COMPETITION BRIEF

Design AID
OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES

AUGUST 14, 2020
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The Challenge

Students haven’t seen the inside of a classroom for months and they’ve been missing in-person interaction with their teachers and peers. They’ve tried school on a screen, but it’s just not the same.

How can schools turn underutilized schoolyards into outdoor classrooms that could enable students to safely return to school?
THE CHALLENGE

As school districts and parents all over the country are contemplating the possible scenarios for returning to school, history indicates that we should be (re)turning to the outdoors for answers. With funding from the William Penn Foundation, and in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, the Community Design Collaborative’s Design Assistance In Demand (A.I.D.): Outdoor Learning Spaces Design Ideas Competition is seeking your innovative and creative solutions for outdoor learning in a time of global crisis -- and beyond -- to bring all of our students back to school as soon as safely possible and to expand opportunities for learning in the extended future.

School buildings have a limited amount of square footage to address the proper social distancing necessary for all students to return to school, so we are looking to utilize the typically underused footprint of schoolyards to expand learning environments to the outdoor classroom. While this challenge is not site specific, design solutions should be considered for typical paved schoolyards. Designs can address a range of interventions, from the simple idea of bringing existing classroom furniture outdoors to a kit of parts that can be mixed and matched in various schools and sites, and may be constructed by school and community volunteers.
Who can participate?

Anyone can participate! And everyone’s a winner! The Community Design Collaborative will compile your design solutions in the Design A.I.D.: Outdoor Learning Spaces Design Guide that will serve as a digital resource to support Philadelphia schools and schools across the U.S. and the globe in their efforts to safely go back to school.

How to participate?

Entrants will design an outdoor learning space and create for submission (1) main concept image accompanied by a concise (150 word) concept description. In addition, entrants can create up to 12 supporting images and/or text components that provide clear instruction about materials needed to construct, install, and maintain the proposed design.

Timeline

Friday, August 14
Competition opens.

Sunday, August 23
Deadline for submissions. Due by 11:59 PM EST.

Monday, September 14
Digital Design Guide launched.

September – October
Outdoor learning spaces installed at 5-6 schools.

Early November
Virtual presentation of completed projects.
DESIGN GUIDELINES

Successful designs must reflect the Design Goals, Design Parameters and Public Health Recommendations as outlined in the following pages of this brief.

Additional considerations and resources are also included. However, while you may use these to guide your work, it is not necessary to address all of them in your submission.

While the designs will be evaluated for inclusion in the Design Guide based on compliance with the Design Goals, Design Parameters, and Public Health Recommendations, they will also be considered based on creativity and innovation. So, please BE CREATIVE!

Medium, technique, and vantage point of drawings are determined at the discretion of the entrant. However, drawings and supporting information must be clear and comprehensive for all audiences, not only designers.
HOW TO SUBMIT

To submit your design solution, please prepare the following materials for submission:

- Name of Designer / Design Team or Firm
- Names of individual team members
- Designer / Design Team or Firm contact information
- Title of Design Solution
- One (1) main concept image of your design solution. File must be as close to 300dpi and no larger than 5MB.
- 150 word narrative that describes your design solution and how it addresses the design criteria.
- Design Guide page with one (1) main concept image, three (3) supporting images, and narrative. File must be a PDF no larger than 5MB, download Design Guide template.
- Design Details page with up to eight (8) images and/or text components that provide clear instruction about materials needed to construct, install, and maintain the proposed design. File must be a PDF no larger than 5MB, download Design Details template.
- Design assembly difficulty level: no tools, hand tools, power tools, or specialized skills.
- Total number of hours spent by all team members on the design of your submission. This information is intended to document the overall value of pro bono service provided through this design competition.
- Social media handles
- Website, if applicable
- Non-refundable entry fee of $25 (per entry).

100% of this fee (and any additional donation) will fund the construction of additional outdoor learning spaces in School District of Philadelphia schoolyards, providing more opportunities to our school children beyond the funded 5-6 pilot outdoor learning spaces through this effort.

Designers / design teams may submit multiple design solutions, however, each must be submitted as a separate entry submission.

Submit your outdoor learning space idea here: Submission Form
Submit your outdoor learning space idea here: Submission Form
Design Solution Description

Please add your 150 word max design solution description here. Please use 9pt Helvetica or Arial font at a regular weight. Purus semper eget duis at tellus at urna condimentum mattis pellentesque id nibh tortor id aliquet lectus. Proin nibh nisi condimentum id venenatis a condimentum vitae sapien. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas sed tempus urna et pharetra pharetra massa.

