



Enhancing play for children

Out2Play is making great strides in its work to rebuild school playgrounds throughout the New York City public school system. It has been a year since our founding and we have lots of exciting news to report. Please read on to learn more!

Dear Friends,

Out2Play has come a long way in the last year. Thanks to many generous donors, foundations and public agencies, we have raised more than \$9 million for new playgrounds at New York City public elementary schools. We celebrated four playground openings in June, and by the end of the summer, we will have com-

pleted 14 new projects, providing more than 11,000 students with safe, engaging and developmentally beneficial places in which to play.

Looking forward, our plan for next year is to build 20 new playgrounds. The design process for those sites is already under way. We also are working to improve the academic value and intrinsic quality of the program.

We are developing evaluation tools which will be utilized to measure the impact of playground development and to help inform our playground design. Finally, we will be creating a multidisciplinary Playground Curriculum so that teachers may use the outside space to teach standard academic subjects, giving children more time out of doors and more opportunities to

be active.

We are excited about how far we have come in this short time, but there is much more work to be done to achieve our mission of creating a playground for every New York City public school that needs one. I hope you will continue to support our efforts and look forward to many more Grand Openings with you in the future.

-Ann Miller

What's Happening

The summer months are a busy time for Out2Play as the playground dreams of thousands of children finally become a reality.

On June 20, Out2Play celebrated Grand Openings of playgrounds at C.E.S. 55 Benjamin Franklin School and P.S. 156 Benjamin Benneker School in The Bronx. At these ribbon-cuttings, we honored Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., who is the sponsor of these two projects as well as two others that were also completed in June.

By the end of June, a total of five playgrounds were completed and construction of the next group of four projects began. Construction began on another group of five projects in July and will be finished by the start of school. By bidding the projects in bundles and staggering the construction periods, Out2Play has been able to maintain cost controls and careful oversight of the construction process.

Out2Play has developed a template to streamline the design and construction process, but every school's playground is unique and reflects the specific interests of the children at the school. Daniel Margulies, the Out2Play architect, leads a "design day" at each school where he listens to the ideas of the children and staff so that he may incorporate their feedback into the design.



Some playgrounds have tables for chess, others have areas for skellys, box ball, patsy, hopscotch, tetherball, hoola hoops or jump rope. Some schools design and paint murals that reflect the school's identity or culture, and others opt for colorful graphics showing the school logo, flags of the world or New York City landmarks.

All the playgrounds, however, provide facilities for activities to promote vigorous exercise and group play whether it be soccer, baseball, basketball, football, kickball or volleyball.

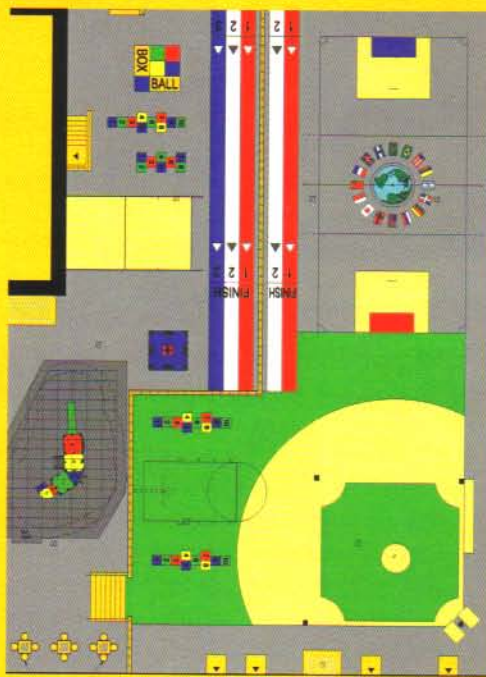
The children are ecstatic to see their asphalt schoolyard transformed into a real playground and, more importantly, the entire school community takes part in this success story.

In addition to planning for the spring and summer construction season, Out2Play spent much of the winter fundraising for 2008 projects. Executive Director, Andrea Wenner, met with Borough Presidents and numerous New York City Council Members in an effort to garner sponsorship of projects. This effort was a big success: Out2Play

raised almost \$6 million from elected officials and expanded its base of support to include officials in all five boroughs of the city. This will allow us to bring our program to more schools throughout all of New York City.

The Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation has awarded Out2Play a \$40,000 grant to underwrite the design costs for five playgrounds to be built by Out2Play in 2008. Students, teachers, parents and community members will all take part in a collaborative design process, providing critical feedback and input that will form the basis of each school's playground design. The Ford Foundation, based in New York, is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to strengthening democratic values, reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation and advancing human achievement. Out2Play worked with members of the Ford Foundation's Good Neighbor Committee on the proposal and is grateful for the support of this world-renowned institution



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT!

