Proposal for

Ogden Playground Project
I. Summary

We are inviting you to participate in an ambitious and much needed playground revitalization project taking place in downtown Toronto at Ogden Junior Public School.

Ogden Junior Public School is a vibrant Inner-City learning community committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for our Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 students. Nestled between Chinatown and the Financial District in downtown Toronto, our history dates back to 1855. We are lucky to have a naturalized setting for part of our yard... yet, there is a lack of playground equipment, since our most recent structure was torn down over fifteen years ago due to safety issues. Our school yard contains a broken asphalt surface with one meager basketball net, one set of monkey bars that are too high for our students to utilize and one old climber.

Our mission is to create a beautiful space where families can gather, play, share ideas and build a sense of community. We envision new recreational facilities including a safe and inclusive playground, a soft grass playing field and a running track that will help our young athletes participate in various sports, as well as benefiting our community after-hours. We envision a greener space for more native trees, perennial plantings and a vegetable/flower garden that can be enjoyed by everyone as well as chess tables and a badminton court to bring together our neighbours and community for fellowship.

As a small inner city school with limited fundraising abilities, the Ogden community has worked hard to raise $10,000 over a four year period but unfortunately we are still well short of our ultimate goal of $200,000. As it is virtually impossible for us to raise the required amount internally we are imploring our local community for support.

We are hoping that you would consider supporting our community venture by donating generously towards our fundraising goal. This would create a positive collaborative relationship between you and your local school and community. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future so that we can begin our journey together.

Andreas Ghabrial, Principal
Alana Hardy, Vice-Principal
Ogden Playground Committee
II. Introduction

Mission Statement: To create a **Beautiful Space** where families can gather, play, share ideas and build a sense of community. We want a safe, **Beautiful Place** for children to run, jump and explore the natural world around them.

Ogden Jr. PS is a vibrant Inner-City learning community. Our JK to Grade 6 public elementary school is situated in Toronto, just north of Queen Street and East of Spadina Avenue. We are lucky enough to have a naturalized setting for part of our yard...but our kids and our community want to expand and revitalize the existing play space.

**Ogden Junior Public School A Proud History:** Phoebe Street School, one of Toronto’s first six schools, opened in April 1855. Within twenty years it boasted the largest enrolment of any elementary school in Toronto. In 1905 several classrooms were damaged by fire, and a decision was made to rebuild a newer, larger school. The new school was named Ogden Public School, in honour of Dr. W. W. Ogden who served as Trustee for forty-five years.

By 1957 the second Ogden School was opened, located on the original site of Phoebe Street School. By 1967 Ogden Public School had an enrolment of 500 students.

At Ogden Junior Public School today there are approximately 200 students enrolled at Ogden Junior Public School, with 25 teaching and support staff. We are committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment within our diverse, inclusive community. The Ogden Day Care provides before and after school care as well as Day Care to over 50 Ogden families. A number of community partners also support our families: University Settlement, St. Felix Centre and Scadding Court. Together we are able to provide additional support to families such as English as a Second Language programs, referrals to Toronto Health Services, and recreational programs such as swimming, fitness classes and homework clubs.

**Ogden Junior Public School offers focused Literacy and Numeracy curriculum for all JK to Grade 6 students**  
Additional supports for learners with special needs  
Additional supports for students who are new English Language Learners  
Daily Cantonese Language instruction for all students  
Woven throughout our rigorous curriculum is a focus on Arts Education, Healthy and Active Living, Character Education, development of Social Responsibility, and teambuilding opportunities such as Ballroom Dance lessons, Chess Club, School Teams and Extra-curricular activities.
III. Map
IV. Needs/Problems

Our current building was built in 1957 and our most recent play structure was torn down over 15 years ago due to safety issues. We are so appreciative of what we have, yet **we are still lacking in basic playground facilities**. Our schoolyard contains an asphalt surface with one junior basketball net, a small naturalized area, one climber and one set of monkey bars.

