

# American Rescue Plan Project Submission Form

COMMISSIONERS COURT

MAY 16 2022

## Project Name -

Center For ASD: Multi-Purpose Special Needs Community Facility

Approved

#212,600-

## Primary Point of Contact -

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Scholarships

## Project Description -

Center for ASD (CASD) currently offers a variety of therapeutic programs for participants and their families including support groups, educational classes, art, music, fitness, and social time. CASD is experiencing a rapid influx of new families seeking respite, human connection, and activities for their special needs loved ones and themselves as a result of being homebound during COVID closure. CASD currently leases 14,000 square feet of a larger building. Due to increased capacity needs, the center would like to purchase the building.

Securing a permanent home will create a solid foundation for the population CASD serves. The individuals CASD serve don't go away because they get older... their needs change. Participants currently range from age 2 to 60 and have various diagnoses. Obtaining a permanent building will ensure the longevity of CASD, allowing it to be of assistance to families through each phase of life for years to come.

Increased capacity would be a game changer. CASD currently serves approximately 155 participants monthly, and a waitlist is forming. Increasing the space would allow CASD to triple the number of those served and further the center's reach into the community. More space would allow CASD to invite the community into the facility which can provide purpose and potential new streams of revenue.

Potential funds received would also be used to help supplement CASD's scholarship fund which has depleted quickly due to the negative impact Covid has had on families.

This project is a tremendous opportunity for Johnson County.

## **Project Location -**

This project will take place in Burleson, Texas. CASD's intention is to purchase the currently leased building located at 640 NW Tarrant Ave, Burleson, Texas, 76028. (See attached map.)

CASD currently leases various areas of the building at a cost of \$2,000 per month. (See schematics.)

## **Project Budget -**

\$212,600: Projected financial-need based scholarships for 2022 and 2023

\$1,500,000: Initial purchase of a building and all associated pre-purchase fund needs along with any needed renovations for ADA compliance

Current CASD operating expense fundraising will continue via large annual fundraisers (golf tournament, gala, community fun run), grants, individual donations, participant fees, and CASD'S Waymaker Society (a sustainable giving program made up of pledged monthly and annual donors).

## **Project Timeframe -**

This project will begin immediately.

**Phase 1 will be the distribution of scholarship funds.** This phase will be complete in the fall of 2023.

**Phase 2 will be the purchase of a building to expand services and increase capacity.** This phase will be complete by 2024. CASD has been in discussions with the owners of the current building for the past year along with reaching out to city leaders concerning CASD's intentions. Everyone is prepared to move forward if funding comes through.

CASD currently lists 155 special needs participants on its roster that attend various programs on various days of the week. CASD believes with increased physical capacity this number could be conservatively tripled to approximately 500 participants. CASD currently does not pursue an active marketing campaign as word of mouth is generating participant intakes faster than the current space can sustain.

CASD offers family support groups, respite time, sibling programs, and free family activities such as dances, picnics, and holiday parties. With an average of four family members per participant, this outreach is projected to grow to 2,000 family members.

CASD has recently begun offering free educational classes to First Responders to help them familiarize themselves with the symptoms and intricacies of autism and how they may best mitigate crisis situations along with meeting participants first hand. Crews are currently invited in with a max of 6 responders due to the physical size of the room dedicated to this program. Eventually all crews in Johnson County will be extended an invitation including firefighters, police officers, and paramedics. The increased physical capacity would have a positive impact on the efficiency and outreach of the CASD First Responder's Program.

Ownership of the building would open up multiple new opportunities for community integration that can only be measured qualitatively. The building has a full-size gym, 200 seat auditorium (with stage, balcony seating, and sound system), large kitchen with dining area, recreation room with billiards, multiple large meeting spaces, and potential space for an outside playground that could accommodate all ages and sizes.

