GARDEN STUDIO PROJECT

Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary School
• Sir Sandford Fleming is an iconic school in Vancouver founded in 1913
• Many families, some for three generations, have attended this school
THE LOCATION

Located on the corner of Knight St and 49th Ave., the playground is noisy and there is minimal greenspace.
THE STUDENTS

480 K-7 diverse and multilingual students attend Sir Sandford Fleming
The staff has a history of being supportive, welcoming, and collaborative.
Inquiry, student ownership, place-based learning and connecting to nature are important principles in the new BC curriculum.
CHANGING WHERE WE LEARN

From picking up school ground litter to releasing butterflies, students and staff love to take their learning outdoors.
THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

Five teachers and one principal committed to enhancing their outdoor space for learning
When students moved from eating lunch in the lunch room to eating lunch in their classrooms, they no longer needed to use their lunch bins to cart their lunches to and from the lunch room....
REPURPOSING THE LUNCH BINS

…the lunch bins would make great growing containers
CREATE A SCHOOL GARDEN

The garden committee envisioned using a sheltered courtyard area between buildings to create a school garden.
Students from five classes worked together to fill the bins with soil.
Students and teachers moved the bins onto the proposed site.
We were excited to be granted $500 to purchase garden tools, gloves, watering cans, and other basic supplies.
The students planted daffodils in the fall of 2017.
They continued to plant in the spring.
They watched their plants grow and change.
The students loved watering the plants.
The Kindergarten students were excited to discover potatoes under the potato plants.

The grade ones enjoyed a ‘garden fresh’ salad.
A new school termed a ‘seismic build’ is being constructed.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE GARDEN?

The garden committee discussed including a garden on the new site.
The principal made arrangements to partner with a local high school teacher and have 9 raised beds built by students in April 2019.
ANOTHER THINK EAT GREEN SCHOOL GRANT!!

- 9 raised beds will cost $5400 to build and install.
- The TEGS grant placed us $1000 closer to 9 raised beds.
The new school will have 18 ‘learning studios’ (indoor classrooms). The garden committee named the school garden, “The Garden Studio.”
The Garden Studio name prompted the garden committee to think of the school garden as being a part of a larger outdoor classroom.
Two members of the Garden Committee met with the landscape architect to discuss where to locate the garden.
The principal presented the idea of creating an outdoor classroom to the Parent Advisory Committee.

They like the idea and will support it.
The garden committee members are in the process of working with staff, students and parents to imagine how this space might be used and to brainstorm what should go into the outdoor classroom.
The visioning exercises will help us to set clear goals.
DESIGNING THE GARDEN

• We are creating base maps of the proposed sites
• The outdoor garden will be created in stages
Each stage requires that we secure funding

We are a tier 3 inner-city school and rely on fundraising

Our PAC is actively fundraising to build a new playground and will commit $50/year for the maintenance of an outdoor classroom
STAGE ONE – RAISED BEDS

• The raised beds will enable us to move the current ‘food garden’ to the new site

• We require $4400 to pay for the raised beds
We have a vision to better our outdoor learning environment and enhance our students’ educational experience. Our vision is in line with the redesigned curriculum, the First People’s principles of learning and our successful experience with growing a food garden. We need your help to pay for the raised beds.

Thank you for this opportunity.