

THE OAKS

30th

ANNIVERSARY

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN & WHERE WE'RE GOING

When **The Oaks School** was founded, 30 years ago, the founding board members, teachers, and administrators had a vision of creating an independent K-6 school in Los Angeles that prepared students to meet the world with the combined wisdom of an intelligent mind, a skilled hand, and a compassionate heart.

Fueled by the belief that the joy of childhood and the joy of learning go hand in hand, **The Oaks** nurtures lifelong learners through a curriculum that fosters critical thinking and self-awareness. The classrooms and the faculty were built to support each child's unique learning style, balancing technology with inquiry, creativity, and wonder. We've come a long way in those thirty years since we were founded, and we have much to be proud of and to celebrate.

It was also the vision of the founding board members to create an indoor-outdoor school environment—one that allowed our students to learn, grow, and thrive in an outdoor green space that could give them hands-on learning experience in an edible garden and where they could run and play in a natural environment. Building on our historic Hollywood location, which offers students the opportunity to provide compassionate care and support for the less fortunate members of our community, we are excited about the opportunity to further strengthen the role of our facility as the “third teacher” to our students.

We now have the opportunity, on our 30th Anniversary, to make good on that founding vision to support the historic building we live in and to create a green space that will allow our children to truly have an indoor-outdoor classroom environment. We are proud to announce the launch of **The Oaks 30th Anniversary Fund** to help make that dream a reality.

“ Our dream for The Oaks is to have a space that encourages learning and discovery both inside and outside, where children can explore and get their hands dirty as they grow together. ”

Founding Trustee, 1986



Artwork by Augie Culligan, Sadie Benson & Mia Pfister

A young girl with long blonde hair is shown in profile, blowing on a dandelion seed head. The background is a lush green field of plants, with some dandelion seeds floating in the air. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**“We could never
have learned to
LOVE THE EARTH
so well, if we had
no childhood in it”**

GEORGE ELIOT, ENGLISH NOVELIST & POET

THE OAKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

This special fund will support three areas of development:

1. CREATION OF A GREEN SPACE

Throughout this brochure, you will find beautiful depictions of the green space we hope to develop in the area where the cottages are, on the border of the parking lot. We are in conversations with the Church about taking over the cottages, and if we raise the necessary funds, we can begin demolition and construction of our green space in May 2016 so that children can use the space in the 2016-2017 year.

The green space, which was developed by world-famous designer Pam Shamshiri, will give our kids the opportunity to bring their learning outdoors—to learn about how we interact with our environment and to have real hands-on opportunities to see that interaction at work. While this plan is still in development and we hope to engage students, current families, and alumni families in its specifics, you can see that we have sketched out an edible garden, a green space that allows our kids to run and play on grass (which, even in a time of drought, is planned to be environmentally sound), water elements that can help us learn about scientific processes, and spaces to expand our curricular programs.

2. FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

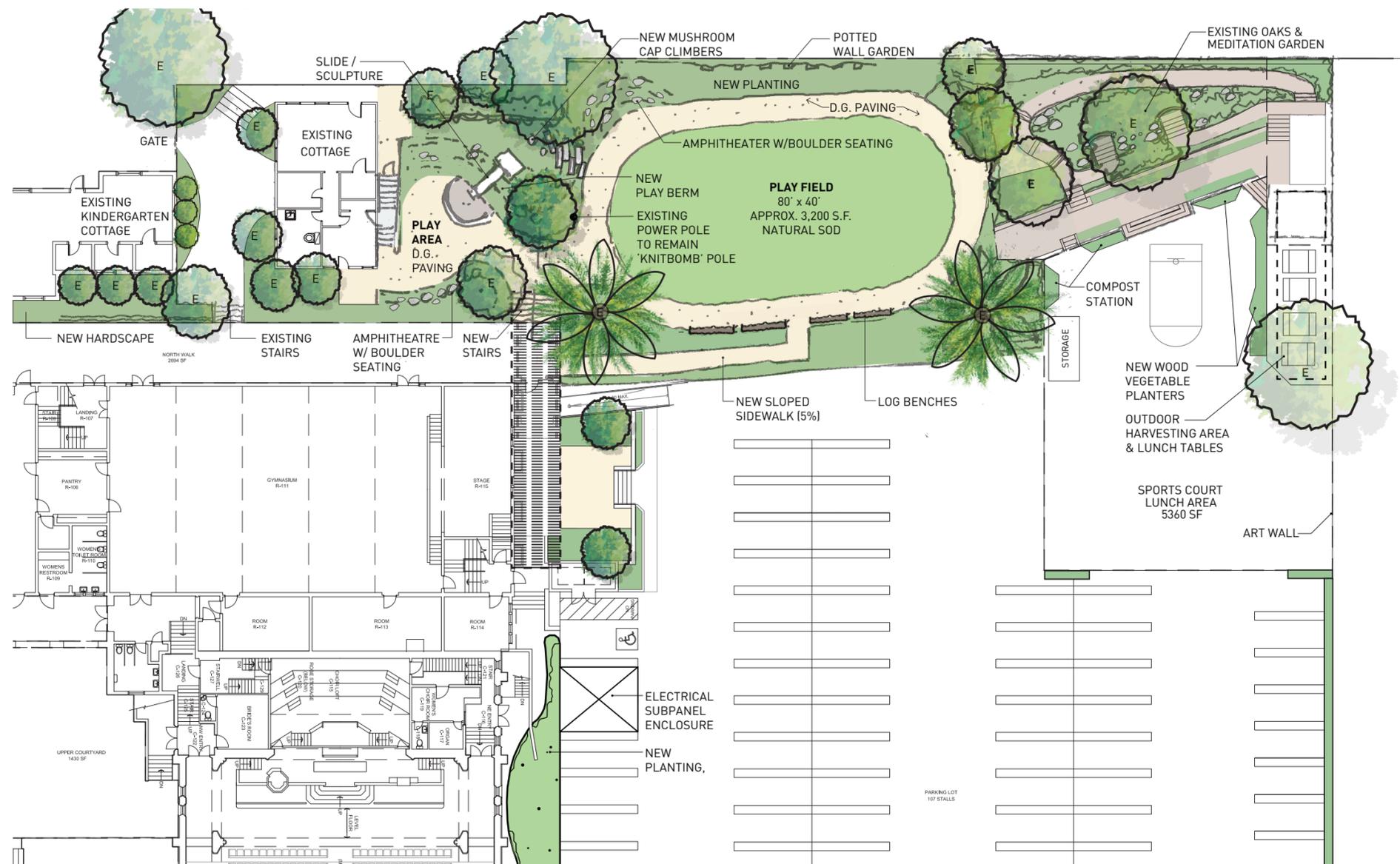
Our arrival at the Church was from the onset intended to be temporary. Over the years, various incarnations of boards and school heads have searched for an equally affordable, well-situated structure for the school to own. While we were looking outward, the school was digging deep roots here, and that experience taught us that we were already in the best home we could have. With that said, we need to solidify our commitment to that permanence by updating the antiquated electrical and air conditioning systems in our historic building.

3. BUILDING A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Since its inception, The Oaks has aspired to make its program available to the most diverse community possible. Tuition assistance is just one of the tools we use to achieve that goal. An expanded scholarship fund will help grow our commitment to socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural diversity and provide additional dollars to families who stretch to be here or who find themselves in crisis.

THE ANNUAL FUND

We are including the Annual Fund with the 30th Anniversary Fund so that Oaks families can feel comfortable knowing that this is the one major fundraising request they will receive this year. The Annual Fund provides vital funding for our current operating budget. Tuition alone doesn't cover the annual operating expenses, and like all independent schools, we make up the shortfall with an Annual Fund, which can also be an opportunity to make a tax-deductible gift. We need the Annual Fund to pay for our excellent teachers and to support the additional learning programs we have come to value—art, music, drama, makers, physical education, and library.

