

Mary Filardo, Chair of the BASIC Coalition, Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund

Mary Filardo, Executive Director, founded 21CSF in 1994 to provide the District of Columbia and other urban communities with leadership, innovative financing solutions, research, and public policy analysis of school facility issues. She is a leading national authority on school facility planning, management and public private development. She has helped plan innovative projects in Washington, DC — J.F. Oyster Elementary School public private partnership (2001), Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School campus development (2005), School Without Walls high school university and public partnership (2008), and Savoy Elementary School (2008) and Savoy and Thurgood Marshall Academy Sports and Learning Center (2009).

She has written extensively on public school facility issues and developed software to support long-range facilities master planning. In 1994 she advocated for and then led the first city-wide educational facilities planning process in Washington, DC in nearly 30 years, leading to the Preliminary Educational Facilities Plan in 1995, which laid the foundation for regular educational facility master planning in the District of Columbia and more than \$2 billion spent to improve and build DCPS and public charter school facilities.

In 2001 Mary founded the Building Educational Success Together (BEST) collaborative—a learning community of urban education reform organizations dedicated to building the public will and capacity to improve urban school facilities so they support high quality education and community health. She received a BA in philosophy and mathematics from St. John's College, and a MA in Public Policy and Finance at the University of Maryland, she is a 1979 Truman Scholar from the District of Columbia.