

Growing the Future

News from the Children, Youth & Environments Center for Community Engagement

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS CURRICULUM *by Mara Mintzer, GUB Coordinator*

Since August 2013, Growing Up Boulder has teamed up with 58 third graders from Whittier International Elementary School and 16 ninth graders from Boulder High School to answer the following question: how can we design dense, affordable housing for Boulder that is also child- and youth-friendly? Many groups want to know the answers to this question, including the City of Boulder, Better Boulder (a non-profit that promotes denser housing in Boulder), and the University of Colorado's facilities management department. Growing Up Boulder co-coordinator Mara Mintzer worked with CU undergraduate intern Nathalie Doyle, visiting masters student Flaminia Martufi, and Whittier third grade teachers Cathy Hill, Lisa O'Brien and Tamar van Vliet to design and implement a semester-long curriculum. Students answered this question using a variety of activities: they reflected upon their own neighborhoods to determine what they liked and didn't like; they learned about tradeoffs to consider when designing beautiful, dense, affordable and sustainable housing; they took field trips to local housing sites; and they synthesized all they learned through 3-D models that represent their visions. Students will also have the opportunity to share their vision with Environmental Design students in a spring semester studio course focused on the same topic. GUB's young participants will serve as advisors and critics of CU students' work, helping to define what dense and child-friendly might look like for Boulder.



Mara Mintzer listens as one of the students explains a class model designed to inform future city neighborhood design. Photo: Lynn M. Lickteig.



Two third graders present at the Whittier Elementary School's "Great Neighborhoods" open house. Photo: Lynn M. Lickteig.

Growing Up Boulder and Whittier International Elementary School held a "Great Neighborhoods Project" open house on December 18. Almost 60 third grade students shared their powerpoint presentations about their visions for dense, affordable neighborhoods with their principal, Becky Escamilla, and 20 adult leaders from Boulder, including former State Senator Dorothy Rupert, City Councilwoman and Planning Board Chair Mary Young, BVSD School Board member Tina Marquis, Professors Willem van Vliet, Louise Chawla, Fahriye Sancar, and Tori Derr, city staff, CU planning staff and more. Adults were also treated to 3-D models of newly-designed neighborhoods and persuasive writing pieces from the children. When asked what they will bring into their adult lives from this project, one child responded, "I want to continue to be a part of my community like I am now."



A closer look at a third graders' class model. Photo: Lynn M. Lickteig.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we enter a new year, changes are coming to CYE. Although we will stay involved with CYE, Louise and I will both be retiring from our academic positions in 2014. I am very pleased that Dr. Tori Derr has accepted an appointment as Assistant Director. She will be taking on a leadership role as CYE expands into a more broad-based Center for Community Engagement, Design and Research (CEDAR). The Environmental Design Program has come to recognize CYE as a model for creating long-term partnerships that bring together design faculty, undergraduate and graduate students in design and planning, city agencies, and local, national and international nonprofit organizations to create opportunities for real-world learning and service. CEDAR



Willem preparing for lift-off. Photo: Paul Sperry.

will maintain CYE's program of child- and youth-focused work but expand to include design-build projects and internships for all ages.

The Children, Youth and Environments Journal is also seeing growth. Thanks to a

grant from CU's Outreach Committee, CYE was able to develop the journal's subscriber base, reaching its goal of becoming financially self-sustaining. I also want to acknowledge support for CYE activities provided by grants from the Van Leer Foundation, the City of Boulder, and Boulder Housing Partners, and donations by members of the Board of Directors.

The Center now has an ongoing working relationship with several schools, including Boulder HS, Casey MS, and Whittier ES. These collaborations have been integrated into curriculum and have grown from CYE's deliberate partnership strategy.

Last summer and fall, CYE hosted Issei Yamamoto, a PhD student from Japan, and Flaminia Martufi, a master's student from Italy. They requested an opportunity to stay at CYE to learn more about its methods of participatory design and planning. CYE was also invited to share its work at a major conference in Bogota, Colombia. These events illustrate CYE's international reach and recognition, indicated also by the journal's readers in more than 140 countries and the recent launch of CYE's Global Photo Library.

I thank you for your support and look forward to another strong year.