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ONE MAIN IMAGE

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES PLACED ON ONE 8.5X11" SHEET. JPG OR PDF NOT EXCEEDING 5MB.

THREE SUPPORTING IMAGES

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

(Title of Design Solution)
(Design Team Name Here)
(Website Here)
(Social Media Handles Here)
**SUBMISSION DETAILS TEMPLATE**

**DOWNLOAD SUBMISSION DETAILS TEMPLATE**

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**SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

**Design Solution Name Here**

**Design Team Name Here**

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**DESIGN DETAILS**

- **Design Assembly Difficulty**
  - No tools: assembly required with strength and sweat
  - Hand tools: hammer, wrenches, screwdrivers, mallet, hand saw
  - Power tools: drills, screw or nail guns, chop saw
  - Specialized skills: VR/AR, welding, plumbing, woodturning, 3d printing, electrical

**NOTE:** Please use grid set below to layout design details. Allow 1/4" of space between objects/ images. Additional detail text to be kept to right most column of sheet.

DELETE BLUE GUIDELINES AND THIS TEXT ONCE DETAILS ARE PLACED.

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**DESIGN ASSEMBLY DIFFICULTY**

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**DESIGN DETAIL IMAGE OR TEXT**

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**DESIGN DETAIL IMAGE OR TEXT**

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**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Material 1
- Material 2
- Material 3
- Material 4
- Material 5
- Material 6
- Material 7
- Material 8
- Material 9
- Material 10
- Material 11

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**HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES PLACED ON ONE 8.5X11" SHEET. JPG OR PDF NOT EXCEEDING 5MB.**
THE PANEL

All design submissions will be reviewed by a panel of members of the School District of Philadelphia, Playful Learning Landscapes, the Community Design Collaborative and traditional and community educators.

All competition submissions will be reviewed and evaluated for inclusion in the Design Guide based on compliance with the listed criteria of Design Goals, Design Parameters and Public Health Recommendations.

Additionally, School District of Philadelphia students and their families may review the submissions to select their top 10 favorite submissions, which will receive a gold star designation in the Design Guide.

IMPLEMENTING PILOT LEARNING SPACES

This initiative intends for 5-6 pilot outdoor learning spaces to be implemented through funding from the William Penn Foundation for this Design Ideas Competition. The beneficiary schools will be selected by the School District of Philadelphia with a goal of serving those schools most in need. These schools will, hopefully, be catalysts, encouraging other schools to implement their own outdoor learning space.
Design Goals

DESIGN SOLUTIONS ARE TO BE:

- Welcoming, safe, accessible, and equitable
- Vibrant, intriguing, and playful
- Supporting teacher-student interactions
- Spaces that foster learning (all components/aspects of the design should strive to incorporate opportunities for learning, i.e., if there is a roof element, it can incorporate a system of rain collection to teach about stormwater management)
- Inclusive of all modalities of learning: kinesthetic (moving), visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), and tactile (touching)
- Appropriate for elementary (K-5) schools with special focus on the youngest students in grades K-3
- Promoting creativity and ingenuity in children
Design Parameters

DESIGN SOLUTIONS ARE TO:

- Be fabricated and installed for $5000 or less
- Easily fabricated and assembled quickly by volunteers (ideally with assistance from students)
- Be temporary, yet inspiring the potential for permanent installations.
- Accommodate year-round learning (all four seasons)
- Be low maintenance (in ease and cost)
- Make creative use of everyday materials and items prioritizing the use of durable, reusable, and sustainable materials
- Maximize accessibility throughout the site for all abilities
- Meet minimum code requirements for structures, railings, ramps, surfaces, etc.
- Consider a menu of design elements that are versatile and can be configured to the needs of multiple sites
- Accommodate clear lines of sight for supervision of a 30-student class by teachers
- Include opportunities for smaller groups or individual learning
- Integrate power, water, and wifi, as possible
- Be easily secured (security in some cases may be provided by an existing fence surrounding the schoolyard)
- Include opportunities for storage, writing and tackable surfaces
- Consider the design for one classroom and/or how multiple classrooms may be arranged within one schoolyard space
Public Health Recommendations

DESIGN SOLUTIONS ARE TO:

– Incorporate public health guidance from the local, state, and federal requirements to maintain the health and safety of school staff and students.


