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www.fiestaschoolyards.org

an initiative of the Lindy Foundation

Fiesta Schoolyards: FAQ for Principals

- What is the timeline/process for receiving a Fiesta Schoolyard?
 - This is probably our most frequently asked question! Fiesta Schoolyards maps out a geographical area for a build season, such as the lower Northeast, West Philly or North Philly. The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) determines which schools in the given area are best candidates for a Fiesta Schoolyard. The process spans about 6-8 months and is mapped out below. Items with an asterisk involve input from the principal/school while the rest are handled by Fiesta Schoolyards.
 - ***Step 1:** A representative from the SDP contacts the school's principal and asks if the principal is interested in receiving schoolyard improvements called a "Fiesta Schoolyard." One condition relayed is that the schoolyard must remain open to the community during daylight hours. This is so the wider community can access the schoolyard's new amenities. Assuming this condition is agreeable to the principal, the SDP sets up an intro meeting. About 2 weeks later, a second meeting is scheduled to select which play elements the school would like to choose and a rough sketch of the renovated schoolyard is created. Maximum size for a Fiesta Schoolyard is 2,000 square yards.

- **Step 2:** Based on the rough sketch, our landscape architect creates a professional rendering of the schoolyard improvements which is sent to the SDP's Capital Program's team for review. Feedback is provided and a final rendering is made. The SDP's feedback can alter the location or sizing of play elements. (This takes approximately 1-2 months.)

- **Step 3:** Fiesta Schoolyards submits a request to the Philadelphia School Board to provide and donate the schoolyard improvements to the SDP. Assuming the School Board approves the request, the legal department of the SDP issues a Site License. The Site License allows the general contractor to begin work. (This takes approximately 1-2 months.)

- ***Step 4:** A schoolyard surface is either asphalt or concrete and its condition can vary greatly. Depending on the condition of the surface within the area defined to be a school's Fiesta Schoolyard, the surface may be treated in a variety of ways that most typically involves crack-fill and seal-coating. We try to notify the principals and school maintenance staff at least a week before paving begins. This step is subject to change based on the schedule of the pavers and weather conditions.

- ***Step 5:** The general contractor and its subcontractors construct and install all play amenities. Depending on which amenities were selected by the school community, artists may begin painting murals, surface maps, and games at the school. We try to notify the principals and school maintenance staff at least a week before painting or installation begins. This step is subject to change based the schedule of the painters and the weather conditions.

- ***Step 6:** Installation and painting are completed. A launch celebration event is held to dedicate your new completed Fiesta Schoolyard!

- How will schools/principals know that Fiesta Schoolyards has permission to be onsite?
 - We will receive a Site License for each school prior to work beginning.

- Can students play on the schoolyard in between construction?
 - Mostly, yes. If the schoolyard needs to be repaved, students can play on it after a short curing time (24-48 hours). During the process of painting and installation, students can play once paint has dried (24-48 hours) and we ask that staff and students are cautious of any equipment left on site.

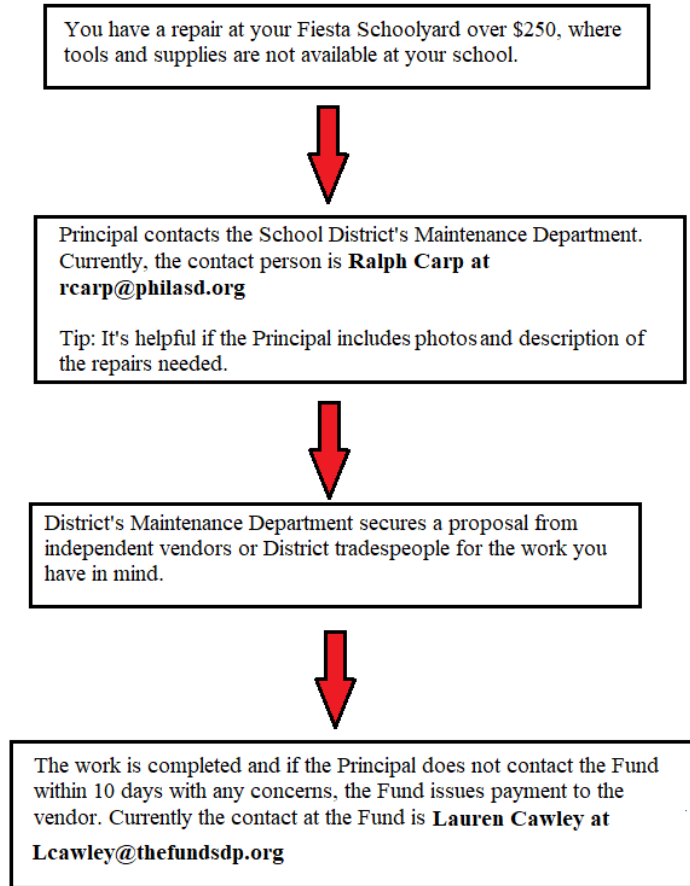
- Is it possible that schools may receive a slightly different variation and/or color of a play element?
 - Yes. Material and colors may vary depending upon the available inventory at the order time.

- Will Fiesta Schoolyards pave the entire schoolyard?
 - No. Fiesta Schoolyards typically treats the up to 2000 square yard area in a manner deemed appropriate. We don't treat the schoolyard surface in any way beyond the area designated for the Fiesta Schoolyard.

- Why did the Fiesta Schoolyards team relocate an element from the spot that we originally chose?
 - This happens when our engineers and/or the SDP changes element locations because of safety concerns such as proximity to an entry or passage of vehicles or trucks, or other similar consideration.

- What happens after the schoolyard is renovated and the dedication event takes place?
 - After that, the schoolyard is yours! Fiesta Schoolyards donates a Refurbishment Fund to be available for repairs and maintenance of your new Fiesta Schoolyard. This money is housed with the Fund for

the School District of Philadelphia. More information can be found in the flow chart below:



- I have a question that was not answered above or I would like an update on the status of the schoolyard renovation process. Who should I contact?
 - The Fiesta Schoolyards team is fairly small, so feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any additional questions. Elaine Lindy (Executive Director) can be contacted at elindy@fiestaschoolyards.org, Dr. Carletta Skipworth (Project Director) can be contacted at cskipworth@fiestaschoolyards.org, and Becky Wilson (AmeriCorps worker) can be contacted at bwilson@fiestaschoolyards.org.