



**Mary Filardo** is the founder and executive director of the 21st Century School Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to building the public will and capacity to modernize school buildings so they support quality education and community revitalization in urban neighborhoods.

Ms. Filardo founded the 21st Century School Fund in 1994 to provide the District of Columbia and other urban communities with leadership, partnerships, innovative solutions, research, and analysis of school facility issues. She originated and then successfully managed the Oyster public/private partnership that built the first new public elementary school in the District in 20 years. She has written extensively on these public school facility issues and developed software to support long-range facilities master planning. Ms. Filardo is leading Building Educational Success Together (BEST) a research, constituency building, and communications collaborative to improve urban school facilities supported by the Ford Foundation.

Before establishing 21CSF, she worked for 25 years in the private sector in building and residential construction management. She was an active public school parent advocate her children's tenure in the District of Columbia Public Schools. She received a BA in philosophy and mathematics from St. John's College, is a 1979 Truman Scholar from the District of Columbia, and completed a MA in Public Policy and Public Finance at the University of Maryland.