CASD is currently exploring how these spaces could integrate the community along with generating new revenue streams. Some possibilities include:

- Hosting community events, resource fairs, art shows, and workshops
- Hosting drama groups, concerts, and other onstage entertainment in the auditorium
- Hosting civic organization meetings (where participants could greet and serve lunch)
- Offering a mom's day out for children with autism ages 3-5 that have trouble finding care
- Hosting indoor movie nights for special needs families
- Hosting programs that specifically integrate veterans and senior citizens
- Potentially renting out space for birthday parties or other events requiring a venue
- Setting up respite rooms where participants with severe separation anxiety can practice being away from their parents
- Hosting a larger special needs summer camp (80 children attended in the year prior to COVID)
- Creating new programs that encourage community members to come into the center fostering compassion and awareness of autism and other special needs
  - Examples include: volunteering, taking an art class where special needs participants are also present, partnering with civic groups and other non-profits that may have some projects that the older participants could volunteer themselves to help with. This creates a great sense of purpose and joy among the older participants when they are able to help others.

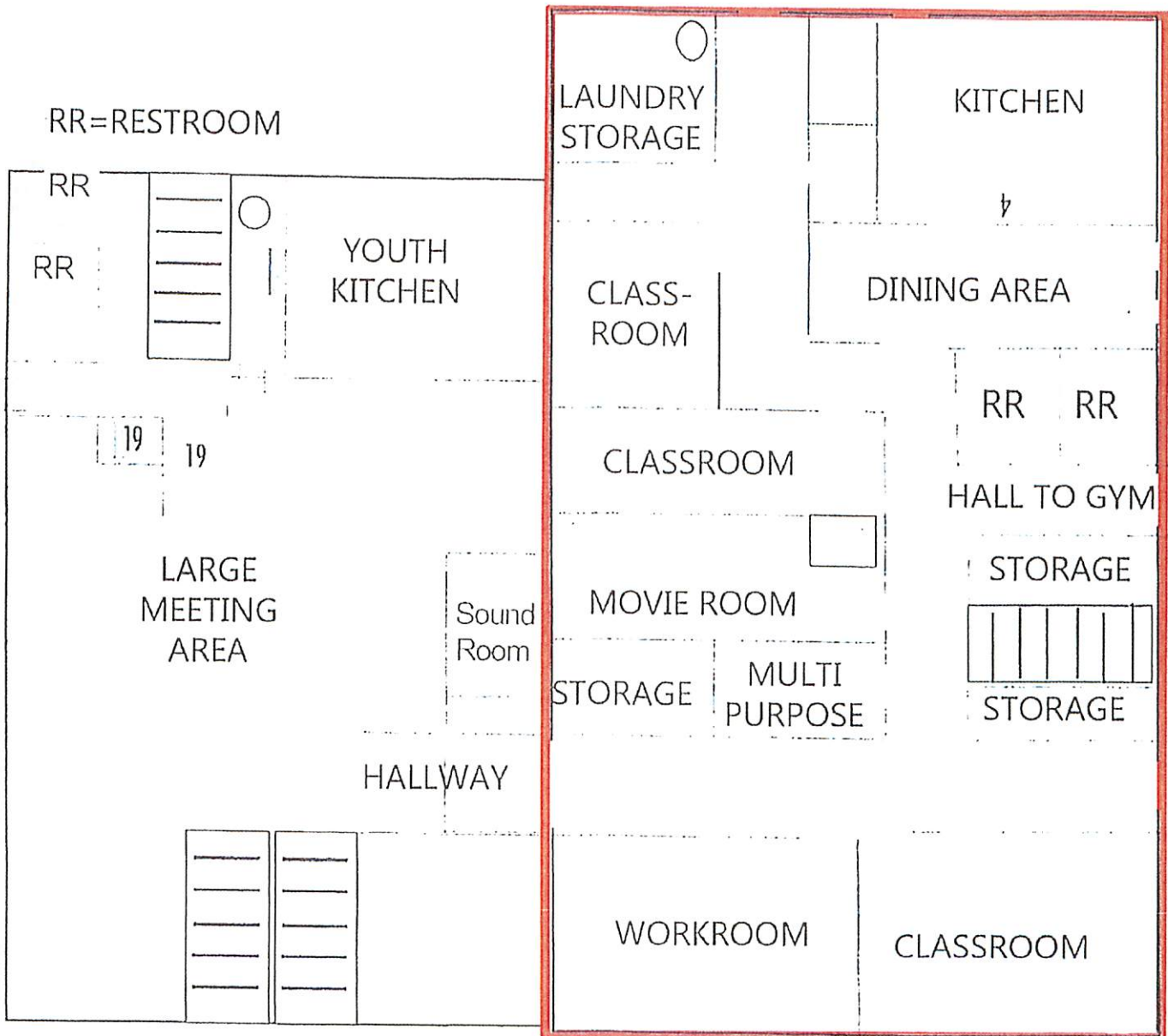
Ownership of the building would allow CASD to fill a gap in Johnson County that is currently wide open. These special needs families have very few resources or places to turn, especially considering the negative community-wide impacts of COVID. Most of these families are on

