MONTCLAIR ELEMENTARY
COMMUNITY GATEWAY

PLAZA/GATHERING AREA

SECTION A - COMMUNITY GATEWAY
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

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SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION B - SIDE OF COLUMNS (OPTION 2)
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION A - PLAZA
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Montclair Elementary School is located in the historic neighborhood of Montclair northeast of Denver. Baron VonRichthofen, the uncle of the Red Baron, established the site of the school in 1862. Montclair Elementary School opened in 1892. The school is located on Newport Street only several blocks off of East Colfax Avenue. There are approximately 300 students enrolled in Montclair Elementary, which includes kindergarten through fifth grade. Twenty nations from Africa are represented at the school with over twenty-five languages spoken other than English. The school is proud of its diverse student population and provides a wide range of opportunities for the student population. The school offers a unique educational opportunity through their cluster groups. Each cluster group focuses on an interest and these clusters encourage children to explore and discover such as magic and building rockets.

Montclair Elementary School has a dedicated principal, teaching staff, and student body. The school's goals for the future playground are to:

- Revitalize the appearance of the exterior school grounds with dynamic signs and colorful plants that welcome students, parents, and teachers as well as visitors from the surrounding community.
- Integrate an outdoor classroom within the Montclair playground to be used by students, cluster groups, and teachers and is built to inspire and stimulate while not disturbing inside classrooms.
- Create a safe and updated playground that is full of high-energy and is designed to promote, engage, and motivate students of all age groups.
- Celebrate the rich and diverse historic and cultural aspects, such as Richthofen Castle of the Montclair neighborhood with the addition of play and program elements reflecting this area's rich history.
- Create a playground rich with educational play elements relating to science, math, and reading that engage students while at play.

### Program Elements

- ECE/Pre-Primary Area and Equipment Pit
- Primary Equipment Pit
- Intermediate Equipment Pit
- Swing Pit
- Field Surf Play
- Basketball Court
- Shade Shelter
- Community Gateway
- Multi-use Field All-terrain
- Outdoor Classroom
- Seating/Climbing Boulders
- Gardens

### Imagery

Montclair Elementary School • Learning Landscape

Introduction

The design is based on forms taken from African Art and its organization is based on the concepts of imagination and learning. For a child, the process of these two concepts begins in the playground where their imaginations run wild. They explore the environment through games and play. They discover new challenges through climbing walls. They record their journey using their imagination to create stories of fairy tales. Through art and gardening, they learn how to express themselves and interact with others. The process continues in the classroom where children apply and transfer imagination and playground skills.

The African forms can be seen throughout the playground. The spiral forms that organize the main circulation of the site is also based on an African art piece. This spiral path guides people through the playground. In addition, the spiral mimics the learning process and imagination cycle. A series of imagination nodes aligns the spiral providing places of play and educational opportunities. Each node encompasses a different theme. The themes are art, science, literature, nature and fairy tales.

### Textures

Montclair Elementary School • Learning Landscape

Process

Existing Conditions

Existing Circulation Patterns

Nodes of Interest

Imagination Design Concept

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Sections

A
- Multi-Use Field
- Boardwalk
- Garden
- Castle Mound
- Hard Play / Tetherball

B
- Rock Garden
- Hard Play / Tetherball
- ECE Play
There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run.

"Don't brag about your lightning pace, for Slow and Steady won the race!"

There was once a flock of birds peacefully pecking seeds under a tree.

"Each one of those birds is so frail and yet, together they can lift the net."

It was not often that the tortoise and the eagle met, for the one spent his days in the clouds and the other in the under a bush.

There was once a man who was being chased by a ferocious tiger across a field.

"He never before realized how sweet a strawberry could taste."

"Grandpa planted a turnip and said: "Grow, grow, turnip, grow large and strong!"

They pulled and pulled and finally pulled the turnip out!

"Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in a village near the forest."

"Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother had a nice lunch and a long chat..."
Circulation

Primary Circulation
Secondary Circulation
Leisure Circulation

Entry Points to Playground
Main Gate Entry
Secondary Gate Entry
Entry from School
Non-visible Entry

Materials
Asphalt
Concrete
Vegetation
Crusher Fines
Poured in Place
EWF
Pea Gravel
Boardwalk
Native