PROSPEROUS CITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN COLOMBIA *by Alea Richmond, Coordinator*

Colombia hosted the first international forum for prosperous cities for children and youth, which brought together international experts, Colombian mayors and youth to discuss the inclusion of children and youth in the development of public policy and city planning. The forum was hosted by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and UN-Habitat Colombia, and included 250 participants from across the country. The event launched a nationwide initiative to promote the reinvention of cities through physical space and safety, which will be piloted in 24 cities in Colombia.

As one of the five international speakers at the conference, Alea Richmond presented the work of the CYE Center. ICBF and other participants were particularly interested in learning about the CYE Center's methodology for engaging with youth, community assessment tools and finding ways to use the Growing Up Boulder program as a model for integrating children and youth voices into local decision making processes.

The Colombian mayors presented their action plans for

developing more child-friendly cities, and the panel members were given a chance to provide feedback on the projects. At the end of the initiative, UNICEF will certify the cities that make significant progress on the specific goals of child-friendly cities. The CYE Center will continue to collaborate with ICBF and UN-Habitat Colombia to support this initiative.



Alea Richmond on the Prosperous Cities International Forum Panel, Colombia. Photo: Mateo Ramirez, UN-Habitat.

CYE BRINGS CO-DESIGN TO BOULDER

by Louise Chawla, Professor

On November 18 and 19, the CYE Center hosted Stanley King and Susan Chung from Vancouver, British Columbia, as they presented a lecture and workshop on the Co-Design process to engage children, youth and adults in envisioning how cities can combine ecologically diverse green spaces with socially and culturally vibrant public places. Their lecture, "Finding the Sweet Spot: Engaging Youth in the Design Dialogue for Planning their Neighborhoods," gave an overview of Co-Design to a full house on campus. On the following day, their workshop led participants through key activities with a focus on Boulder's Civic Area. For more information, see <http://codesigngroup.blogspot.ca>.

Stanley, an architect, co-authored the book *Co-Design: A Process for Design Participation*. As he related in his lecture, he was propelled along this path when bulldozers destroyed the city lot where his son and his friends played and the boys came to him in shock, wanting to know, "What are the rules?" Since then, he has worked for city policies and participatory processes that give children and youth a voice in urban design and schoolyard greening. Susan is an artist, environmental educator, and co-author with Stanley of the *Youth Manual for Sustainable Development*. The lecture and workshop were sponsored by a coalition

of groups who were eager to learn how to apply Co-Design approaches: the ENVD Program, CYE Center, Environmental Design Student Government, American Planning Association Student Group, and City of Boulder's departments of Community Planning and Sustainability, Transportation, and Parks and Recreation. On their last day here, Stanley and Susan took part in Growing Up Boulder activities in Whittier Elementary School; on their side, they are bringing new ideas back to Vancouver.



Stanley King and Susan Chung lead ENVD students, faculty, and CYE and City of Boulder staff in a Co-Design workshop. Photo by Lynn M. Lickteig.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH VOICE IN THE CITY'S TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

by Mara Mintzer, GUB Coordinator

Thanks to Growing Up Boulder's coordination and its team members' hard work, young people ages 2-22 participated in development of the City of Boulder's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) this past fall. The city wanted to learn from children, youth and college students how they move around town and what could be changed to make it easier for them to bike, walk, bus, skateboard and scoot in Boulder. Through mapping exercises, walkability audits and surveys, the following classes and groups shared their voices with the city: Boulder Journey School, Whittier International Elementary School, the City's Youth Services Initiative (an afterschool program for children living in Boulder's public housing), Casey Middle School, Boulder High School, and Louise Chawla's Human Behavior in Design and Planning class at CU Boulder.

Summaries of this work were presented at a transportation master plan open house in December. Instrumental in spearheading this work were Dr. Tori Derr (Senior Instructor in Environmental Design and co-coordinator of Growing Up Boulder), Flaminia Martufi (visiting masters student from

Italy), Alessandro Rigolon (Ph.D. candidate at UC Denver) and Professor Louise Chawla (Environmental Design, CU Boulder).

Look for details and summaries of this fall's work on the Growing Up Boulder website: www.growingupboulder.org.



Mara Mintzer listening to youth present at the City of Boulder's Transportation Master Plan Open House. Photo: Stephen Cardinale.

MACKINTOSH ACADEMY GARDEN PROJECT *by Erin Hauer, CYE Intern*

Collaborating with Mackintosh Academy of Boulder, CYE Center intern Erin Hauer, supervised and assisted by Victoria Derr, worked with the 7th and 8th grade Technology and Design class to bring permaculture to the school grounds. The ultimate goal for the class was to design and build a permaculture garden; the now-flourishing garden showcases the successful work and achievements of the 7th and 8th graders and their academic community of students, teachers, and parents.

