



Better Buildings: Better Schools **Issue 24 (December 2004)**

Monthly news on DC Public School facilities from the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF), a Washington DC based, nonprofit - **working to build the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities.** To subscribe or unsubscribe please email: newsletter@21csf.org.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy Holidays from 21 CSF!

Because I know you share my passion for quality public education, I am writing to ask you to join me in supporting the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF). Our mission is to build the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities.

Now celebrating our tenth year, we began with a few concerned parents unwilling to see the Oyster Bilingual Public Elementary School close down. Through a nationally recognized public-private partnership, 21CSF was able to procure a new school facility for the students at Oyster and start an organization based on the premise that good public schools should be both a reasonable expectation and a reality in urban school districts throughout the nation.

Over the past ten years, 21CSF has developed into a well respected and relied upon force in the District of Columbia on public education, particularly related to facility planning and capital budget issues.

Locally, 21CSF has sustained and built on its experience in public private partnerships and educational facility planning. In 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2003, the District of Columbia School System (DCPS) engaged the community in a participatory master planning process. 21CSF has been extensively involved in each of these processes. We continue to provide technical advice, advocacy, information, policy analysis, and development to other districts and non-profit organizations. 21CSF has developed software to increase public engagement in school facilities planning and expanded its work to include public charter school facilities in the District of Columbia.

Nationally, 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. The BEST partners are a diverse group of local and national leaders with experience in educational reform, community development, social justice advocacy, historic preservation, community engagement, academic research and philanthropy.

I hope you will join me in supporting an organization I feel is a real resource to those challenged with managing complex, urban school systems. Your direct support is an integral part of our mission.

Sincerely,
Kelly Allin Butler
Chair
21st Century School Fund Board of Directors

Please send contributions to 21CSF, 1816 12th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. 21CSF is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.