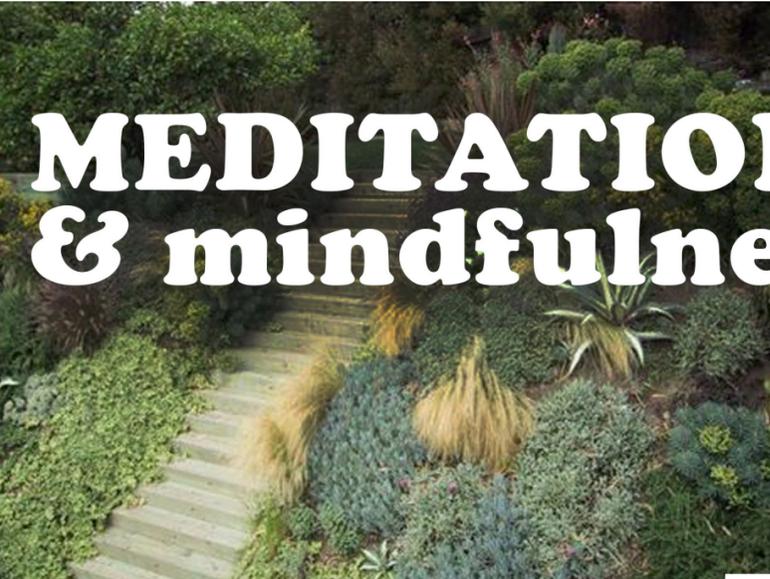


Conceptual Landscape Plan - Scheme B

studio eleven
 at Perini+Roth Architects
 OCTOBER 28, 2015
 THE OAKS SCHOOL

OUR OAK GETS STRONGER. CAN YOU IMAGINE...

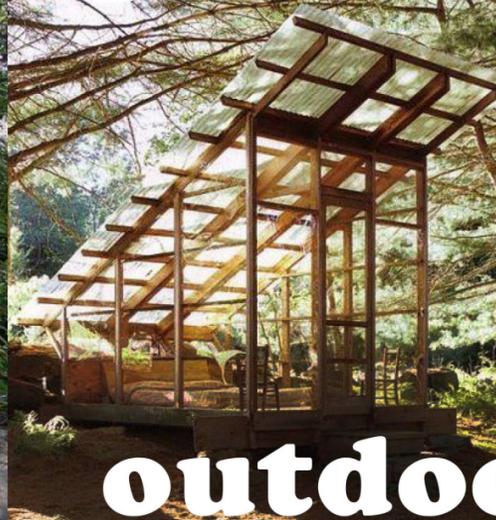
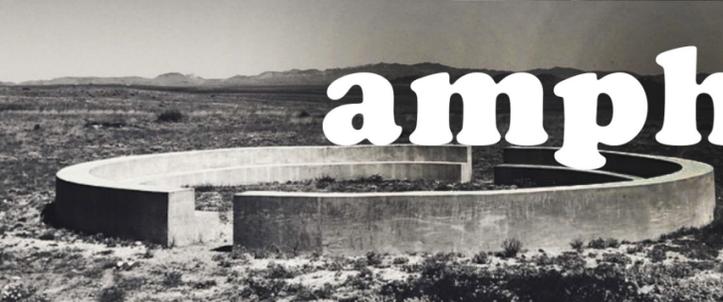
**MEDITATION
& mindfulness**



**vegetable
garden**



amphitheater



outdoor harvesting



Natural Playscape



Sports Court





**“The best kept
classroom
and the richest
cupboard is
roofed only by
the sky”**

MARGARET MCMILLAN, C1925, PHILANTHROPIST

IT BEGINS WITH ALL OF US...

We now have the opportunity to create an Oaks that makes good on the vision of the founders and that builds something our kids, and future Oaks students, will love, grow with and, enjoy. It can't happen without all of us contributing, in whatever ways we can and are comfortable with, to this shared vision of an indoor-outdoor school environment, a multicultural school where diversity is celebrated and supported, and a set of shared values that focuses on the creative and ethical growth of our children.