Throughout the semester, Erin delivered weekly lessons in permaculture to the 7/8 Design and Technology Class. The concept of permaculture was explored and applied to society and landscape at large, defined as: a practice of cultivation and healthy coexistence among elements through techniques commonly employed by nature, creating a self-sustaining system. Scaling down to Mackintosh, the class discovered how the school could connect with, contribute to, and reap from the land. Sharing their excitement and understanding of permaculture, the class posted clever and inspiring posters around the school.

The students proceeded to analyze the plot and identify key influential elements; shortly thereafter they journeyed to 63rd Street Permaculture Farm to learn how the principles

of permaculture are employed. After critically analyzing three framework plans, a mandala-shaped garden design was developed, incorporating plots for all grades, a sensory garden for visual arts, companion planting, strawbale gardens, and a pallet garden. A fun-filled workday brought this vision to fruition. A bountiful permaculture garden now provides Mackintosh Academy with produce and fosters education, development, and appreciation for the landscape.



Erin Hauer and Tori Derr working in the garden at Mackintosh Academy. Photo: Lynn M. Lickteig

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The CYE Center is working with Boulder Housing Partners (BHP) to evaluate impacts of a new intervention on family self-sufficiency. CYE helped advise BHP on its application for a five-year Moving to Work grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was one of two agencies nationwide to be awarded such a grant which gives BHP the means and authority to implement experiments with rent reform and resident support services. It is allocating \$40,000 per year for the CYE Center to help assess effects on its public housing and Section 8 resident families. Plans call for the collection of baseline information regarding child care, education, health, employment, social supports, transportation, housing and income.

The first round of data gathering will take place in a few months as part of the annual recertification process. Yucel Severcan, CYE Research Affiliate and recent Ph.D. graduate, and Nader Afzalan, fourth-year Ph.D. student, have participated in meetings with BHP staff and played an active role in development of the resident survey.

Lynda Simmons Award

Congratulations to Tori Derr, Mara Mintzer & Marcel de Lange for being selected as recipients of the Lynda Simmons Award for Excellence in Mentorship in Community Engagement. The CYE Center is pleased to have such outstanding associates and grateful to Lynda Simmons for her generosity and ongoing support. Tori and Mara are co-directors of Growing Up Boulder, the CYE Center's partnership with Boulder Valley School District, the City of Boulder and other community partners. Marcel mentored CYE interns Christina Horber and Lisa Kornblith in the design of a traveling exhibit on discovery-based science learning.



Tori Derr, Mara Mintzer and Marcel de Lange. Photo: Alea Richmond

CYE GLOBAL PHOTO LIBRARY

The Global Photo Library website is an initiative of the CYE Center in collaboration with the Visual Resource Center in the Environmental Design Program at the University of Colorado. Its purpose is to provide educators, students, community groups and other non-commercial users with free access to images of children and youth in various environments.

Images in the CYE Global Photo Library are intended to serve



An image stored in the CYE Global Photo Library of children herding goats in Samburu, Kenya. Photo: James Njuguna.

as examples of a range of real world conditions; they are not limited to best practices or approved design and in some cases can be used to illustrate conditions that are not recommended.

Each month we select a new Photo of the Month, which

aptly expresses environmental contexts and experiences of children and youth. Photos of the Month are displayed in the homepage gallery, and winners are publicly recognized.

Visit www.cyec.colorado.edu to browse the global image database.



Brother and sister make a roller-coaster out of a discarded tire in an abandoned inner-city apartment complex, Japan. Photo: Chris Berthelsen.

CYE JOURNAL ON JSTOR

Last year, CYE signed an agreement with JSTOR, which will publish the *Children, Youth and Environments* (CYE) journal for the next five years. JSTOR is a leading digital publisher of academic articles worldwide. Goals of the agreement are to lighten the load of administrative and production tasks for the editors, enabling them to focus more on content, to make the journal financially self-sustaining, and to establish a dependable long-term repository.

Almost one year into this partnership, we are well on our way. Although the transition has taken a good deal of time and effort, we now have a publishing routine that is more manageable and fully professional. With the support of a grant from the CU Outreach Committee, we have been able to quadruple the number of institutional subscribers, while individual subscriptions have more than tripled. We have increased frequency of publication from a biannual to a triannual, and usage reports show readers in more than 140 countries.