As a small school with limited fundraising abilities, the Ogden community has been working very hard to raise the necessary funds for our project. Thanks to our neighbouring community members and businesses, last summer we have reached the initial deposit amount required by our School Board to draft a master landscape plan. This deposit will fund some of our capital costs once a work plan is put in place. **But our dream needs over $200,000!**

With a lack of facility to play on, our young students turn to other unsafe areas of our school grounds for play. Our March 2012 Parent Survey results indicate that of the 10% of the total Ogden families answered, over 70% have safety concerns with Ogden School grounds, 30% having had injuries on the property and 90% wanting improvements. Safety Concerns of our school grounds expressed by the Ogden Community include:

- **Lack of fencing and gates** around the school grounds, especially on Phoebe Street on the northwest corner where heavy public traffic on Spadina Avenue is only 80 feet away. This ease of public accessibility, not visible from the school building, adds to the compromising of security and supervision of our students as well as aiding the unwanted activities mentioned above. As well, throughout the school day we have a stream of public traffic traveling to and from Phoebe St through our grounds to our back alley that connects onto heavy traffic on Queen Street. In the spring of 2011, our school had to go on a Lock-down mode due to a thief and a merchant in pursuit from Queen St who entered our grounds and into our building.

- **The boulders and the four mounds** averaging 10 feet high, of which two of them are asphalt surface, was installed when the current building was built in 1957. Over the years there have been a multitude of injuries as a direct result of the asphalt, mounds and boulders on the existing playground. These injuries range from major which required medical attention, to daily minor injuries that could be taken care of within the school office. Some of the major injuries requiring medical attention include concussions, broken arms, severe sprains, head abrasions, fractured clavicle, fractured back, back injuries, contusion to the eyes, stitches to the knees, facial stitches and badly sprained ankles. The mounds also create blind spots, thus compromising security and supervision of students during recess and lunch breaks. For decades, our location being close proximity to the downtown club district, the hidden areas of our school ground has been a target location for unwanted activities including drugs, sex and alcohol during the after-school
hours which has a direct impact on our community neighbours as well as the school population.

- **Deteriorating Brick Tree Planters** installed when current building was built in 1957 has been a cause of injuries for our young students in the last ten years. The temporary fencing installed around the perimeter of the planters over five years ago has collected garbage and limited our space use. It has also sent a message to our community of lack of maintenance, inviting vandalism and unwanted activities common to a downtown neighbourhood.

- Uneven, cracked asphalt space for many years, has been where our students play sports with many scrapes, cuts and bruises throughout the year.

- Uneven, often slippery paths and public sidewalk in front of the school used for long distance running for our Cross-Country and Track & Field teams.
V. Ogden School Ground Photographs
VI. Goals/Objectives

Our first priority for our Ogden Community is to address Safety Concerns of our school grounds. Our primary goal of increasing safety is to install Fencing and Gates around the school grounds with access points visible to the school and our neighbours for better security for our students, parents, staff and community. Secondly, we would like to eliminate or relocate the boulders in a safer configuration and eliminate or modify the mounds by making them smaller or installing a safer surface. This would help to minimize the injuries from falls for young children when falls do happen, to increase visibility and security of our students and to discourage unwanted activities during after-school hours. Thankfully, the removal of the deteriorating Brick Tree Planters and the temporary fencing around it had been achieved by the TDSB Facilities Department March 12-16, 2012. They had installed wooden tree planters in its place to preserve the two mature trees on our property. Temporary fencing had been installed a few weeks later to separate the parking lot and around a planter on the North West corner.

