

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Portland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City Seeks Qualified Developers for Nathan Clifford School

*City issues RFQ seeking redevelopment proposals for historic school*

**PORTLAND, Maine** - Today, the City of Portland announced that it is seeking qualified development teams for the re-use and redevelopment of the Nathan Clifford School in the Oakdale Neighborhood. The school building has been vacant since declared surplus by the School Department when the school was replaced by the new Ocean Avenue Elementary School. During the fall of 2012, the city appointed a citizen task force to recommend potential uses as well as outline a process for finding new owners for the property. Following City Council adoption of the task force recommendations in December 2012, the city contracted a conditions assessment of the property and is now actively seeking development teams interested in proposing new uses for the building and grounds.

"This is an exciting step for the neighborhood as we are all eager to see the creative reuse opportunities possible for the Nathan Clifford School and move towards putting this property back into productive use," stated City Councilor Ed Suslovic.

As a first step, the city is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from interested parties. Based on criteria established by the Re-use Task Force, a city review committee will select no more than three development teams to submit detailed proposals for the future of the property. Development teams must submit their qualifications and basic information regarding

their proposed plans for the property by July 19, 2013. The three top teams will be selected in August and a finalist will be recommended to the City Council for consideration in the fall.

The Re-use Task Force's report and the Nathan Clifford School Building Conditions Assessment Report are available on the city's website at:

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/nathanclifford.htm>

Named after US Supreme Court Justice Nathan Clifford, the school was opened to more than two hundred students April 1, 1909. The Justice's grandson, also named Nathan Clifford, served as Portland's Mayor in 1906 when the school's construction began. Designed by renowned architect John Calvin Stevens and his son, John Howard Stevens, the Nathan Clifford School is a three-story building constructed of buff brick at a cost of \$135,057. The building, which totals 44,288 square feet, contains 16 classrooms laid out in an H-shape, with one classroom anchoring each corner of the structure.

Questions and comments regarding the re-use of the Nathan Clifford School or to request a copy of the RFQ should be directed to the city's Purchasing Office at (207)874-8654 or via email at [mff@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:mff@portlandmaine.gov).

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