The first issue of this year was sponsored by the Van Leer Foundation and guest edited by Kevin Lalor from the

School of Social Sciences and Law at the Dublin Institute of Technology. It included papers and field reports from Northern Ireland, the United States, Columbia, Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo that presented innovative approaches to “Children, Violence, Community and the Physical Environment.” The second issue, published last summer, contained papers from the U.S.A., New Zealand, Denmark, and Norway, mostly focused on various aspects of playgrounds and school grounds, while this year’s last issue, just out, includes papers from the U.S.A., Canada, Sweden, and Turkey on topics such as travel to school, outdoor play, sense of place, perceptions of neighborhood safety, and use of urban parks and nature.



DAVID HAWKINS EXHIBIT *by Christina Horber & Lisa Kornblith, CYE Interns*

Since the summer of 2011 the CYE Center has been involved in a community outreach project with the Boulder Journey School. The Boulder Journey School is a progressive preschool founded on the ideals of the Reggio Emilia schools in Italy, which focus on curiosity and exploration to facilitate learning. David Hawkins, a scientist and educator, was a major contributor to the school's conceptual framework and is the inspiration for this outreach project. The exhibit brings Hawkins' ideas about effective science education to parents, teachers, children, and entire communities in order to inspire a change in perception and practice.

The project includes the design and construction of a mobile exhibit that is interactive and engaging for all ages. Christy Horber and Lisa Kornblith, students in the Environmental Design program at CU Boulder, were the interns involved in this collaborative project. During their first summer on the project, they were introduced to David Hawkins' philosophy and took time to explore and understand his ideas. In addition to the Journey School, they visited traditional museums as well as children's museums to see how the layering of information and interactive elements were handled.

From that point they dove into brainstorming with the Journey School about the design of the framework, content, interactive elements, and the physical layout of the exhibit. The design work was detail oriented, including

designing joints to hold the aluminum frame together. This design project was an opportunity for the interns to work with a project from beginning to end, starting with discussions, research, visions, and brainstorming and continuing into learning about 3D printing to build models, working with a budget, working with customers who have their own vision, working with a time schedule, and having to take real world elements into full consideration instead of designing hypothetical studio projects.

This project gained support from other organizations including WEST (Women Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology) which is focused on getting young women interested and trained in science and technology in order to have a positive impact in their communities.

The exhibit opened in January 2013 at the CU Museum of Natural History and traveled in March to the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. From July to October, it was hosted by RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching) in Denver, and from October to December at the School of Education and Human Development at UC Denver.



David Hawkins exhibit at the CU Museum of Natural History. Photo: Stephen Cardinale.

FLOOD RELIEF FOR STUDENTS *by Nancy Kole, CYE Intern*

The recent flood was a devastating experience for many families, students, and small businesses in Boulder. The University of Colorado and Boulder community came together to support those affected by the storm. As part of this effort, the CYE Center and Environmental Design Student Government teamed up to create the ENVD flood relief fund. Students and Student Government members manned a booth in the lobby of the Environmental Design Building with a donation jar and a "Make a Wish, Grant a Wish" board where ENVD students could either post items of need or supply other students with their wished-for items. Most flood victims indicated that they needed basic furniture, such as desks, bookshelves and beds. The Make a Wish, Grant a Wish project helped fulfill many of those needs.



Yucel Severcan, Alea Richmond and Erin Hauer collecting donations at the Flood Relief Booth during the Environmental Design carnival. Photo by Lynn M. Lickteig.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 3 NEW PhDs!

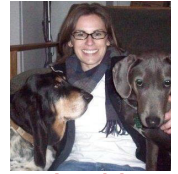
In the spring and summer of 2013, three Ph.D. students who have contributed to CYE initiatives completed their doctorates to move on to new opportunities. Laura Malinin, a former instructor in the ENVD program, has an interest in the impact of school buildings on learning and creativity. She co-edited a special issue of the *Children, Youth and Environments* journal on school design, and for several years she taught classes that brought ENVD students to Casey Middle School to engage young people there in participatory design education. This past spring, she completed a dissertation on "Creativity in Place" that examined how the design of universities and research institutes can foster creativity. After graduation, she took a job as assistant professor in the interior design program at Colorado State University.



