

Natick Education Foundation

2008

Focus Grants Competition:

The Visual and Performing Arts—Get Inspired!

The Natick Education Foundation (NEF) is an independent nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to stimulating excellence in Natick's public schools by awarding grants for projects and purchases that support the curriculum, by funding scholarships and professional development for educators, and by raising the profile of public education in Natick.

This year the **Focus Grant Competition is directed to *Visual and Performing Arts—Get Inspired!*** NEF will make a substantial investment across the elementary, middle and high school levels in projects that supplement or enrich the Arts curriculum. Of particular interest will be projects that expand the scope and/or depth of arts instruction and that provide the opportunity to experiment, expand creativity, master technique, and perfect execution. Any eligible applicant can submit in this category and you may wish to contact the Natick Public Schools Director of the Visual and Performing Arts, Richard King, for further information.

In addition to this major focus area, we have also allocated funds to support enrichment grants. Please see our web site www.NatickEdFoundation.org for instructions for this separate competition.

The NEF Educational Grants Competition will fund academic and arts enrichment programs or purchases that will bring a new and dynamic learning experience to Natick students which they would otherwise not have access to. Not only does the competition seek to provide students with enrichment programs, but it aims to spark ideas in the education community and reward teacher initiative and innovation. NEF will support projects as well as the purchase of supplies and equipment that supplement and enrich the academic and arts curriculum.

Applications deemed to have the greatest merit and the greatest enrichment impact on the targeted student population are awarded funding. Applications will be judged on the basis of merit and enrichment impact (the variety, depth, and number of enrichment opportunities the proposal will make possible) and the demonstrated need for, value of, and quality of the program or equipment. Applications will be evaluated by the NEF Grant Screening Committee, and their recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the NEF Board of Directors. Please see attached for details.

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The Visual and Performing Arts—Get Inspired!
GRANTS COMPETITION

Grants in this category will provide support of supplemental or enrichment projects or educational purchases that demonstrate

Support for the visual and performing arts

NEF anticipates awarding substantial funds across the three levels of schools (elementary, middle, and high).

Support will be provided for supplemental or enrichment educational projects or purchases which focus on the Arts curriculum. Of particular interest will be projects that expand the scope and/or depth of arts instruction and that provide the opportunity to experiment, expand creativity, master technique, and perfect execution. Any eligible applicant can submit in this category and you may wish to contact the Natick Public Schools Director of the Visual and Performing Arts, Richard King, for further information.

Qualifying Standards

Only applications that comply with the following qualifying standards will be considered for the NEF 2008 Visual and Performing Arts Initiative Grants Competition:

- The proposed project or purchase must be supplemental or enrichment. This competition is not intended for funding basic education already, or reasonably covered by the school budget. It is to fund newer, more experimental, more enriching, or more effective approaches or projects than have been done in the past, or could reasonably be expected to be supported by the school budget.
- Applications must enhance the quality of education in the Natick Public Schools. **Visual and Performing Arts** educational projects or purchases which may include, but are not limited to, projects involving the arts which spark creativity, especially across curriculum areas and may involve performance and visual projects.
- The application must be for a supplemental or enrichment classroom project, program, or curricular unit and the material necessary to implement it or for the purchase of material or technology for general enrichment purposes. Related professional development may be supported on a limited basis. NEF seeks applications that demonstrate originality, innovativeness, and/or creativity.
- Proposed projects/purchases must be consistent with and supplement or enhance the curriculum framework of the Natick Public Schools.
- The proposed project or purchase will have a significant impact on Natick students, in both the short- and long- term.
- Successful applications will have clearly defined goal(s), will articulate the methods to be used to meet these goal(s), will identify all participants, will identify the number of students impacted, will have a justified and realistic budget, and will describe how the impact of the project or purchase will be measured.
- A proposed project must be academic or art-oriented. NEF will not support inter- or extra-mural athletics, social, counseling, or outreach programs, as valuable to education as they are. Nor will the NEF support field trips, food, or more than incidental consumable supplies.
- A proposed purchase must be necessary for achieving at least one specific enrichment goal and the plan for the use of the purchase must be included in the application. The more enrichment goals that can be met by the proposed purchase, the better.
- NEF greatly respects the value of consultants, visiting artists, artists in residence, and performers, but this competition is not primarily intended for funding them. There may be rare cases in which consultants' impact would be so great in relation to his or her compensation that an exception can be made.
- Educator(s) assigned to implement the project can be teacher, staff or administrator of the Natick Public Schools, or a parent, student, or member of the community working without financial compensation under the supervision of a primary applicant who is a teacher, staff member, or administrator.
- If Applicant is not seeking full funding for project, additional sources of funding must be secured and noted.

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Process

Please note: Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** form and brief attachment by **January 11, 2008**.

The Board review preliminary applicants who will be asked to submit full proposals. By January 31, 2008, persons submitting letters of intent will have a response from NEF.

Those with successful Letters of Intent will submit ten (10) copies of the completed Grant Application Cover Sheet and attached Project Description to the Natick Education Foundation. **Applications must be received by submission to our website: [www: NatickEdFoundation.org](http://www.NatickEdFoundation.org) or postmarked by 2/15/08.**

An eight-member Grant Screening Committee reviews **applications**. Applicants may be contacted for further information about their grants, and may be asked to meet in person with the grant screening committee.

On May 1, 2008, the Grant Screening Committee makes recommendations to the Natick Education Foundation Board of Directors. The Board makes final funding decisions.