– Embrace the Guiding Principles of Inclusive Healthy Places. These guiding principles can inform strategies for shaping public space projects that promote accessibility and diverse social interactions, reflect shared social values, advance equity, and are welcoming for all.

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES MAY INCLUDE:

– Seating that supports physical distancing and universal design for all abilities

– Proper signage for physical distancing that includes information on how to stop the spread of COVID-19. All signage should be available in languages appropriate to the host community

– Touchless hand-washing locations and automatic dispensers for hand sanitizer
Additional Considerations

PLANNING & ACCESS

Design teams may review and use the following considerations to guide their designs, but are not required to address them in their submission.

- Designs should consider impact on surrounding residential areas.
- Designs are to be attractive and add to the overall look and appeal of the school and grounds.
- Designs should consider protection from surrounding vehicular traffic.
- Grade should be maintained, or changes should be easily navigable without gaps or steps.
- Designs should account for heavy traffic/usage.
- Designs should consider the increased need for bike or scooter parking within the schoolyard space.

PLAYFUL LEARNING

Playful Learning Landscapes uses an evidence-based approach that harnesses guided play in spaces designed for children to discover, explore, and learn.

Entrants should consider using designs that:

- Encourage children to engage in the type of play known to support learning (i.e., joyful, meaningful, actively engaging, and socially interactive)
- Incorporate 21st century learning goals (i.e., 6 Cs; communication, collaboration, content, critical thinking, creative innovation, and confidence)
- Include elements that spark conversation and enriching interactions
- Integrate, where possible, elements of community culture and identity
The Design A.I.D.: Outdoor Learning Spaces Design Ideas Competition is organized and administered by the Community Design Collaborative in partnership with The School District of Philadelphia (The Partners). The goal of this outdoor learning space initiative is to develop a Design Guide that Philadelphia schools can adapt for use at their specific sites with the support of their students, families, and neighbors.

All competition submissions shall be vetted by The Panel for eligibility and adherence with the design criteria in the competition brief. All design solutions adhering to the listed design criteria will be published in the Design A.I.D.: Outdoor Learning Spaces Design Guide. Decisions of eligibility will be at the discretion of The Panel and all decisions are final. The Panel and Partners reserve their right to refuse any entry.

By submitting an entry to this competition, the designer/design team represents that all work submitted is the original work of the designer/design team. The Partners shall not be responsible for any misrepresentations, disputes, or other concerns associated with the authorship of the submissions. The Partners reserve the right to publish and/or reproduce images and text from any and all submissions, with credit to the creator(s). By submitting an entry to this competition, entrants transfer unlimited use for publication, exhibition and electronic posting of all entries to The Partners, and entrants acknowledge and accept that all aspects of any submission may be used for publicity purposes.

The Partners shall not be responsible for any technical or other conditions that prevent the receipt or evaluation of a competition submission, or any part thereof.

Entrants agree to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless The Partners and their respective directors, officers, employees, and agents from and against all claims, liens, demands, causes of action and suits and all losses, damages and expenses, including without limitation reasonable attorneys’ fees, in any manner connected with entrants’ participation in the competition.

Upon submitting an entry to this competition, all entrants agree to waive any and all claims against The Partners in connection with the competition. The Partners shall not be responsible for evaluating the soundness of any entry for construction or safety purposes, including without limitation with respect to any public health requirements.
HELPFUL RESOURCES

Public Health Recommendations
CDC guidance for schools
City of Philadelphia Reopening Guidance for Elementary Schools – (English) (Espanol)
City of Philadelphia’s Reopening with Care Guidance

Media
Schools Beat Earlier Plagues With Outdoor Classes. We Should, Too. New York Times
Some Philly Schools want to use outdoor classrooms when IRL lessons resume. WHYY

Playful Learning
Playful Learning Landscapes Website
Playful Learning Landscapes Handout
Kaboom Play Everywhere gallery

Schoolyards
School District of Philadelphia Design Guidelines for Outdoor Learning
Green Schoolyards America, Covid-19 Outdoor Learning
Community Design Collaborative Transforming Schoolyards Resources and Guide
Work Quickly!

The deadline for these submissions is August 23, 2020 11:59PM EST.

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