Laura Malinin

Corrie Colvin Williams was instrumental in organizing and sustaining CYE's relationship with the Family Learning Center at the San Juan del Centro affordable housing development in Boulder. She brought design students to the Center to help create a community garden, and continued to work with the children there to plant and harvest. She brought together a team of CU students who introduced math, science, writing, art, and dance activities based on garden themes. As a geographer, Corrie also created an online map with oral histories about growing up in Boulder across the decades as part of CYE's contribution to the

city's celebration of its 150th anniversary. For her work, Corrie received the Lynda Simmons Award for Excellence in Youth and Community Development. Last summer, Corrie completed a dissertation on "Significant Life Experiences: Exploring the Lifelong Influence of Place-based Environmental Education and Science Education on Program Participants." Shortly afterwards, she and her husband James welcomed the birth of a baby daughter. Corrie now works as the Program Director for Informal Science Education at University of Colorado Science Discovery.



Corrie Colvin Williams

Last summer Tizai Mauto completed a dissertation on "Impacts of Youth-led Livelihood Programs: An Exploration of UN Habitat's Urban Youth Fund and the Youth Employment Network's Youth-to-Youth Fund." Adopting a sustainable livelihoods framework, he used a positive youth development perspective that views young people as assets to their communities rather than burdens on society. Based on information that he collected through surveys and interviews with leaders of 133 youth-led organizations in 18 African countries, his analyses suggest good practices for facilitating youth entrepreneurship and improving young people's living conditions in cities of the developing world. For his skillful exploration of this significant subject, he won a Children, Youth and Environments Excellence in Dissertation Research Award.



Tizai Mauto

BIOS AT CYE

Michael Szuberla



Michael Szuberla is a second-year PhD student in Environmental Studies and Environmental Design at the University of Colorado Boulder. Before he joined the CYE Center, Michael spent over a decade as the director of the Toledo Botanical Garden's urban agriculture program - Toledo GROWs. Michael has worked throughout the Great Lakes region on urban agriculture with an emphasis on programs that serve adjudicated youth. He is currently refining a thesis topic related to the dialogues that arise among youth participants in urban agriculture regarding nutrition and health. Michael also serves as the book review editor for the *Children Youth and Environments* journal.

Alea Richmond



Alea Richmond is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the CYE Center and the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Program in Environmental Design. For the past five years, Alea has worked extensively on international youth and community development in the United States and South America. Her work at the CYE Center focuses on community engagement in design and planning, increasing youth voice through arts and planning, sustainable design and children's access to nature. Alea has also pioneered the "Heart Smart" and "Health Matters" initiatives for rural communities in Ecuador, which were adopted by the Peace Corps and replicated throughout Latin America.

VISITING SCHOLARS LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON BOULDER

by Louise Chawla & Flaminia Martufi

Issei Yamamoto, a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Education at Kyoto University, Japan, joined CYE for two months to learn about its processes for engaging children in design and planning and to review research on children's environmental learning, with an emphasis on their connections with the natural world. While he was in Boulder, he had an opportunity to do observations at the Boulder Journey School, a partner in CYE's Growing Up Boulder project and an exemplar of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. He also used his time to write a conference presentation and an article on the importance of environmental awareness in education for sustainable development. Issei formerly worked as an art educator in a preschool associated with the Kyoto University of Art and



Design. In addition to his doctoral studies, he currently serves as a part-time instructor in the Preschool Teachers Course at Daiichi Gakuin Senmon College in Kyoto. His gentle manner and humanistic and ecological intelligence touched all of us at CYE.

Flaminia Martufi is an Italian master's student in Architectural Engineering, with an emphasis in Landscape and Urban Planning, from the University of Trento, Italy.



Flaminia came to CU to conduct research for her master's thesis, and collaborated with the CYE Center to learn research and community engagement skills and to have a chance to work with children and youth. During fall semester 2013, she worked on two different projects, both involving K-12 students in the Boulder Valley School District. The first involved the community outreach activities for the City of Boulder's Transportation Master Plan update and focused on young people's ideas about how to make sustainable transportation in Boulder more fun and safe. The second project focused on youth engagement activities to develop new ideas for denser and more affordable housing in Boulder. Flaminia will apply the findings of her research to the design of a youth-friendly neighborhood in the area of the North Boulder Subcommunity Plan.

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*If you want to contribute a story or if you have comments,
please email us at cye-ce@colorado.edu.*

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