



MEMORANDUM

TO: William Liggins, Director
Revenue Bond-Enterprise Program

FROM: Harriet Tregoning, Director *Rosalynn Hughey*

THROUGH: Rosalynn Hughey, Deputy Director

DATE: April 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Arts and Technology Academy
5300 Blaine Street, NE

Recommendation

The Office of Planning (OP) has reviewed the above-cited revenue bond application and endorses the request for revenue bond financing. The following are agency comments on the application. .

Applicant

The Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School (ATAPCS) was established in 1999 by a group of parents and community members as an alternative to closing the former Richardson Elementary School. It opened serving 540 students in grades Pre-K through 5. The school is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools. The current ceiling for enrolled students is 615. The school now includes 6th grade, and there is a waiting list for families wanting to enroll their children at the school in fall 2010. The school's curriculum uses the creative arts for developing students' environmental consciousness and artistic acumen. Additionally, the school teaches how the arts and technology work together as a foundation and spring board for many disciplines. .

Revenue Bond Request & Project Description

The applicant is seeking revenue bond funding in the amount of \$8 million. The funds will be used for refunding Bond Series 2002, refinancing architectural & sustainable upgrades that were made in 2008, and completing several new renovations to the facility.

ATAPCS purchased the current school building in June 2002. The facility is 70,000 square feet and sits on 4.7 acres. The school was originally built in 1956.

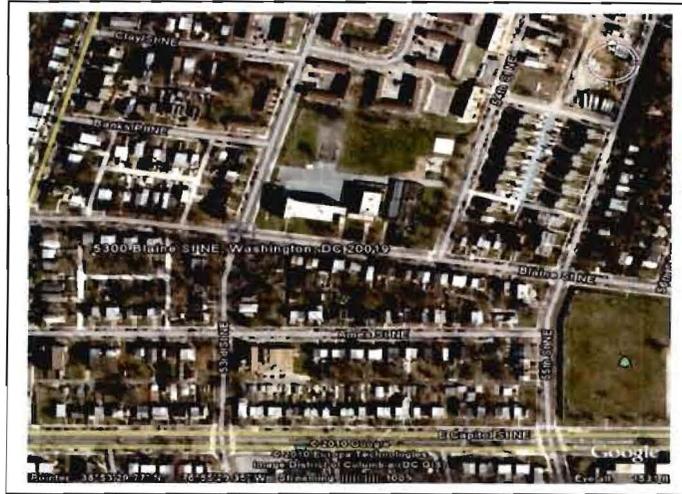
Deferred maintenance has resulted in the need to perform maintenance and upgrades in four areas:

- 1) Main floor bathroom renovations, including new plumbing and heating/exhaust systems to meet building code
- 2) Replacement of the existing HVAC system and extending it to the school cafeteria
- 3) Electrical upgrades in all classrooms
- 4) Building modifications to improve access for strollers, carriages and physically challenged students and parents.

Additionally, modifications will also be made to storage spaces in classrooms and throughout the school.

Location

The site is located at 5300 Blaine Street, NE in the Northeast Boundary and Capital View neighborhoods of Ward 7. The site is in Square 5241, Lot 800. The school is accessible via the Benning Road Metro Station and Metrobus service along Benning Road.



Source: Google Maps - Revenue Bond Site 5300 Blaine Street, NE

Benefits to the District and Residents

As other accredited public charter schools, ATAPCS provides another educational choice for District families with school age children. ATAPCS also offers specialized instruction in arts and technology free of charge to school children in the District.

In addition, the applicant currently employs 104 people, of which 43 are District residents. The applicant anticipates that the number of District employees will increase from 43 to 55 at the completion of the project. ATAPCS has committed to take proactive steps to meet the 51 percent target of District resident hires, including sponsoring training programs, co-sponsoring apprenticeships and participation in job fairs.

Comprehensive Plan/Land Use & Zoning

The site is located in an R-5-A zone district. This zone permits public charter schools by right on a lot this size. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the site in the Public and Institutional Land Use category for local public facilities. This designation allows public schools, charter schools, hospitals, local government offices, libraries, and fire and police stations. As such, the public charter school use is not inconsistent with the Future Land Use Map.

Applicable Comprehensive Plan policies include those found in the Land Use Element, Economic Development Element, Arts and Culture Element, and Educational Facilities Element:

Policy LU-1.3.8: Public Facilities

Encourage the siting (or retention and modernization) of public facilities such as schools, libraries, and government offices near transit stations and along transit corridors. Such facilities should be a focus for community activities and should enhance neighborhood identity.

Policy ED-4.1.1: Educational Improvements

Continue collaborative efforts with the District of Columbia Public Schools and DC Charter School organizations to improve the quality of public education, reduce the dropout rate, and improve basic competency and skill levels among District youth. Every District child should be guaranteed a safe and productive learning environment that promotes academic and personal achievement.

Policy AC-4.4.1: Arts Education Programs

Build a stronger constituency for the arts in the District through arts education in K-12 schools including attendance at arts performances and art exhibitions, and support of adult art programs for persons of all ages and backgrounds. City resources should be used to help promote the strong and diverse arts programs offered by our public schools.

Policy EDU-1.4.4: Eco-friendly Design

Strongly support the use of green building, energy efficiency, and low-impact development methods in school construction and rehabilitation.

Community Comments

The site is located in Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 7C and Single District Member District (SMD) 7C02. The application package does not include any written position of affected ANC 7C.

Office of Planning Endorsement

The Office of Planning endorses the request for revenue bond funding with the recommendation that the applicant submit to the record a written position from the affected ANC 7C prior to any decision is made on the bond request.

The revenue bond application is not inconsistent with the requirements of the District Elements of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, DCMR Title 10. It satisfies the evaluation criteria of the Office of Planning. Should you have any questions, please contact MonaCheri McCoy of my staff at 442-7607 or monacheri.mccoy@dc.gov.

