

**TO:** Village of Grafton  
**FROM:** North Shore Academy of the Arts, Inc.  
**RE:** Approval Request for an Outdoor Classroom  
**DATE:** 2-9-2009

North Shore Academy of the Arts would like to respectfully request an approval for the creation of an outdoor classroom. An outdoor classroom provides a unique learning experience as students interact with their natural environment.

NSAA's outdoor classroom will be a place for artists of all ages to enjoy. It will be a place for inspiration, creativity and reflection. Our art teachers will use this space for teaching small size classes. Only a few students under the supervision of our teacher will be utilizing this classroom at a time. Excessive noise and disruption will not be allowed.

The proposed green classroom area will be visually appealing for the surrounding community to enjoy. In addition, the public will be welcome to use the space when classes are not in session. For example, Grafton public library visitors could use the classroom for a quiet reading space.

**LOCATION:**

We propose an outdoor classroom to be located on the green space adjacent to the east side of the NSAA building at 1111 Broad Street in Grafton.

**DESIGN:**

The classroom dimensions are approximately 36' by 36'. A drawing of the proposed layout is attached. We intend to plant small trees and shrubs to create a natural barrier from the adjacent parking lot and the Board Street sidewalk. Native Wisconsin plants will be carefully selected with a help of a professional landscaper to enhance the esthetics and to provide a low maintenance green hedge. None of the existing trees or shrubs will be disturbed. The ground cover material proposed is natural wood chip. Wooden benches and tables will be added. Refer to the attached photos.

**NAME:**

***Felix' Art Studio***

Our 8-year old student Felix Boller, whose dream was to become an art teacher, inspired the idea of our outdoor classroom. Felix passed away last summer after his courageous battle with cancer. To honor this remarkable boy and a talented young artist, we would like to dedicate this space in his memory. There will be a small recognition plaque displayed in the outdoor classroom area.

**TIMETABLE:**

The project to be completed late Spring 2009.