Our second priority is to promote a healthy lifestyle, on a safe area, for our whole community. First goal, in particular for our students, is to install a Playground Facility. Our students are dedicated, hardworking and enthusiastic youngsters who would benefit from a safe place to play under the watchful eyes of our staff, parents and childcare providers. We envision an Inclusive Playground Equipment with climbers, slides, connecting walkways and other features that will meet the needs of many students who reside in high-rise apartments and homes near the downtown core. With the play structure, students will be less inclined to spend time on the asphalt mounds therefore minimizing injuries. Secondly, we would like to install a Grass Playing Field. An even, soft playing field will help our young athletes play soccer, baseball, lacrosse and other team sports without the fear of injuries from falls on concrete. A field space will benefit our community as well by building partnerships with local organizations and groups such as University Settlement Recreation Centre, St. Felix Community Centre, Chinese seniors’ groups and tai chi schools to do their activities during after-school hours. Third goal is to install a Running Track to help promote cardiovascular exercise for all as well as providing a safe place for our cross-country and track & field teams to train.

Our third priority is to Increase Green Space and Beautify Our Neighbourhood. We strive to be environmental stewards! Our naturalized area consist primarily of Conifer trees like Pine that has no foliage and dirt with small trace of grass that has been trampled on by little feet. Our primary goal of greening is to plant more indigenous deciduous trees that produce more oxygen such as Maples and Oak, to help improve the air quality of our downtown neighbourhood. We would also like to plant native perennial plants on our naturalized area to be enjoyed by our school and our community. Our third goal is to plant a community garden. Celebrate our cultural diversity through community plantings reflecting our inclusive philosophy; bok choy and tomatoes, coriander and potatoes! Most of our students do not have an opportunity to grow seeds for vegetables, flowers or plants. Our inner-city kids would be able to experience the joys of growing flowers and plants that specifically attract birds and butterflies.
Our fourth priority is to **Engage Our Community**. Our first goal for community engagement is to install **Outdoor seating with permanent chess tables**. Chess has been a great community builder for Ogden Jr. PS. Our students learn to play chess in the primary grades and continue to hone their skills playing in tournaments including friends and family members! Our second goal is to install an **Outdoor Badminton Court**: On any given night in the spring or fall you will discover young children and their families engaged in a lively badminton match. We would like to work with our community to outline the boundaries of a court on our grounds, including poles for a net and accessibility to badminton racquets and birds.
VII. Procedures/Scope of Work

1. **TDSB Facilities Department – Addressing Safety & Initiating Project**
   - Submitted work order, Jan. 2012: Removal of deteriorating Brick Tree Planters
   - Work order accomplished Mar.12-16, 2012: Planters & temporary fencing removed, wooden tree planters installed instead to preserve the two mature trees on Ogden property
   - Consultation with TDSB Facilities Apr.17, 2012: Gail Bornstein, Bruce Day
   - Design Consultation Report submitted by Ms. Bornstein
   - Raise $10,000 as deposit to draft a master plan with TDSB architect; funds will be used for capital costs of revitalization.
   - Install Fencing around the school grounds
   - Consultation with TDSB Landscape Architects Feb. 26, 2013; Master Plan Draft expected to be completed by September 2013
   - Extend Fencing & Install Gates as access points visible to the school and our neighbours
   - Relocate the boulder pile in a safer configuration
   - Improve Drainage
   - Eliminate the mounds & level the surface – possible playing field in its place

2. **Playground Facility**
   - Consultation with five playground equipment companies for choice and cost estimates of play equipment structure
   - **Fundraise for Phase Three of Timetable $83,698.19** ($66,771.54 Phase I Structure + $16,926.65 Playground Surfacing-Engineered Wood Fibre)
     - Apply for Grants:
       - City of Toronto Planning Act, Section 37
       - Kaboom
       - Let Them Be Kids, Kool-Aid Partner
       - Canadian Tire
       - Home Depot
       - Weston Family Parks Challenge
       - Hydro One Power Play
   - Determine the most desired structure as a school community: survey students, staff and parents
   - Playground Surfacing: (pending survey)
     - Wheelchair accessible playground surfacing on current wood chip area approx. 3210 sq. ft.
     - Engineered wood fibre protective surfacing 12 inches deep
       - To be installed on a granular base with geotextile fabric
     - Playworld Wood fibre cost: $1.92 per square foot, blown in
     - Playworld Geotextile cost: $0.25 per square foot
     - Granular base to be costed by TDSB site preparation contractor
     - Pour-in-place Rubber - Blue Imp part no.2012-854
       - 3286 sq ft: $54,423.27 + HST $7,075.03 = $61,498.30
   - **Phase I Structure: (pending survey)**
Playworld Systems 121151A Challengers Series Composite play structure with rock climbing wall and overhead unit attached, 3.5 inch round posts.

