

## > project updates

### Parent Community Resource Center at Cardozo High School

Even the hot summer temperatures didn't stop the Cardozo Project Team in its effort to create a design solution for the new Parent Community Resource Center at Cardozo High School. After a productive schematic and design development phase, successful FFE (Furniture, Fixture, Equipment) selection, and an amazing client presentation, the installation for the Resource Center is in full swing!

In June, project team members visited the GSA Furniture Warehouse in Springfield, VA and selected desks, chairs, bookcases, computer, café, conference and end tables, and lounge furniture. All furniture from GSA is free of charge to DCPS employees and representatives. Along with the donated carpet tiles from Interface FLOR, this saved the client money that can be utilized to fund other expenses as well as programs the Resource Center will incorporate.

Last month, Project Leaders Dawn Hyman and Krupa Patel along with AfH-DC Chapter Director Josef Fuentes made a PowerPoint presentation to a group which included the client (21CSF/ SHAPPE), Cardozo parents and representatives. The highlight of this was the 3-D rendering of the proposed space,

made with three different options for the color palette. The presentation was extremely well received and won high praise from all those who attended. To give the Resource Center brand recognition and emphasize its importance within the school, a unique logo and word mark has also been especially designed for it. This is now a room indicator sign displayed proudly above the entrance door of the Resource Center.

For over a month now, the project team has been working hard at transforming the old classroom into its new avatar. August 21st was the final work session for installation. Stay tuned for more details!

-Dawn Hyman



top: AfH-DC members Krupa Patel and Colleen Duggan staining furniture at Cardozo High School.  
above: 3-dimensional rendering of the proposed Parent Community Resource Center.



above: Cardozo Peace Garden  
below: Aerial view of the Peace Garden site



### Cardozo High School Peace Garden Project

The Peace Garden Project will redesign and revitalize an existing terraced garden on the East side of Cardozo Senior High School. The project is currently in the pre-design stage, but an initial site meeting with representatives from Cardozo and 21st Century School Fund determined several potential areas of focus:

- Create a welcoming entry from Clifton St. across/ through the existing brick wall
  - Replant and refurbish the Butterfly Garden
  - Reorganize seating in the Learning Grove
  - Install a more resilient path surface
  - Clean-up and add to the Community Gardens
  - Involve the surrounding community with news and events, such as an outdoor movie night
- Discussion and design will be continuing throughout the next several months, with lots of opportunity for a small team to shape a beautiful and useful outdoor space.

-Matthew Johnston

## > project updates

### Akilah Institute, Rwanda

This is a project to design a Donor Feature that would recognize the efforts of all those who have contributed to the school. The team will first conduct a series of design sessions (charettes) after which we will start production of drawings/deliverables.

Work has started with two sessions which have outlined the program, master planning considerations, and initial design concepts. The deliverables will include marketing images and a set of schematic drawings.

In addition, the team will have to consult with Akilah, Pannotia and the local architect Straton Uwizeyimana to ensure that the established design concepts synthesize with local construction techniques.

Following this, the team will have to prepare construction drawings so that construction and renovation on the new campus may begin in January 2011.

In the near future, the Akilah team may be asking for some new members for help with the design and production of the Donor Feature.

- Shurid Rahman



Conceptual sketch of Donor Wall, Akilah Institute

### Jitegemee School, Kenya: Community Design Workshop

The Jitegemee School came in second place in the Global Giving July Green Open Challenge by raising US \$23,000 from over 240 unique donors and consequently earned a US \$7,000 bonus for a grand total of US \$30,000 raised in the month of July alone. The organization is now over the halfway mark to their project funding goal of \$200,000 for construction.

The project team is aiming to have the schematic design of the Jitegemee school ready by the end of September 2010. This will include conceptually detailed floor plans, elevations and 3-d massing. The team will submit this package to the Jitegemee Planning Committee for review. This is a group of school members (students, teachers and parents) who are responsible for reviewing and approving design and programming. In addition, they will also be submitted to a local architect and contractor in Machakos for a more accurate cost estimate. Stay tuned for further details as the design team may be asking for some new members to help provide some new energy and initiative to the design process.

-Mark Palmer

## > capital reads

### Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities by Peter Harnik

How much parkland should we have in our cities? How do we make space for new parkland in already dense urban areas? These are the central questions that Peter Harnik of the Urban Land Trust Initiative tackles in his new book *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities*.

Harnik is optimistic about the future of urban park development. This is a direction not always appreciated. The explosion of the automobile, highway system and suburban living in the mid 20th century strained the success of urban parks. But with the resurgence of an appreciation for urban living and the availability of cheaper and quicker transportation options, there is renewed interest in integrating park spaces into neighborhoods. This is certainly not a new concept; after the completion of Central Park in NYC in 1870, the rise in revenue generated by property value increases more than covered the expenses of developing the park, which were the highest on record at the time.

However, Harnik emphasizes that creating park space doesn't mean that it's always a well used asset to the neighborhood. There must be local interest and investment to create success. These days NYC has taken a lead in revitalizing their parks initiative, and has set a goal that all New Yorkers should be able to walk to a public park within ten minutes of where they live.

So what do we do in urban areas that are densely populated and don't have space to add the not insignificant land area of a park? Harnik shows us some of the best examples of how underdeveloped land

can accommodate some great parks that add character and value to the city. Some of these include: the converted railroad tracks of the Highline in NYC or the Capitol Crescent Trail right here in our backyard; developing parks on top of reservoirs, like the city of Wilmington Delaware; or creating "land-fill parks" on sites that were previously used for waste refuse such as the aptly named Mt. Trashmore in Virginia Beach, VA.