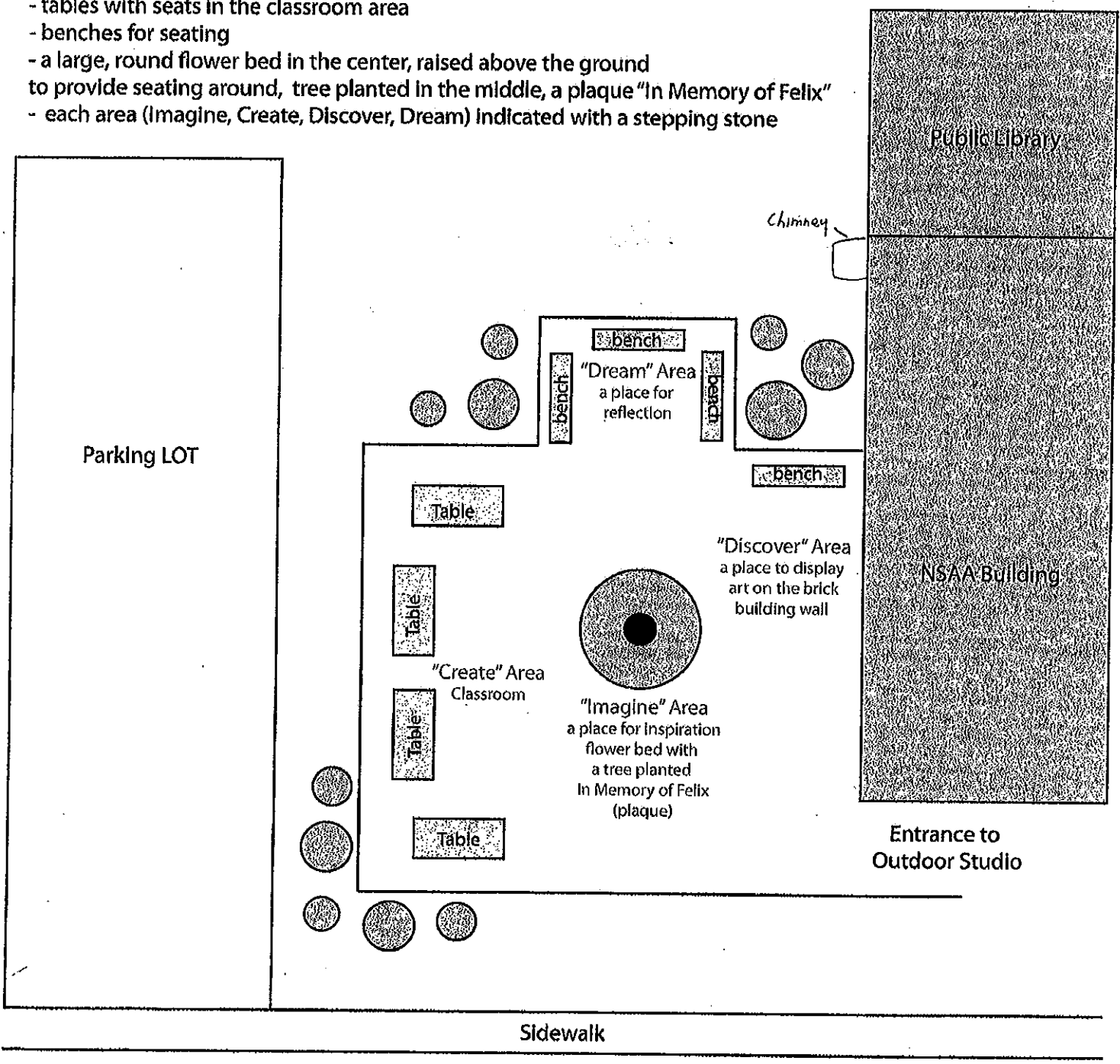
**PROJECT CONTACT PERSON:**

Urszula Cholewinska, email: [2ula@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2ula@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of NSAA's outdoor classroom.

# Proposed Design for Outdoor Art Studio in Memory of Felix

- a place for artists of all ages to create and learn about art, a place for inspiration, creativity, and reflection
- an outdoor classroom for our teachers and students to enjoy and create art in a garden-like setting
- to be located on the green space between NSAA building and Public Library parking lot
- trees and hedge plants to create natural barrier from Broad street and the parking lot and create intimacy (we may have to use some other type of fencing)
- needs to have wood chips or other ground cover material
- green circles on the drawing represent potential garden areas
- tables with seats in the classroom area
- benches for seating
- a large, round flower bed in the center, raised above the ground to provide seating around, tree planted in the middle, a plaque "In Memory of Felix"
- each area (Imagine, Create, Discover, Dream) indicated with a stepping stone



# 'Felix was a wonderful, talented little artist'

*Proposed NSAA outdoor art studio in Grafton would be dedicated to young cancer victim*



**Felix Boller**

By Laurie Arendt  
News Graphic Correspondent

**Grafton** — Felix Boller's life may have been cut tragically short, but his creativity and inspiration are likely to live on in plans for an outdoor classroom at Grafton's North Shore Academy of the Arts.

Grafton's Community Activities Commission recently endorsed the concept for NSAA to construct and donate an outdoor art studio on the northeast corner of the Timothy Wooden Community Center property, 1111 Broad Street, dedicated in part to Boller's memory.

"Felix was a wonderful, talented little artist," said Village Trustee and CAC member Susan Meinecke at the meeting.

Eight-year-old Boller, a Cedarburg resident, died after a battle with a rare form of brain cancer last summer. Before his death, his artwork was presented in a solo show at the Cedarburg Cultural Center last June and hundreds of people attended the event.

"He was an NSAA student," added Meinecke. "I think this would be a great addition to the NSAA facility."



File photo

One of Felix Boller's works of art depicts a three-headed alien from space.

As proposed, the outdoor classroom space would include an area to display artwork on the east wall of the Timothy Wooden building, native Wisconsin plantings, including trees and shrubbery to create a natural barrier from the existing parking lot, an area for reflection and wooden tables and benches for conducting the outdoor class-

## To donate

Donations are being accepted toward a proposed North Shore Academy of the Arts outdoor art studio. For more information:

- visit [www.northshoreacademy-ofthearts.org](http://www.northshoreacademy-ofthearts.org)
- or call 377-3514.

room. The roughly 36-foot-by-36-foot space would be used by limited numbers of students at any given time.

The outdoor space would also be accessible to the general public, including patrons of the adjacent U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Library, when not in use by NSAA instructors or students.

"It's my understanding that this would not be a permanent classroom as NSAA does not own the building," explained Community Activities Director John Safstrom to the commission. "It's also more of an outdoor classroom in honor of Felix, rather than strictly a memorial."

Though no project figures

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## Art: Proposal goes to village board

**Continued from Page A1**

were presented at the meeting, it was noted that NSAA is planning to solicit monetary and labor donations from the community to fund the project.

Commission members briefly debated whether or not the project design should be reviewed by village staff prior to their vote, but Meinecke was confident that NSAA representatives would be able to work with Grafton Director of Planning and Development Mike Rambousek to create a

final and suitable design for the space.

"It would be great if they could get the approval they needed so this could be in place this spring," said Meinecke, noting their proposed timeline.

With the unanimous approval of the concept by the Community Activities Commission, the project will next go before the Grafton Village Board for project approval. Such an approval would require an addendum to the lease agreement with NSAA for the Timothy Wooden facility, a building the group leases from the village.