decades-long Texas Medicaid Waiver waiting lists with no resolution in near sight for accessing services.

CASD was founded in 2009 by a special needs mother trying to assist families in accessing autism-related therapies. It has since grown into a multi-faceted physical space, crafted through the years with participant and family input. The center is unique in that it is constantly growing programs and adjusting to the needs of the community and the participants it serves. Purchasing the facility is a necessary next step for CASD. This grant is a much needed and timely opportunity for both the Johnson County community as a whole and its many special needs families.

FLOOR 1-A

RED OUTLINED AREA  
CURRENTLY LEASED  
TO CENTER FOR ASD  
(CASD)

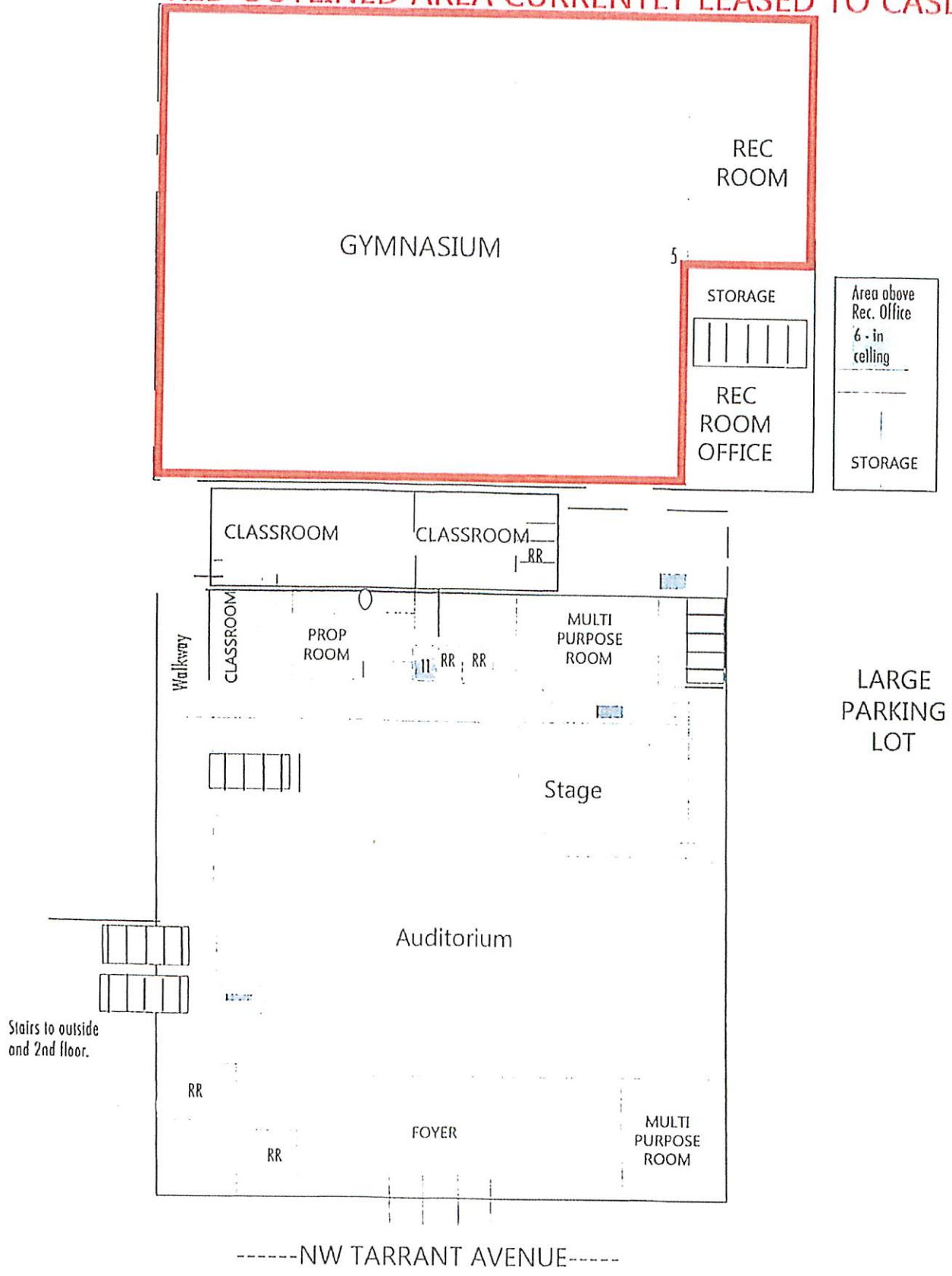


Basement

-----NW TARRANT AVENUE-----

FLOOR 1-B

RED OUTLINED AREA CURRENTLY LEASED TO CASD



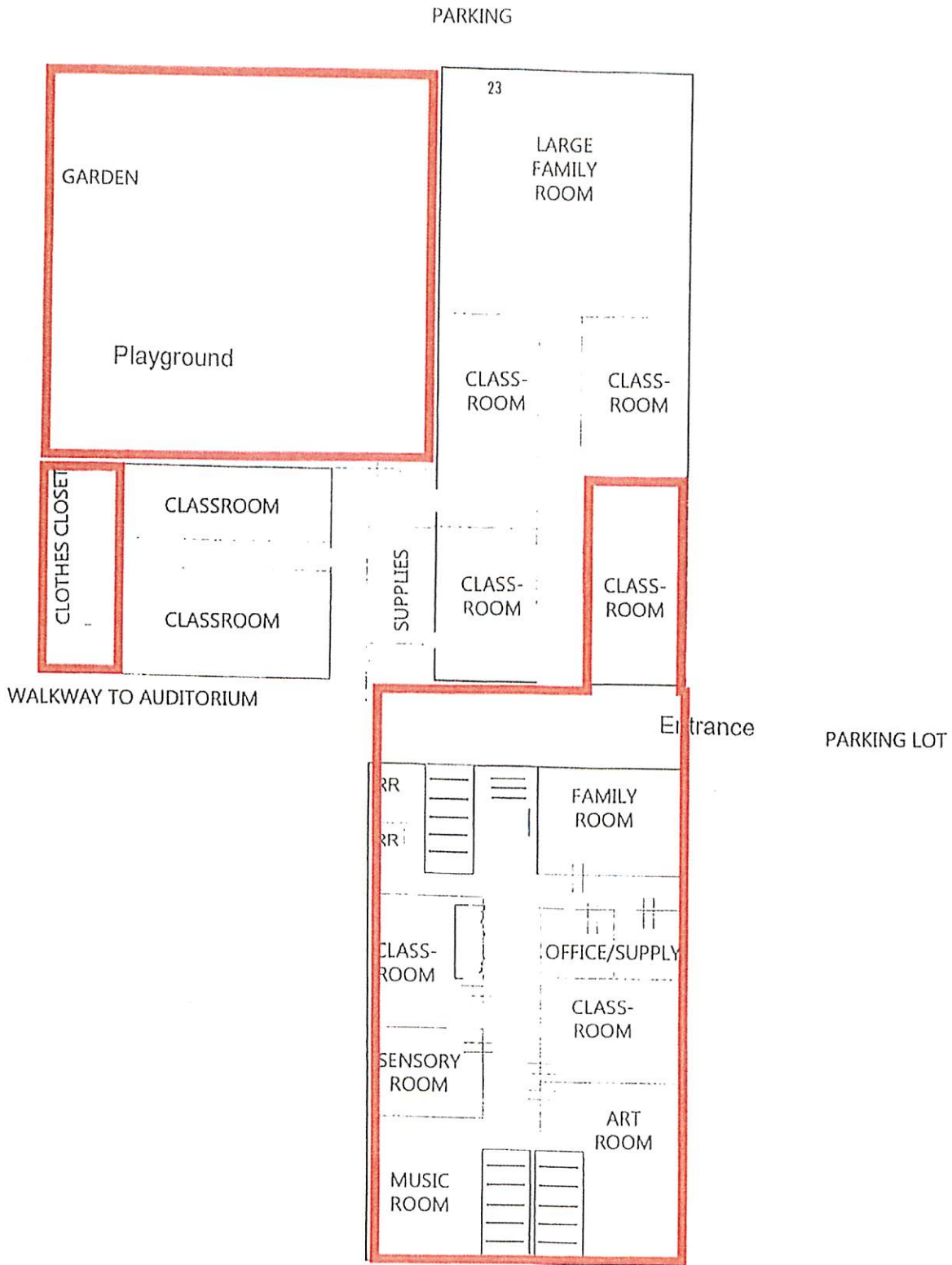
Area above  
Rec. Office  
6-in  
ceiling  
STORAGE

Stairs to outside  
and 2nd floor.