Recipients and non-recipients are notified in May of 2008.

Funds are awarded in a lump sum payment. Checks are mailed by the end of May 2008 and must be used during the 2008-2009 school year. Funds not used by end of school, 2009, must be returned to NEF.

Winners are requested to cooperate with publicity requests.

Winners will be asked to complete a brief grant results form that evaluates the success of the project for NEF internal use and either prepare a simple poster board presentation on the grant for display at NEF events, or give NEF enough visual or written documentation so we can prepare a poster for display. Deadline for documentation is September 30, 2009.

Attached please find an application form and information about grant eligibility and selection, including how to contact an NEF Grant Writing Liaison for further help. Copies of successful applications from previous years are available at each school and in the School Superintendent's office, and a list of all successful grants is on the NEF web page.

- Letters of Intent due: **January 11, 2008**
- Notification sent to all applicants: **January 31, 2008**
- Deadline for applications: **February 15, 2008**
- Announcement of winners: **May 2008**

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The Visual and Performing Arts—Get Inspired!
Letter of Intent

Title of Proposal: _____

Primary Applicant (must be teacher, staff member, or administrator in Natick Public Schools. Award check will be made to Primary Applicant, and Primary Applicant assumes responsibility for the implementation of the project.)

Name: _____

Position: _____

Phone and/or email and preference: _____

Name of School(s) and/or Group(s): _____

Grade(s) Involved: _____

Total Amount Requested: _____ **Total Project Cost:** _____

Please attach your responses to the following in no more than one page:

- Summary of Goal(s)
- Summary of Proposal
- Anticipated Outcome(s)

Primary Applicant signature: **Co-Applicant signatures, if applicable:**

Principal's signature: I support this application

If more than one school is involved, principals' signatures should be added on back

Date

Send this form and attachments to:
NEF, PO Box 2221, Natick, MA 01760, Attn: Grants
Or by email to: ellenalfaro@rcn.com
Applications must be postmarked no later than January 11, 2008

Natick Education Foundation
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Application Form

COVER SHEET

Title of Proposal: _____

Primary Applicant (must be teacher, staff member, or administrator in Natick Public Schools. Primary Applicant assumes responsibility for the implementation of the project.)

Name: _____

Position: _____

Phone and/or email and preference: _____

Address: _____

Additional Applicant(s) (*optional*) (need not be a teacher, staff member, or administrator):

Name of School(s) and/or Group(s): _____

Grade(s) Involved: _____

Total Amount Requested: _____ **Total Project Cost:** _____

Primary Applicant signature: _____ **Co-Applicant signatures, if applicable:** _____

Principal's signature: I support this application

_____ Date

Send ten (10) copies of this sheet and attached project description to:
NEF, PO Box 2221, Natick, MA 01760, Attn: Grants
Or submit via website: [www:NatickEdFoundation.org](http://www.NatickEdFoundation.org)
Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2008.

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Application Form

PROPOSAL

On separate pages, describe the proposed project as it relates to the categories below. If a category is not applicable, indicate with N/A. Please include any other information you think the committee will find useful.

1. Abstract

Please summarize the proposal in 2-3 sentences.

2. Project Description

State the goal(s) and objective(s) of the project.

Describe the proposed project or purchase.

How will you achieve the goals and objectives?

Describe the proposed assessment of the project: How will you know if you were successful?

3. Curriculum

Describe the relationship of the proposed project to the curriculum framework of the Natick Public Schools.

4. Applicant(s)

Describe the prior classroom or other relevant professional experience of the applicant(s) that relate to the proposal.

5. Benefits

Who will benefit from this project, and how?

How many students will be reached directly by this project?

What is the cost per student reached?

How many students will be reached indirectly and/or in the long-term by this project?

Will you be able to share your experience with other teachers, students and schools in Natick? How?

6. Funding

Are you applying for other sources of funding? If so, please provide details. Is NEF funding a one-time investment, or will additional funding be necessary to maintain the project? How will any needed additional funding be secured?

7. Budget

Provide a specific itemization of the costs of implementing the project.

If the total budget is not funded, can the project be redesigned to fit a smaller budget? If so, how?

8. Continuation

If this project is a continuation or extension of an ongoing program, how will NEF funds enhance the program?

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Judging Criteria for ALL Applications

I. Basic Standards:

- Application must comply with qualifying standards, as above.
- The proposed project's goal, objectives, and methods must be clearly stated, appropriate, and warrant the expenditure requested.
- The proposed project must be likely to achieve its goal.
- The proposed budget must be clearly justified and realistic.
- Feasible plans must exist for securing any non-NEF funds and/or conditions necessary for the project.
- NEF must be the most likely and logical funding source for project.

II. Presentation:

A well-executed presentation expresses competence and enthusiasm on the part of the applicant(s). Application should be clear and complete; goal, methods, and plan to evaluate the success and impact of the project should be logical, plausible, and well explained.

III. Potential benefit:

- How great would the benefit be to the students affected by the proposed project?
- How large is the pool of possible beneficiaries of the project? (The number of students impacted in the short and long term as well as possible benefit to other schools, teachers and the community at large.)

IV. Merit:

The NEF seeks applications with as many of the following examples of qualities as possible: originality, innovativeness, creativity, imaginativeness, and/or the extent to which proposed program enhances curriculum, programs, or services.

V. Other:

NEF seeks applications which include a feasible plan for establishing a secondary pool of beneficiaries (e.g., a plan to educate other teachers about learning made possible by purchase, and to lend or share material, as appropriate).