Project: C.E.S. 28 Mount Hope Centennial School **Construction:** Summer 2007 **Sponsored By:** New York City Council Member Maria Baez **Address:** 1861 Anthony Avenue **Borough:** Bronx **Neighborhood:** Tremont **Grades:** PK-5 **Students:** 789 **Principal:** Edvige Mancuso

Sponsored by New York City Council Member Maria Baez, the new playground at C.E.S. 28 will reflect the distinctive culture of the school. In addition to basketball courts, a soccer field, a one-lane track, climbing equipment, and painted grids for popular recess games such as hopscotch, four square and skelsy, the children proposed a "Story Time Lane," where they could read books and do performances. They will also tend a garden with the help of the staff from the Montefiore Medical Center, which runs a health clinic at the school. Council Member Baez has generously provided support for two other Out2Play projects opening this year: P.S.15/M.S. 15 at 2195 Andrews Ave. in the Bronx, and P.S. 33 at 2424 Jerome Ave. in the Bronx.

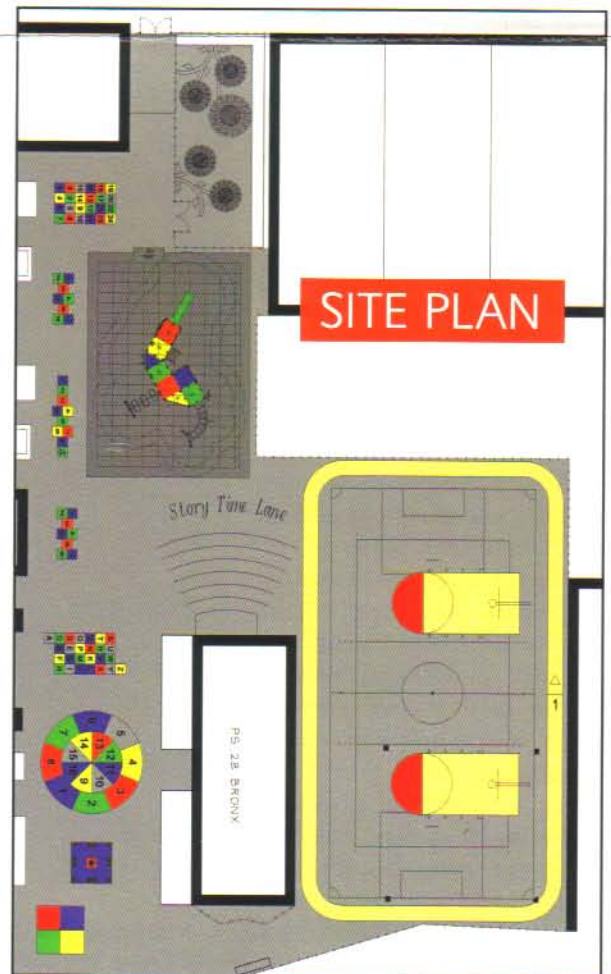




Photo Album

How to Help

At Out2Play, we are always looking for help and there are a number of ways in which you can get involved.

Bottom line - We Need You!

Donations

Donations are tax-exempt and you will see exactly how your contribution was used when you join the opening day celebration for a playground that your donation helped make possible.

Corporate Sponsor

Out2Play playgrounds are a prime marketing opportunity. Out2Play offers full and partial sponsorship options as well as volunteer programs where company employees join together for a day of playground building.

Volunteer

Join the Out2Play team for one of our build days and come together with people of all ages to help put the final touches on a project. Or talk to us about opportunities to volunteer your time in a different capacity.

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Key Accomplishments:

- ✓ Raised over \$9 million in funding from private and public sources
- ✓ Completed design and awarded contracts on 14 projects for spring/summer 2007 construction
- ✓ Partnered with Asphalt Green and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital's Injury Free Coalition for Kids to provide safety and recess training
- ✓ Streamlined design process for quick project turn-around
- ✓ Developed volunteer program to put finishing touches on playgrounds

Goals for Next Year:

- Build 20 playgrounds in 2008
- Develop Multi-Disciplinary Playground Curriculum
- Create evaluation tools and begin study of Out2Play's impact
- Expand base of support

About Our Architect

The playground design process is one of the most critical aspects of Out2Play's program. Margulies Hoelzli Architecture, PLLC is a full service consulting firm that is providing design and project management services on our projects.

Prior to the founding of Margulies Hoelzli Architecture, PLLC in 2006, the principals, Daniel Margulies, AIA and Matthew Hoelzli, AIA amassed a combined 40 years of experience. Mr. Margulies also served as the Principal-in-Charge for Thornton-Tomasetti, managing complete architectural / engineering design services for over three dozen urban sites for the highly successful \$100M 'Take the Field' program - established as a public / private partnership for the redevelopment of outdoor athletic facilities at all New York City high schools.

Mr. Margulies and Mr. Hoelzli share the belief that the design process brings together aesthetics, function and technology. The elemental point of departure is conceptual simplicity with a view towards "doing more with less" - resolving the greatest number of physical needs with a minimum of means.

