Wilson

**We would like to thank the Foundations and the individuals for your support.**



## Board of Directors

**Roger Newell**, Board President, Campaign Communications Specialist, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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