

Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica Organization Information Summary

History

In 1944, thirty Santa Monica civic leaders decided to open a club for boys to provide positive alternatives and keep them off the streets. Thus in 1946, they opened the Boys Club of Santa Monica. By 1958, the founding board members raised enough funds to build and open the Club's current facility on Lincoln Boulevard. Since then, approximately 150,000 youth have participated in Club programs. On October 16, 1990, the Club announced that it would extend its services to include girls and became the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica. In 1993, the Club expanded its services further by beginning school outreach programs, offering after school activities at school sites throughout Santa Monica.

The main branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica is located at 1238 Lincoln Boulevard. We also have eight satellite sites at local schools: Santa Monica High School, Malibu High School, John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, McKinley Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Grant Elementary School and Edison Elementary School. Members pay a \$10.00 annual fee to participate in all of our programs. We currently have a membership of approximately 4,000 youth ages 7-18. Our members come from all over Los Angeles County, largely from Santa Monica, Venice, West Los Angeles and Inglewood. Our diverse membership is: Caucasian - 42%, Latino - 24%, African American - 22%, Multi-Racial - 9% and Asian - 3%. Our web address is www.bgcsantamonica.org; and for email please contact Taura Mizrahi, Director of Development, at taura_mizrahi@bgcsantamonica.org.

Mission

Our Mission is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential by developing the characteristics and qualities needed to become caring, responsible and confident citizens.

Overall Activities

The main focus of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica is to provide positive activities for youth during the hours they are not in school. The Club offers a variety of programs in the following areas: education, athletics, technology, arts, leadership development and career preparation, social recreation, and skateboarding and rollerblading. Specialized programs such as *Project Learn*, Leaders in Training, Keystone Club, and *SMART Moves* (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training) promote members' awareness of their environment and themselves. Programs are offered in a variety of formats including drop-in activities, special group clubs, sports leagues, specialized classes and ongoing instruction. Each department is led by trained youth development professionals and assisted by volunteers in their respective departments. Positive adult role models and adult interaction are a critical aspect to the club. Staff and volunteers must undergo background checks. Our programs are designed to help members develop socially, succeed in school, stay physically active and prepare for positive futures.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica Proposed Activity for Requested Grant

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica is seeking a \$100,000 grant to help fund the expansion of our John Adams Middle School (JAMS) outreach site where we plan to build a 5,472 square-foot facility. This facility will provide much needed after-school programming to an area that is economically depressed and infused with gang activity; thereby giving the youth of the community a safe-haven in the hours after school.

Statement of Need

It has been widely reported that the most critical time each day for children is the after-school hours between 3 and 6 pm. Communities with meaningful after-school programs experience a lower incidence of child crime, gang participation and high school drop-out rates¹. The shortage of quality after-school activities for children is critical in the West Los Angeles community, particularly in the South Santa Monica neighborhoods surrounding John Adams. Ethnicity for this economically depressed area is: Latino 40%; Caucasian 35%; African American 20%; Asian Pacific 5%. According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the highest incidence of gang and racial problems in the city exist within this community. In the year 2002, a total of over 1,200 crimes ranging from vandalism to homicide occurred within the neighborhoods surrounding the two schools². Gang activities and shootings occur regularly around the school, including as many as four shootings in one week.

Nearly 60% of the students at John Adams Middle School are at poverty level. Consequently, many of the children do not have access to the proper academic materials needed to supplement their education. Only 25% of students come from a two-parent home and the remaining 75% come from single-parent or no-parent families. A no-parent family is defined as one where the child is cared for by a guardian, grandparent or foster parent as opposed to a birth parent. Both John Adams and Will Rogers experience difficulty with low Stanford Nine test scores; scores for John Adams were among some of the lowest in the district last year. Improving student performance has become a top priority for the school district.

Currently there are not many affordable after-school options for the children at John Adams and Will Rogers. There are some athletics programs offered to students but they are being eliminated due to budget cuts. There is also the City of Santa Monica's CREST Program, which is an after-school program offered in one classroom at John Adams, serving only 30 students at a cost of as much as \$304 per month, per student. Because of the costs associated with the CREST Program, it is not even an option for the majority of students at the school. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica's John Adams site will be a unique and refreshing option for the John Adams and Will Rogers students unable to afford other after-school programs or to travel to our Main branch.

