Strengthening neighborhoods through design

Community Design Collaborative
1216 Arch Street, First Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

www.cdesignnc.org

Alexa Bosse
Program Associate
Infill Philadelphia: Play Space
alexa@cdesignnc.org
WHAT WE DO
DESIGN GRANTS
"Forming a dedicated committee of alumni, parents, and teachers was key to helping us get through the most important early phases."

—Lisa Armstrong, Chair, Greenfield Committee

**Support active play**

Effective outdoor spaces support diverse activities for students who seek different types of play depending on their age. Manufactured play equipment, for example, encourages both girls and boys to engage in vigorous physical activity. A multifaceted environment should contain smooth, brightly colored play equipment with the rough and "wild" textures of natural landscapes.

Effective schoolyard designs target all three stages of children's physical development activities that enable first graders to explore space and relationships, grade discover, leaping, and climbing for second and third graders; and refining skills and developing upper body strength in fourth to fifth graders and middle schoolers.

**Play equipment**

A design for the schoolyard at Hackett Elementary clusters playground and fitness equipment to accommodate students of all ages. A central area leaves room for children to run and play games requiring a hard surface, while a grassy area provides room for less formal.

---

**Introduce learning tools**

Innovative schoolyard elements support outdoor learning spaces that focus on academic achievement, interacting with nature is in itself a learning opportunity—no simpler than watching the flow of water through the schoolyard, Butterfly gardens, rain barrels, birdhouses, and weather stations can instill an appreciation for the environment. These can be formal or informal and provide tools such as workstations and multiuse areas for inquiry and exploration, whether in science, technology, engineering, the arts, or mathematics (STEAM). Students pay attention for longer periods of time on outdoor assignments and return more efficiently when they return to the classroom.

**Outdoor classroom**

This McCall School plan reimagines an undervalued concrete plaza, which is separate from the main play area, as an outdoor classroom. The boulders (in the center of the image) provide classroom seating, as well as a natural edge that helps to define the space.
Play space
Where design comes into play
INITIATIVE OBJECTIVES

- Encourage innovative design
- Improve access
- Promote dialogue and collaboration
- Build awareness
- Provide prototypical design solutions
PLAY SPACE COMPONENTS

EXHIBITION | How We Play
August – Sept 2015

ART OF ACTIVE PLAY
August – October 2015

DESIGN COMPETITION
September – March 2016

DESIGN CHARRETTE
October 2015

PLAY TALKS
Various dates
HOW WE PLAY | EXHIBITION
PLAY TALKS | SPEAKERS + TRAINING SESSIONS

Science of Play | Susan G. Solomon
January 6, 2015

The Land Screening | Erin Davis & Morgan Leichter-Saxby
August 12, 2015

Playwork Approaches | Morgan Leichter-Saxby & Peg Szczurek
August 12, 2015

Healthy Play Panel | Design Philadelphia
October 9th, 2015

Child's Play - Public Presentation
October 30, 2015

Art of PlayA | Anna Beresin
November 4th, 2015

Play Power | Kathy Hirsh-Pasek
December 9th, 2015
ART OF ACTIVE PLAY | TACTICAL URBANISM
DESIGN COMPETITION

This map shows the final design grant candidacy scores for parks, playgrounds and schoolyards based on a composite of related datasets with assigned weights in a weighted overlay. Areas with higher candidate scores based on the weighted overlay are stronger candidates for Community Design Collaborative design grants.

Candidate Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Major Streets

Tim St. Ong, August 2014

SUMMER OF MAPS

DESIGN COMPETITION | SITES

LEARNING LANDSCAPES

Free Library of Philadelphia
Blanche A. Nixon/Cobbs Creek Branch
Cobbs Creek | 5800 Cobbs Creek Parkway

RECLAIMING RECREATION

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Waterloo Recreation Center
Norris Square | 2501 Waterloo Street

REVIVING RECESS

Philadelphia School District
Haverford Bright Futures
Mill Creek | 4601 Haverford Avenue
INITIATIVE OBJECTIVES

- Revitalize under-used space
- Challenge traditional playground concepts
- Support development and learning
- Promote investment in play spaces
- Recognize innovation and creativity
TEAM COMPOSITION

Multidisciplinary Integrated Team

Required: Licensed Professional
Landscape Architect, Architect, or Civil Engineer

Strongly Recommended: Early Childhood Educator

Additional Team Members Suggested:

- Playground design
- Urban design
- Environmental design
- Sustainable designer
- Stormwater/water resources
- Cost estimators
- Implementers

- Child development
- Playworker/play expert
- Recreation therapist
- Nature play/environmental educator
- Public policy
- Public health
- Urban advocate
- Childcare family members/users

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
Registration Opens

NOVEMBER 30, 2015
Registration Closes

JANUARY 22, 2016
Submissions Due

FEBRUARY, 2016
Expert Jury Review

FEBRUARY, 2016
Finalists Notification

MARCH, 2016
Finals Event + Design Awards
FIRST PRIZE
(3 prizes, 1 per site)
- Cash Award of $10,000
- Profile in Grid Magazine, Summer 2016
- Opportunities for team presentations at conferences & forums
- Opportunities for boards to be displayed at traveling exhibitions

FINALISTS PRIZES
(Up to 9, 3 per site)
- Press coverage by Grid magazine Summer 2016
- Opportunities for boards to be displayed at traveling exhibitions

EXPERT JURY

SITE/COMMUNITY
Joe Benford, Free Library of Philadelphia
Darren Cottman, Free Library of Philadelphia
Edwin Desamour, MIMIC
Denise Ellis, Philadelphia School District
Kathleen Muller, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
Tom Schweiker, Philadelphia School District

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Laurel L. Byrne, Ed.D., LaSalle University
Peg Szczurek, DVAEYC

PLAY
Ken Finch, Consultant/Expert in Nature Play
Debbie Green, Parent Infant Center

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
Chris Crockett, Philadelphia Water

PUBLIC HEALTH
Amanda Wagner, MCP, MGA, Get Healthy Philly/Philadelphia Department of Public Health

DESIGN
Betsy Caesar, Med CPSI, Playcare, Inc.
Nette Compton, RLA, ASLA, Trust for Public Land
Mark A. Focht, FASLA, PLA, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

EXPERT JURY
For information & competition registration:

www.cdesignnc.org/Infill/PlaySpace

Alexa Bosse  
Program Associate  
Infill Philadelphia: Play Space  
alexa@cdesignnc.org