We come to you with this request with great humility, knowing that we may stumble, it may take longer than we hope, but we are embarking on an appropriately ambitious effort that may take us out of our comfort zone and will ultimately make our kids' time at The Oaks more challenging, more fulfilling, and a stronger experience. We have carefully and purposefully developed a culture at The Oaks that is not about money or status, and we hope this effort stays true to that culture while recognizing that there are some things worth asking for and investing in. So, we collectively take a deep breath and announce The Oaks 30th Anniversary Fund and hope that you will all contribute generously to see this vision realized in the coming year.

OAKS 2015-2016 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We have decided to combine our 2015-2016 Annual Fund and the 30th Anniversary Fund into one fundraising project, so that all expectations for giving are clearly explained and families can plan their giving this year with full information. This means that we hope you will contribute to the 2015-2016 Annual Fund at the same level you gave last year, plus an additional gift for the 30th Anniversary Fund. Thus we're asking for two separate donations at the same time. We thought it might be helpful, especially for new families, to explain the difference between the two funds.

The Oaks School Annual Fund provides vital funding for our current operating budget. Tuition alone doesn't cover the annual operating expenses, and the Annual Fund is an op-

portunity to cover that shortfall with a tax-deductible gift. Every year, we ask everyone in our community to contribute, and we are happy to report 100% participation in this fund last year. The Annual Fund makes up a critical 10% of all of The Oaks annual expenses, which include the maintenance of the school, each teacher's salary, each special budget need in the classroom, each piece of gym and Circus equipment, each musical instrument and each drama costume, to name a few. In this way, The Oaks Annual Fund benefits every Oaks student.

The Oaks 30th Anniversary Fund is a larger, one-time fundraising effort to support the school's long-term vision and plan, which includes three distinct areas: creating indoor-outdoor classrooms that allow students to learn, grow, and thrive with a green space that will include a playing field, climbing structures, and an edible garden; investing in the historic space the school occupies to ensure that electrical and air conditioning needs are up to code; and making sure that our commitment to multiculturalism is made real with an expansion of scholarship funds.

We have committed to raising this fund in a transparent "Oaksy" way—with no outside consultants, a focus on the kids, a process that values every contribution from small to large, and a promise that our school and our facilities will retain the home-grown quality we've all come to love. This is not about making our facility fancier; this is about making good on our pledge to reflect our values, realizing the founders' vision, and giving our kids an indoor-outdoor school that will help them expand their understanding of the world and community we live in.

We are looking to the entire Oaks community to help reach our goal, which benefits each student, now and in the future. Thank you!

WAYS TO GIVE TO THE OAKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

DIRECT GIFT

Donations to The Oaks 30th Anniversary Fund are tax-deductible and can be made in a number of ways—check, cash, credit card, or stock. To donate, please contact Ted Hamory. Because the Annual Fund goes toward operating expenses only, we ask that two separate payments be made for the two funds.

PLEDGE AND MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE

Your gift can be made as a pledge over one or two years.

IN-KIND DONATION

We are also soliciting auction items for the charitybuzz.com online auction, which can be held year-round. Please consider donating items that the public would be interested in bidding on, such as VIP tickets to premieres, walk-ons to sets, artist-signed items, or special events/access, etc.

PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts include naming The Oaks in your will or trust so that the school receives a contribution from your estate after you pass away. These gifts can take a number of forms and strategies, depending on your own financial needs and wishes. Some examples of planned giving include bequests, trusts, gift annuities, life insurance, and zero coupon bonds.

OUR OAK GETS STRONGER

It begins with all of us...

**“ THERE ARE THREE TEACHERS
OF CHILDREN: ADULTS; OTHER
CHILDREN; AND THEIR
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. ”**

THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE ‘THIRD TEACHER’

- Loris Malaguzzi, Founder of Reggio Emilia’s educational philosophy

THE OAKS SCHOOL
6817 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028

323.850.3755 | oaksschool.org