### Parks certainly add value to a neighborhood, but the neighborhood adds value to the park as well. The two must go hand in hand.

Here in DC, we would definitely welcome ideas to create new parks or introduce more pockets of park land in spaces that are unsuitable for other development, even though Washington DC has the highest per capita acreage of parkland in any dense urban US city. However, this is primarily due to land owned and operated by the park service. In many ways we face different challenges of ingenuity and creativity of how to reinvent some of the spaces into more usable and appreciated land. The land is already set aside but the complicated bureaucratic division between the national park service, which owns much of the land, and the local DC government and neighborhood commissions, has made it difficult to redevelop or change the parkland. While Harnik provides criteria for planning and evaluating parks he strongly emphasizes that there is no prescriptive solution for developing parks for our cities. Innovation, creativity, and leadership are the best tools for a positive future for our park system.

-Julia Siple

*Peter Harnik spoke as part of the Building Museum's Smart Growth lunchtime series in June. His book Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities is available at the gift shop.*



Mt. Trashmore in Virginia Beach, VA. Park developed on top of an existing landfill

## > upcoming events

- *Wed. Sep. 8th 12:30 - 1:30 pm* **Smart Growth Series: The HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities**, National Building Museum.
- *Sep. 10th-13th* **AIADC Architecture Week**, various locations in DC. Visit [www.aiadc.com](http://www.aiadc.com) for details.
- *Wed. Sep 15th 7:30 - 11:30 pm* **Capitol PechaKucha: World Architecture**, Atlas Performing Arts Center.
- *Sat. Oct. 16th* **Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater Full-Day Tour**, Smithsonian Resident Associate program. Visit [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu) for details.
- *Sat. Oct. 16th*, **Architecture for Humanity Chapter Forum**, Center for Architecture, New York City. All Chapter Members are invited. Opportunity to share experiences and meet other chapter members from across the country. Email [chapters@architectureforhumanity.org](mailto:chapters@architectureforhumanity.org) with any questions.

## > contributions

Next month we'd like to include a round up of your stories and images from trips this summer. Please send us an image or two and a short paragraph. We'd love to see how you escaped DC's hot and humid summer!

Send in your entries to [newsletter@afh-dc.org](mailto:newsletter@afh-dc.org).

## > ideas?

We're pleased to bring you this bi-monthly newsletter. The hope is that this will serve as a way to disseminate more immediate and current news of happenings within AfH-DC, and be an outlet for sharing information amongst members who have similar interests and goals.

We welcome ideas and contributions!  
Send to: [newsletter@afh-dc.org](mailto:newsletter@afh-dc.org).

The Capital Ideas Newsletter Team is:  
Maya Srinivasan, Julia Siple, Shurid Rahman.

**Thank you to everyone else who helped and contributed!**

## > opportunities

### Your Help is Needed

**Below is a list of ways that AfH-DC could use an extra hand. Please let us know if you are interested.**

#### Marketing & Community Committee Heads

We are looking for motivated individuals to take the lead in working with the Chapter's staff to reassess current marketing strategies and/or develop new short-term and long-term goals to help prioritize overall marketing and community outreach efforts. Our previous committee heads had created a framework which can be used as a platform to work from. The responsibilities would be to develop strategies to achieve the goals of the Chapter, which may entail organizing teams of volunteer members as needed.

#### Organizational Assistant

Our organization has grown considerably over the past 5 years and we need to improve our communication at all levels. We are looking for volunteers with good correspondence skills who have an interest in supporting our mission. We will be open to any creative input and suggestions. The individual will have the opportunity to primarily work remotely, but may need to attend Chapter meetings 1-2 times a month. The estimated contribution of volunteer time can average about 8 hours a month.

In this position, there will be scope for the applicant to use his/ her creativity within the following areas:

- **Website Development** - The Chapter is developing a new site and aiming to launch it before the end of this year. We would like to review the current content and see if it could be added to or improved in any way.
- **Project Writeup / Updates** - We send out project updates periodically as part of our marketing/ fundraising efforts. Currently, these are written by the project co-ordinators. We would like for a single person to take responsibility for editing the updates provided by the project co-ordinators. This will ensure that all of them are consistent in style and address common themes, such as sustainability and community involvement.
- **Mass Emails to Members/Supporters/Clients** - Constructing emails to convey updates that occur with the organization.
- **Digital (and/or Print) Publication** - We have discussed creating a compilation of newsletters and summary of work over the past 5 years from the Chapter. There may be editing and compositing work for this effort.

Please email Joe Fuentes at [jaf@afh-dc.org](mailto:jaf@afh-dc.org) for more information.

## Architecture in the Schools

**Architecture in the Schools is looking for volunteer teachers for the fall semester.** If you're in need of Community Service hours for IDP or just want to give a little of your time back to the community, consider volunteering with this program.

Architecture in the Schools (AIS) is an award-winning curriculum-enrichment program that brings design professionals into K-12 classrooms for one hour a week for eight weeks. The Washington Architectural Foundation provides lots of sample lesson plans and curriculum guides to help you plan for the semester. Free Zipcar service if needed. Please contact Beth Judy at the Washington Architectural Foundation for more information about the fall semester, [bjudy@wafonline.org](mailto:bjudy@wafonline.org) or **202.667.5444**.