¹ See attached pages from "Kids 2000: Empowering Children Through Access to Information Technology," by Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

² See attached reports from the City of Santa Monica Police Department.

Because of the California budget crisis, the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District is currently facing a budget cut of \$6½ million dollars. This translates to teacher cuts, cuts of janitorial staff, cuts in the number of school nurses, most counselors and many administrators. Positions such as instrumental music instructors, athletic coaches, and library aides will be eliminated. John Adams Middle School will face an increase in class size. These drastic cuts will only make it more difficult to succeed for students who are already behind. At this time of financial crisis, the need for our services is great.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica have been operating satellite after-school programs in school classrooms within the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District for the past seven years. The success of these programs prompted the school district to request that the Boys & Girls Clubs construct and operate a stand-alone club at John Adams Middle School that will also serve children from Will Rogers Elementary School located across the street. The Club has a long history of working with diverse youth populations. Our reputation of being a conduit between the African-American and Latino communities was one of the reasons that the school district approached us to create this club. The Club also provides educational enrichment programs that will greatly assist the students attending these two schools. The Board of Education approved the project with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Use of Funds

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica seeks to build a 5,472 square-foot, stand-alone branch at the John Adams Middle School to provide children of John Adams and Will Rogers a safe haven after school with fun and educational activities under a system of informal guidance. The site will include a large multi-purpose room, a computer technology center, a homework center and career activities room, a film editing and sound studio, a games room, and several counseling offices. John Adams Middle School has offered the use of their \$2 million auditorium in which we can offer music, drama and dance as well as the use of their \$3 million gymnasium. We will also have access to the school's field space for outdoor programming and there is space available for a future skate park site.

Because the Club has such tremendous support from the school district and the community, we have leased the land at a rate of \$1 per year for 10 years, renewable every 5 years. The building design work has generously been donated by YANG Architects. Although we do not need to purchase land and although the building design has been donated; the architecture, structural design and construction have not. Additional items contribute to the cost of the project including ground preparation, power and sewage hookups, electrical work, and permits as well as unforeseen contingencies such as overruns or miscalculations³. Funding will be used towards these items as well as the building's construction.

Goals & Objectives

There are almost 1,900 children attending John Adams and Will Rogers, all of whom will be offered membership to the new Club. In our similar facility located on the Malibu High School campus, more than 80% of the students have taken advantage of Club membership. Based on our

³ Please see attached budget for a detailed breakdown of building costs.

experiences with Malibu, we predict that we will see similar attendance trends at John Adams. Although we currently operate a small, single classroom site within the school campus, with the new site we expect an increase in membership from 300 to over 1,500 children. Because each child will not attend each day, we estimate that approximately 200-300 children will attend on a daily basis.

It is our philosophy that all children are capable of success. With this in mind, we will provide programs geared to ensure that none of these children are left behind academically or socially. One such program is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's educational enhancement program, *Project Learn*, which has a proven track record for helping students in need. A 30-month study funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and performed by Columbia University showed that in comparison to youth participating in generic after-school programs, *Project Learn* participants showed a 15% higher overall grade point average as well as a rate of truancy reduced by 66%. The success of *Project Learn* comes from helping students use their non-school hours to participate in activities that reinforce skills and knowledge learned in the classroom including; discussion with knowledgeable adults, leisure reading and writing, homework help and study, and games that use cognitive skills. *Project Learn* and technology instruction will be the main focus of programs at the John Adams clubhouse.

The John Adams site will also include *SMART Moves*, which stands for Skills Mastery and Resistance Training, and its offshoots *SMART Kids*, *Start SMART*, and *SMART Girls*. *SMART Moves* is a nationally acclaimed prevention program that educates youth about alcohol, tobacco, drugs, teen sexual involvement and HIV/AIDS. The program works by exposing them to protective factors that promote positive behaviors, health, well-being, and personal success. With these protective factors, young people have the tools to overcome the many challenges they face.