- Fundraise for Phase Five of Timetable $58,779.27
- Apply for Grants listed above

- Phase II Structure: (pending survey)
  - Free-standing challenge unit: The Wall, Crater Arch, Stump Jump
  - Free-standing Accessible Activity Panels: ADA Airplane & Driver Panel
  - Free-standing Origins T-Rex unit: Rib & Head Climber

3. **Outdoor seating with permanent chess tables**

- - Blue Imp PK-194 Park Bench - in ground (vinyl coated steel) $542 X 3
- - Blue Imp PK-182 All Round Pedestal Table (same) $1,193 X 2
- - Playworld ZZXX1410 - 6 ft. Perforated Steel Bench with back $417 X 3
- - Playworld 358-V-GT - 48" sq Table with Game Top $867 X 2

- Fundraise for Phase Four of Timetable $9,749.16
- Apply for Grants:
  - Neighbourhood Beautification Program, City of Toronto
  - Home Depot

4. **Community garden, Native perennial plants, Indigenous Deciduous trees**

- Apply for Grants
  - Neighbourhood Beautification Program, City of Toronto
  - Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation, City of Toronto
  - Walmart Evergreen Grants
  - Nature Grant Program, Home Depot & Evergreen
  - Environment Fund, Sobeys
  - Green Apple School Program, Metro

5. **Basketball/Badminton Court Infrastructure, Running Track**

- Relocate outdoor Basketball court to in front of Gymnasium: Install & Augment Nets to Primary Grade height
- Install Badminton Court infrastructure to same location
- Apply for Grants

6. **Grass Playing Field**

- Apply for Grants
  - Live Green Toronto Capital Projects Fund, City of Toronto
  - Community Program for Stormwater Management, City of Toronto & Toronto and Region Conservation
  - TD Friends of the Environment

7. **Outdoor Classroom**

- Apply for Grants
  - Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds Grants
### VIII. Timetable & Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Start and End Dates</th>
<th>Material Costs</th>
<th>Anticipated TDSB Installation Costs (X 1.3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase One</td>
<td>Master Plan Completion by TDSB Landscape Architects</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>$10,000 Project Commitment Deposit will go towards capital costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Two</td>
<td>Fence Extension, Gates Installation &amp; Boulders Relocation</td>
<td>September – December 2013</td>
<td>TDSB Facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Three</td>
<td>Playground Surfacing: Engineered Wood Fibre $1.92 + $0.25 X 3210 sq.ft. Granular Base, TDSB estimate</td>
<td>September 2013 – June 2014</td>
<td>$ 6,965.70 + HST($ 905.54) TBA</td>
<td>$ 9,055.41 TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Playground Structure Phase I</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>$27,478.00 + HST($3572.14) TBA</td>
<td>$ 35,721.40 TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Four</td>
<td>Outdoor Seating</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>$ 4,012.00 + HST($ 521.56) TBA</td>
<td>$ 5,215.60 TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Garden</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perennial Plants &amp; Trees</td>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Five</td>
<td>Playground Structure Phase II</td>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
<td>$ 24,189.00 + HST($3144.57) TBA</td>
<td>$ 31,445.70 TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Six</td>
<td>Mound Removal</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TDSB Facilities</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Playing Field</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Seven</td>
<td>Basketball/ Badminton Court Infrastructure</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Eight</td>
<td>Running Track</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 70,788.51</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 81,438.11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 70,788.51</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 81,438.11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 152,226.62</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 152,226.62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IX. Key Personnel
X. Evaluation

Our progress on our playground project will be monitored and evaluated by our Principal, Vice-Principal and Playground Committee. Our school community consisting of students, staff and parents are regularly invited for input, in particular at our bi-monthly Playground Project Meetings.