-----NW TARRANT AVENUE-----

# FLOOR 2

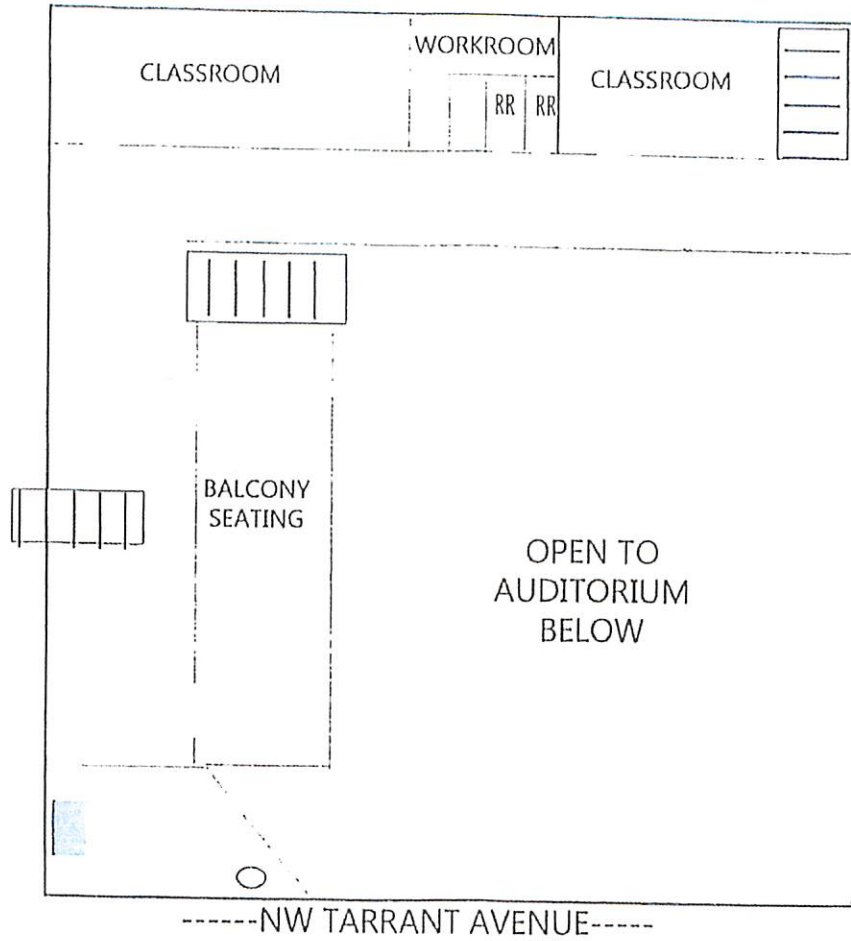
-----NW TARRANT AVENUE-----



RED OUTLINED AREAS CURRENTLY LEASED TO CASD

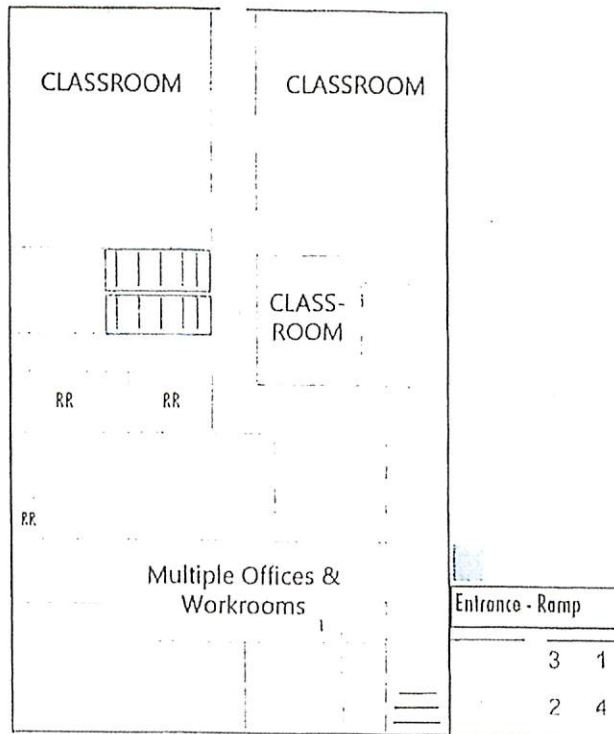
FLOOR 3

NO AREAS ON 3RD FLOOR CURRENTLY LEASED TO CASD



3RD FLOOR  
ABOVE  
AUDITORIUM

3RD FLOOR  
OFFICES  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
WORKROOMS  
STORAGE  
CLASSROOMS

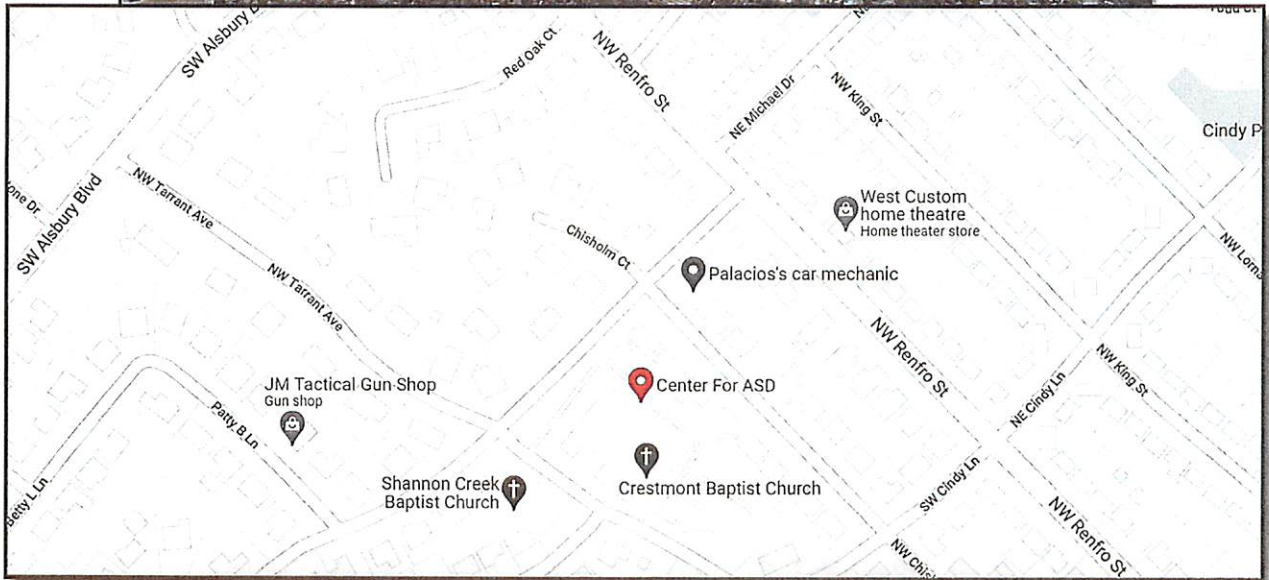


-----SW RAND DR-----



# Center for ASD

640 NW Tarrant Avenue Burleson, TX 76028



## Paula G. Reid

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**From:** Valerie Sims <valerie.centerforasd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 2:41 PM  