Along with *Project Learn* and *SMART Moves*, program activities planned for the new club include homework assistance, computer and technology training, arts & crafts, and athletics. With the use of the John Adams auditorium we will be able to offer music, dance, and theatre programs. Various athletics to be offered include, but are not limited to, basketball, tennis, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Also included in our plan is a computer lab, which will include state-of-the-art machines with the most current programs available. Children need access to the most up-to-date products in order to bridge the digital divide. The computer lab will have also sound and video editing capabilities.

Administration and Operation Plans

Once construction is completed, we have pledges reserved strictly for operational funding. Initially staffing at the John Adams branch will consist of two full-time trained Boys & Girls Clubs staff and three part-time staff. As membership and daily attendance increase, we will review our staffing needs. Volunteers play a large role in our operations, usually coming to us from Santa Monica City College, the school district, and the community. All staff and volunteer must pass a background check before working at any of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica.

The John Adams branch club will be open when the school is closed. Hours of operation during the school year will be Monday through Friday 7:30am-9:00am, 12:00pm-1:30pm, and 2:00pm-7:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-3:00pm. The Club is closed on Sundays. During the summer, the club will be open Monday through Friday 8:00am-6:00pm. Doors will be open on pupil free days and holidays other than Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving (and following day), Memorial Day, Labor Day & the Fourth of July.

Timeline

Currently construction is slated to begin towards the end of March, 2004 with a planned opening approximately six months later in September. The project design is scheduled for a second round of approvals at the end of January 2004. Barring any difficulties, final approvals will come approximately one month later. Killefer Flammang Architects and Community Dynamics are diligently working on getting this project completed.

Impact Evaluation

In order to evaluate the Club's impact, we plan to track the educational performance of club members each school term, administer pre and post tests as part of our technology and leadership training, and gather data on students' Stanford Nine test scores at both Will Rogers and John Adams given the parent or guardian's consent. We may also perform intake and outtake of children in educational programs through random samplings. Further we will measure our progress by surveying the schools' teachers, parents and principals as well as the district's superintendent with regards to their satisfaction level of our performance. We also have the unique opportunity to visually document the entire process in a documentary film. [REDACTED] has requested to film the planning, building and opening of the club in order to capture the positive effects created by the opening of the club in the community.

Budget

The estimated total cost for this project including construction and first year's operating expenses is approximately \$1 million. However, when present assets are factored, including a potential \$300,000 donation from [REDACTED], the estimated cost lowers to \$361,770. Included in this amount is a 10% contingency fee for unforeseen costs, which may arise. We are approaching various foundations to cover the balance of the project.

		<u>Expenses</u>
Design		\$155,000.00
Building Construction		\$810,700.00
10% Contingency		\$81,070.00
Total		\$1,046,770.00⁴
		<u>Assets</u>
[REDACTED]		\$300,000.00
[REDACTED]		\$300,000.00

⁴ Breakdown of budget and costs is attached.

████████████████████	\$85,000.00
Total	\$685,000.00
Expenses	\$1,046,770.00
Less Assets	\$685,000.00
Balance	\$361,770.00

In-kind contributions include the value of the lease, and use of the school’s gym, auditorium and field space. Based on property value of the area, we can estimate that the lease on the site property would run approximately \$65,000 per year. Use of the gym and the auditorium are each estimated at approximately \$30 per hour and use of the field is estimated at approximately \$50 per day. Free access to each of these resources saves the club in excess of \$100,000 per year. In addition, the designer fees from YANG Architects totaling approximately \$8,000 have also been donated.

Conclusion

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica has a long standing tradition of providing the youth of the community with a safe and fun place to go when they are not in school. As the needs of the children and the community change, we can tailor our programming to meet those needs within club policy. This flexibility gives us the unique ability to ensure that the needs of the children are met. In existence for nearly 60 years and with a supportive base, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica have a long history and a secure future.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica are confident that the creation of a stand-alone branch at John Adams Middle School will help to bring about positive change for the economically and academically disadvantaged children at John Adams Middle School and Will Rogers Elementary School. Our goal for the new JAMS site is to provide close to 2,000 children ongoing access to technology, education, social recreation and arts programs. We invite the ██████████ Foundation to assist us in this unique, exciting effort that will provide meaningful activities for a group of students very much in need by donating \$100,000 to the John Adams Middle School Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica building project. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.