At points when major decisions are required, TDSB Facilities Managers, Consultants, Superintendent, Trustee and our community neighbours will also be consulted to oversee our project development.
XI. Endorsements

- Ogden Playground Committee – Paul & Tomoko Barker, Kenneth & Rubi McElheron-Alluz, Carla Francis, Romana Mikundova, Sherwin Blyden, Tan Hoang, Samantha & Sean Lee, Sanam Aselzad, Howie & Elaine Lam, Monica Galiano, Ruth Rodrigo. Teresa Campbell, Jesse Melhuish, Donna Chong

- Ogden Parent Council & Parents
- Ogden Staff & Students
- Ogden Daycare
- Andreas Ghabrial, Ogden JPS Principal
- Alana Hardy, Ogden JPS Vice-Principal
- Rosemary Sinopoli, Ogden Daycare Director
- Curtis Innis, TDSB SW6 Superintendent
- Chris Bolton, Ward 10 Trustee/TDSB Chair
- Adam Vaughan, Ward 20 City Councillor
- Olivia Chow, MP Trinity-Spadina


- Ocho Hotel & Restaurant, 195 Spadina Ave
- Ho Long Supermarket, 253 Spadina Ave
- GIGI Sweater Place, 175 Spadina Ave
- Black Bull Tavern, 298 Queen St W
- Black Market, 256A Queen St W
- The Big Fish, 406 Queen St W
- Urbane Cyclist, 180 John St
- Wickware Communications, 26 Soho Street, Suite 350
- Moses Structures, 26 Soho St, Suite 205
- The Rivoli/Queen Mother Café, 332 Queen St. West
- Urban Space Property Group, 401 Richmond St. West
XII. Next Steps

• Step 1:
  
  **Contact Ogden Playground Committee at**
  OgdenSchoolCouncil@gmail.com  **to endorse our project or to find out more about it.** You are also welcome to contact our school administration:

  Ogden Junior Public School
  33 Phoebe St. Toronto, ON  M5T 1A8
  (416) 393 – 9110  Fax: (416) 393-8108
  [http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/ogden/Home.aspx](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/ogden/Home.aspx)

  Principal:  Andreas Ghabrial  
  Email:  andreas.ghabrial@tdsb.on.ca

  Vice-Principal:  Alana Hardy  
  Email:  Alana.Hardy@tdsb.on.ca

• Step 2:

  **Please help spread the word about our project!** If you have contacts, resources or time to contribute, we would be delighted.

• Step 3:

  **Donate Money!** Contributions over $25 are eligible for a Tax Receipt. Please write cheques payable to “Ogden Junior Public School” and on the subject line “Ogden Playground Project”.

  Charitable Registration Number : 895 788 222 RR 0001
XIII. Appendix

Ogden JPS 2010 Aviva Competition Entry Proposal, M. Allan
2012 Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch
2010-11 & 2011-12 Ogden JPS School Improvement Plans
2012 Ogden Parent Council Surveys – March & April
1998-2012 TDSB- Ogden JPS Incident Reports
TDSB Design Consultation Report – Gail Bornstein, Bruce Day
Interviews with Local Residents & Businesses
Jesse Ketchum School Council
Playworld Systems Design & Estimate
Blue Imp Design & Estimate
Henderson Recreation Design & Estimate
ABC Recreation Design & Estimate
PlayPower Design & Estimate
ProSport Surfaces Estimate