Art and the Community

Working with local artists, the children, teachers and neighbors, pieces such as kinetic, interactive, and artistic sculptures will be designed and installed in a pattern that reinforces the spiral layout of the site. This objective behind these artistic installations will provide a means for the community to directly participate in the design and thereby take pride in ownership of the site, and second, to prove design that is both interactive and above all, fun. Outer-inspired kinetic sculptures that the children can physically manipulate and that move appropriately will reflect relationships, such as solar orientation and cast shadow patterns, and be an important element of the landscape. These sculptures will be designed by the children and created with the help of professional artists from the community.

Master Plan Goals

- Green the Schoolyard
- Improve Play and Learning Opportunities
- Connect with the Community
- Incorporate Interactive Education

The existing goth yard consists of a flat and barren asphalt and gravel beds approximately 20,000 square feet. Speed limit 5mph. Lane access.

Design Solution

This project will be built this summer. Challenged by a real budget of $468,000, the proposed design solution incorporates the following:

- As the school is the center of the children’s universe, a universe that extends well beyond the school and into the neighborhood, a spiral geometry was selected as the organizing form on the site. This form complements with the grid layout of the neighborhood, producing a visually dynamic landscape.
- The symbolic shape of the galactic form is the primary and intermediate play equipment and shade structure in the center of the spiral. This creates a central gathering space for the community and Greenlee’s children, and it improves site supervision and interactive play.
- The neighborhood entry from the northeast will be created to ease through a series of design elements shaped from on-site out material. This will transition the entrance to the become a portal and noise barrier from road traffic, while also reflecting the site’s community garden features.
- Raised planting beds will be located to access to an on-site community garden for educational purposes, community interaction and a better defined from Reinforcement.
- Aesthetic integration is emphasized in the inclusion of public art in the schoolyard re-design.

Greenelee Elementary and La Alma: Lincoln Park

An urban school on the fringe of downtown Denver, Greenelee Elementary serves a lower income, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood with a strong sense of community pride.