2015 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Carl Sandburg Elementary School
Category: New Construction

Lake Washington School District
Kirkland, Washington
The new school wraps around an existing grove of maples, utilizing plazas and rain gardens to integrate with the site and create usable outdoor learning spaces. The evergreen forested area to the southwest has become an extension of the outdoor play space.
Community Environment: Welcoming lobby connects public and academic parts of the school.
Community Environment: A grove of existing trees have been transformed into a park like setting, providing an inviting space for exterior education and for the community.
Learning Environment:

*Shared spaces in the learning pods have strong transparency to the adjacent classrooms and teacher planning areas, as well as a direct connection to outdoor learning.*
Learning Environment:

*Shared spaces with strong transparencies and connections to outside learning are key parts of classroom clusters.*

- Teacher planning
- Small group meeting room
Physical Environment:

*Significant transparency between spaces connects occupants and spaces – linking the entry plaza/play area in the front with the park-like area on the other side of the building.*
Physical Environment

*Materiality reflects the school’s connection with the park like setting. Finishes and daylighting emulate the exterior environment.*
Planning Process

The project began with a community input workshop which allowed staff, parents, and community to create goals and participate in a site planning design exercise. The interactive and iterative design process continued with a school/neighborhood based design committee that met approximately a dozen times.

We’ve found that this interactive process makes people feel like they are co-authors in the design of the facility.

Some of the key goals resulting from this process were:

- Celebrate the poetry of Carl Sandburg, the school’s namesake.
- Expand and improve on the park-like feel of the site – make the entire site educational.
- Create dynamic educational spaces, both inside and outside the building that allow students to learn in a variety of ways.
Planning Process

Goal:  *Express the environmental commitment of the school on the exterior*
A 10kW photovoltaic array in conjunction with horizontal and vertical fins shade the Library

Goal:  *Establish a civic presence through a welcoming plaza that includes a covered waiting area*
Concept diagram showing integration of the building & site.

**First Floor**

1. Administration
2. Art/Science
3. Classrooms
4. Shared Learning Area
5. Educational Support
6. Multi-purpose/Gym
7. Library

**Learning Neighborhoods**

- Stage/musical

**DCS Entry**

**Main Entry**

**NORTH**
Learning Neighborhoods

Second Floor

1. Administration
2. Art/Science
3. Classrooms
4. Shared Learning Area
5. Educational Support
6. Multi-purpose/Gym
7. Library
# Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

## Project Data

### Submitting Firm:
- **Project Role:** Architect
- **Project Contact:** Matthew W. Rumbaugh, AIA, LEED AP
- **Title:** Principal Architect
- **Address:** 2025 First Avenue Suite 300
- **City, State or Province, Country:** Seattle, Washington 98121
- **Phone:** 206.441.4522

### Joint Partner Firm:
- **Project Role:**
- **Project Contact:**
- **Title:**
- **Address:**
- **City, State or Province, Country:**
- **Phone:**

### Other Firm:
- **Project Role:**
- **Project Contact:**
- **Title:**
- **Address:**
- **City, State or Province, Country:**
- **Phone:**

### Construction Firm:
- **Project Role:** General Contractor
- **Project Contact:** Chris Christiansen
- **Title:** Project Manager
- **Address:** 307 Bell Street #101
- **City, State or Province, Country:** Edmonds, WA 98020
- **Phone:** 206.284.7733
### Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

#### Project Details

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<tr>
<td>Supt/President</td>
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The fins and photovoltaic panels that shade the library prevent direct daylight but keep the space open to indirect light and expansive views.

Sustainability speaks to the community

Solar shading studies for the south façade – multiple layers of shading elements combine to optimize visibility, shading, and power generation.
Sustainability is integrated in the learning environment

Storm water movement and treatment activate this “educational park.”

Transformation of the existing grove of trees into an educationally rich “park” enables teachers to teach environmental topics outside.