

Public - Private Partnerships: The Learning Landscapes Schoolyard Redevelopment Program

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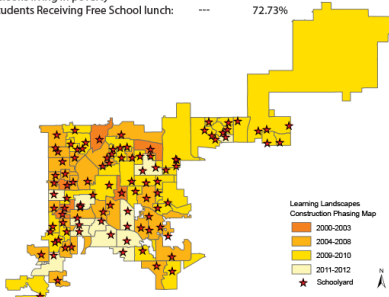


Setting & Demographics

Learning Landscapes are located in Denver, Colorado at Denver Public Schools (DPS). Denver is approximately 154.9 sq miles and has a density of 3,617 persons pr sq mile.

Demographics (Census, 2000)

	Denver	DPS
Total Population	592,052	78,352
Non-Latino White	52%	25%
Black	11%	16%
Latino	32%	54%
Native American	1%	1%
Asian	3%	4%
Persons living in poverty	14.29%	---
Students Receiving Free School Lunch:	---	72.73%

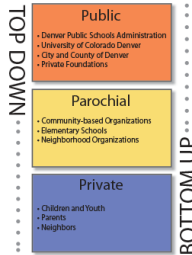


Lessons Learned

Challenges presented by urbanization are best addressed by broad-based, collaborative community partnerships.

Joint use agreements between schools and communities are a promising way to increase physical activity opportunities for under-served communities.

A Bottom-Up / Top-Down approach helps mobilize the political will necessary for district-wide implementation.



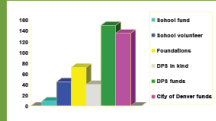
Who We Are

Learning Landscapes builds school yards that support the wellness of communities - increasing community gathering places, providing recreational opportunities, open space, gardens, and much more. Each new school yard is tailored to the local community with the goal of increasing children's physical activity, increasing neighborhood gathering places, and beautifying the neighborhood.

Learning Landscapes is a program of the Colorado Center for Community Development at the University of Colorado Denver's College of Architecture and Planning.

Methodology

- 1) University of Colorado - Denver Landscape Architecture studio classes design new school grounds that respond to the cultural makeup of the neighborhood, the aesthetic tastes of its residents, and the developmental needs of children, in partnership with local community and school.
- 2) University of Colorado - Denver collaborates with Denver Public Schools, City, and private partners to raise funds for the approximately \$450,000 per school in construction costs.
- 3) School principals and parents lobby District administrators to construct the school-yards, and local businesses, organizations, and community-members provide funding and in-kind support (bottom-up approach)
- 4) Office of Economic Development, School District, and Public Foundations provide funding through grants and gifts (top-down approach)
- 5) Voters choose to provide funding for Learning Landscapes development in 2003 and 2009 School Bonds (bottom-up and top-down)



Key Results

- 81 school yards completed
- 24 additional school yards to be completed by 2015
- \$ 49.6 million raised for school yards

Outcomes

- Reconnecting communities with their public schools
- Creating innovative avenues for participatory learning
- Increasing recreational opportunities
- Providing much needed green spaces
- Creating a fun site for learning and discovery
- Celebrating the cultural and historic character of each distinct neighborhood.

Funding

- 1) Public/ Private contributions: \$9 million
 - Office of Economic Development, City of Denver
 - State Lottery Funds
 - Corporate donations (Denver Broncos)
 - Community members, businesses, and local organizations
- 2) 2003 and 2008 School Bond Initiatives: \$39.6 million

Key Partners

Government Denver Public Schools Denver Office of Economic Development Denver Parks and Recreation Americorps NCCC	Non-Profit Slow Food Groundwork Denver Revision International Denver Urban Gardens	Foundation Gates Foundation Great Outdoors Colorado LiveWell Colorado Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Institutes of Health
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Components of a Learning Landscapes Schoolyard

Murals	Gateway	Climbing Structure	Shade Structure	Playing Fields	Outdoor Classroom	Habitat / Vegetable Garden	Age Appropriate Play	Maps and Hardsurface Games

Colorado Center for Community Development
 ARCHITECTURE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - PLANNING - PUBLIC HEALTH

Partnering with communities to improve the places where people live, work and play.

Vision:
 All communities in Colorado will experience an enhanced quality of life based on innovative and dynamic research, design, and civic engagement.

Mission:
 We partner with Colorado communities through diverse teaching and learning settings to enhance the built environment.

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