**To:** County Judge (public address)  
**Subject:** American Rescue Plan Project Submission  
**Attachments:** Building Schematics.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

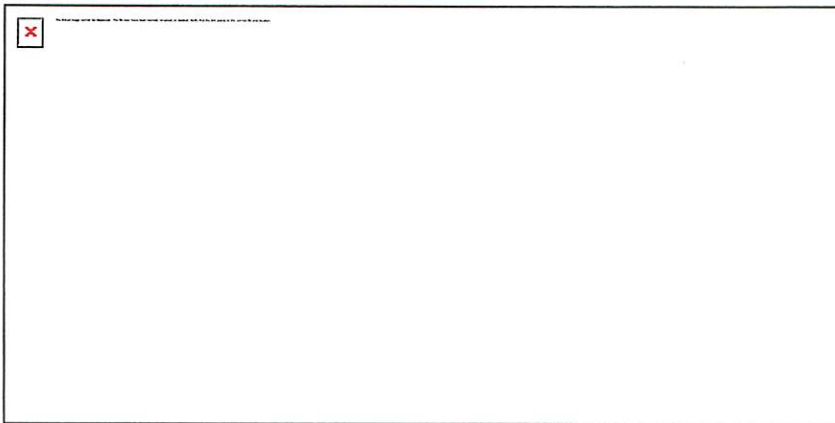
Some people who received this message don't often get email from valerie.centerforasd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**\* External sender - use caution with links or attachments \***

Please find Center for ASD's (CASD's) submission form attached along with map and schematics. The center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving the needs of individuals of all ages with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other special needs along with supporting their families. CASD is honored to present this grant proposal for your review.

This is a much needed, timely, and tremendous opportunity for CASD, Johnson County, and all of its special needs families. Please contact me or CASD's CEO with any questions or to schedule a tour of the facility. (CEO/Founder: Lisa Boultinghouse 817-205-1445)

Thank you,  
Valerie Sims  
Grant Coordinator  
817-343-1188  
[valerie.centerforasd@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.centerforasd@gmail.com)



[CenterforASD.org](http://CenterforASD.org)

 [ARPP Submission Form](#)

 [CASD on map.pdf](#)