

Lois A. Brink, MLA
Chief Strategist, The Big Sandbox, Inc
Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Colorado

A faculty member at the University of Colorado for 25 years, she has been Director of Learning Landscapes (LL) for twenty years and has a deep understanding of children and their social and emotional well-being. She is founder and the principal leader in Denver Public Schools' Learning Landscapes project, a \$50 million design and construction effort for 96 elementary schoolyards completed in the fall of 2012. Learning Landscapes is an innovative schoolyard redevelopment program with a threefold mission: 1) design and construct play environments for healthy living that address the whole child—social, emotional, academic, and nutritional well-being; 2) empower children and communities through, community organizing, healthy eating and active living, and 3) evaluate and research these activities in a comprehensive manner.

Professor Brink's knowledge and experience of children's development and play—coupled with her 45 years as a landscape architect—is critical to other similar initiatives. During her stewardship of Learning Landscapes, the organization made substantial progress in Colorado and across the country. Professor Brink is currently examining the sustainability of schoolyard redevelopment through three other efforts: 1) International Green Schoolyards Alliance and its global lessons effort, 2) an evaluation of Denver Public Schools Learning Landscapes program, and 3) working with North Philadelphia Schools and the School District of Philadelphia to redevelop schoolyards as part of the City's green infrastructure program.

Most recently she has joined The Big SandBox (TBS), a newly formed non-profit organization to support small-scale neighborhood efforts and grow them into large system-wide community change. They help build sustainable, healthy communities through educational, cultural, and historically grounded projects and initiatives that improve the physical and emotional well-being of children, young adults and citizens of all ages.

Education

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.	June 1978
Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Design, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.	June 1976

Professional Organizations

International School Grounds Alliance	2011- present
Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture	1988- present

Community Service

Collaborative School Committee, Garden Place Academy, Denver Colorado.	2020- present
School Advisory Committee, Nebinger Elementary, Philadelphia, Pa.	2020- present
Member, Friends of Dr. Tanner G. Duckrey School 2019 – present	2019- present

Awards, Recognition and Works Cited

"Transforming Colorado's Unique Ecosystem." ASLA Community Service Award, Denver. 2022
CU Diversity & Inclusive Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Denver. 2021.
"Telling the story, A Community-Centered Curation Project- CAP Seed Grant, University of Colorado Denver. 2019.
Garden Place Academy Research Station and Community Garden, Mayor's Design Award, Denver, 2018
CU Online Outstanding Teacher Award, University of Colorado Denver. 2017.
"The Citizen Updates: The Big SandBox." By Melanie Bavaria, The Philadelphia Citizen. April 18, 2017.
"The Play(ground)'s The Thing". By Melanie Bavaria, The Philadelphia Citizen, Jan. 06. 2-16.
Lois, Brink: Tactical Urbanist. Colorado Design Journal. 2nd Edition, 2014 Colorado Awards. Vol 2/Dec. 2015.