Outdoor Classrooms Designed for Learning

Presenters
Kaki Martin, ASLA, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Kristin Metz, ASLA, Boston Schoolyard Initiative
Clara Batchelor, ASLA, CBA Landscape Architects LLC
David Warner, ASLA, Warner Larson Landscape Architects
Phoebe Beierle, ASLA, Boston Public Schools

ASLA 2013 Annual Meeting and EXPO

Presenters
Kaki Martin, ASLA, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Kaki Martin is a founding partner of the Klopfer Martin Design Group. Over the past five years, she has led the design of 10 outdoor classrooms in the Boston Public Schools and played an important role in the evolution of the outdoor classroom program.

Kristin Metz, ASLA, Boston Schoolyard Initiative
Kristin Metz is the Director of Education at the Boston Schoolyard Initiative. For the past 13 years she has helped landscape architects translate the needs of teachers and administrators into innovative, sustainable and functional outdoor classroom designs.

Clara Batchelor, ASLA, CBA Landscape Architects LLC
Clara Batchelor is a Principal and Founder of CBA Landscape Architects LLC. The firm is known for its schoolyards and neighborhood parks. Notable examples include the Harvard Tubman Park in Boston, Box District Park in Chelsea, and the Eliot Schoolyard in Boston.

David Warner, ASLA, Warner Larson Landscape Architects
David Warner, ASLA is the president of Warner Larson, a Boston-based landscape architecture practice. Over the past four years, he personally led the design and implementation of four Boston Schoolyard Initiative projects, including the award-winning Perry School.

Phoebe Beierle, ASLA, Boston Public Schools
Phoebe is a Sustainability Manager with Boston Public Schools, a three year fellowship position funded by The USGBC & the Center for Green Schools. Phoebe works to transform policies, provide training and bring sustainability focused education & leadership opportunities to schools.

ASLA 2013 Annual Meeting and EXPO

Itinerary
12:00 – 12:30 Lecture at Convention Center, board bus
12:30 – 12:45 Board bus, Travel to Harvard-Kent School (Charlestown)
12:45 – 1:35 Tour Harvard-Kent School
1:35 – 1:50 Travel to Russell School (Dorchester)
1:50 – 2:40 Tour Russell School.
2:40 - 2:55 Travel to Perry School (South Boston)
2:55 - 3:45 Tour Perry School, re-board bus
3:45 - 4:00 Return to Convention Center

Learning Objectives
1. Learn about a set of features and strategies developed collaboratively between designers and the Boston Schoolyard Initiative to help teachers teach outdoors.
2. Understand how a compelling outdoor learning environment can be accomplished in a relatively small space, and with a limited budget.
3. Evaluate opportunities and constraints of the three different case study school sites and how these influenced their design.
4. Learn about how outdoor classrooms contribute toward a district’s sustainability and learning objectives.
BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

Transforming Boston’s schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning and community life

18 years
$20 million invested
88 schools
32 outdoor classrooms

850 teachers trained
Introduction to Teaching Outdoors
Science in the Schoolyard™
Outdoor Writers Workshop™

30,000 students served annually

A mayoral task force recommends formation of a public-private partnership
Safe places for children to play and explore

Exposure to the natural world

A community design process

A commitment to education

“encourage and support, at every stage, utilization of the schoolyard as a vehicle for learning.”
early designs supported schoolyard learning

Investment, dedication did not always lead to active use

The key to post-occupancy use: beginning inside the classroom

supporting the actual curriculum
**Boston Schoolyard Initiative**

designing for actual learning activities

The Educational Impacts

- 850+ teachers engaged in professional development
- 30,000 school children reached annually
- ¾ of principals say their BSI schoolyard is used before and after school, by programs, neighborhood children, and residents
- Over ½ say that schoolyard renovation led to an increased use of the schoolyard for teaching and learning.

The Physical Impacts

- Over $20 million invested over 18 years
- 32 Outdoor Classrooms constructed
- 30,000 school children reached annually
- 130 acres reclaimed for learning and play
- 25 acres of asphalt greened (equal to the Boston Public Garden)
- 100 garden beds created
- 200 trees planted
- 75 play structures installed

City of Boston Green Initiatives

WHAT IS GREENOVATE BOSTON?
Greenovate Boston is a movement - a way for everyone in the City to work together to improve our planet, communities, businesses, and daily lives. Stemming from Mayor Thomas M. Menino's plan to reduce Boston's greenhouse gas emissions 22% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, Greenovate Boston will enable people to take simple steps that will make the City a better, greener place to live and work.
**Boston Schoolyard Initiative**

**Boston Public Schools Green Initiatives**

- Volunteer Management Program
- Comprehensive Wellness Policy
- Internal Green Team

---

**CBA Landscape Architects, LLC**
Warner Larson Landscape Architects

**BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE**

Perry School

Planning – Site Utilization

Diagram 1

Diagram 2

Diagram 3

Concept Development

Maritime Theme
Harbor Islands

**BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE**

Perry School

**C O N C E P T D E V E L O P M E N T**

**O C E A N ’ S E D G E**

**W A T E R C Y C L E & C O A S T A L E C O L O G Y**
The American Society of Landscape Architects is a Registered Provider with The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems. Credit earned on completion of this program will be reported to CES Records for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for non-AIA members are available on request.

This program is registered with the AIA/CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product. Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.

Copyright Materials

This presentation is protected by US and International Copyright laws. Reproduction, distribution, display and use of the presentation without written permission of the speaker is prohibited.

© The American Society of Landscape Architects