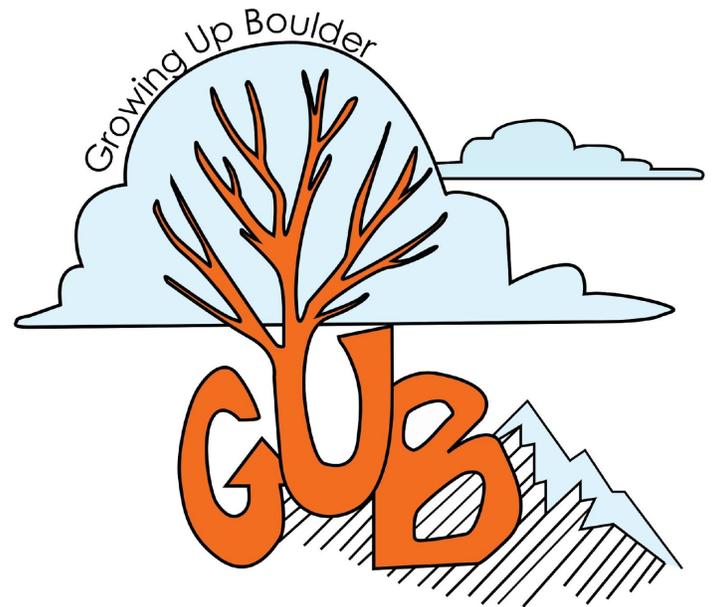


Growing Up Boulder's

Annual report 2015-16



Overview

Growing Up Boulder is a “child-and youth-friendly city initiative” that began in the spring of 2009 as a collaboration between the University of Colorado (CU), the City of Boulder, and the Boulder Valley School District, working in partnership with local non-profits, businesses, and many children and youth. Child- and youth-friendly cities recognize the rights and interests of children in local policy, law, programs and budgets as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Growing Up Boulder’s partnership is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding between the three founding institutions. It is a program of the Community Engagement and Design Center (CEDaR), a collaborative of CU faculty, staff and students engaged in community-based education and research in city design and urban management.

Our vision is to make Boulder an exemplary child- and youth-friendly city. Our mission is to empower Boulder's young people with opportunities for inclusion, influence, and deliberation on local issues that affect their lives. We accomplish this through many diverse partnerships and supporters. Because underrepresented children and youth are even less likely to have their voices heard than majority groups, we aim for 50% or more of Growing Up Boulder participants to include young people who are: immigrants, English Language Learners, low-income, ethnic minorities, first generation college-bound students and/or young people with disabilities.

Growing Up Boulder has four programmatic goals:

1. Give GUB partners a voice in setting the direction of GUB projects.
2. Make Boulder a more inclusive place for children and youth of all income levels, ethnicities and abilities.
3. Ensure meaningful opportunities for young people’s participation in Boulder decision-making.
4. Disseminate lessons learned from GUB to the community (Boulder-at-large, youth, academics, GUB partners, other child-friendly city communities).

Total numbers

From July 2015 through June 2016, Growing Up Boulder's programs involved a record number of children and partners:

- Number of children and youth involved in youth participatory planning through Growing Up Boulder: 386
- Number of CU students involved through GUB: 32
- Number of Adult community partners and volunteers: > than 70

This annual report provides an overview of projects conducted by GUB during the 2015-2016 school year. For more details about any of these projects, please visit our website at www.growingboulder.org or contact growingupboulder@gmail.com for complete project reports.

Planning, Housing and Sustainability

Resilience

In 2014, the City of Boulder was selected to participate in the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Initiative. The project aims to support cities that have experienced natural disasters in exploring and developing strategies around sudden and long-term issues, such as flood, wildfire, disease outbreak, and drought. The City seeks to understand people's perceptions of resilience in Boulder. In collaboration with the City's resilience staff, Growing Up Boulder (GUB) worked with an economically and ethnically diverse sample of children and youth to develop their own meanings of resilience through art, poetry, and digital presentations by considering the Rockefeller definition of resilience: "the capacity to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks [people] experience."

Boulder was the first member of the Rockefeller network to engage youth in their processes. From spring 2015 through spring 2016, Growing Up Boulder worked with 126 school-aged children and 22 CU undergraduates to learn about young people's perceptions of resilience. GUB also collaborated with researchers in Mexico City, also a Resilient City, through a parallel process with children there. Growing Up Boulder received three grants to support this work, and the findings from our year-long study are currently helping support development of volunteer resilience projects in Boulder. Below are GUB's resilience project engagement statistics.

- Number of children and youth: 126
- Number of CU students: 22
- Number of adult community partners: 21



Comprehensive plan

Growing Up Boulder participated in the 2015 City of Boulder Comprehensive Plan update by supporting a mural-making activity for children participating in public meetings, and by designing a poster of common themes identified by Boulder's children and youth over GUB's then-six year history. In addition, GUB helped design an individual drawing activity for children that was used at various community engagement locations around the city.

- Graphics: Kid's drawing and posters
- Number of children involved: 30
- Number of CU students: 1 GUB intern
- Number of adult community partners: 3

OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

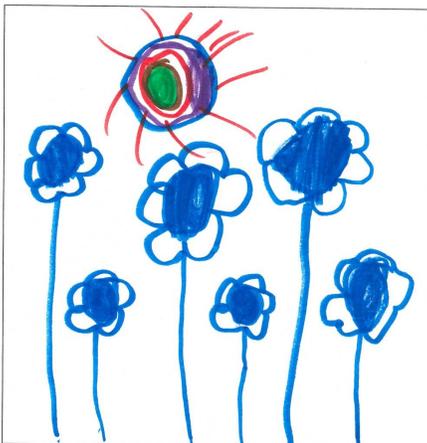
BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In the future, I would like
Boulder to be..

Full of
flowers

Name: Sabrina
Age: 5 1/2

Draw a picture of your vision for what Boulder will be like – the way you think it should be – in 15 years! We will display all the artwork at the kickoff event on August 31 at Chautauqua. Bring a picnic – we'll have dessert. Grown-ups and kids are welcome to submit art!



For more information about the Kick Off Event or the Plan Update: www.bouldervalleycomplan.net

OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In the future, I would like
Boulder to be..

Home for all beings

LUJAN

Blue jays

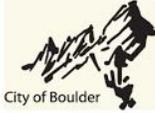
Flowers & Berries

Name:
Age:

Draw a picture of your vision for what Boulder will be like – the way you think it should be – in 15 years! We will display all the artwork at the kickoff event on August 31 at Chautauqua. Bring a picnic – we'll have dessert. Grown-ups and kids are welcome to submit art!



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Young People's Ideas for Making Boulder



The following themes were pulled from Growing Up Boulder's work with young people over the past 6 years. Growing Up Boulder is a partnership between the City of Boulder, Boulder Valley School District, and University of Colorado's Program in Environmental Design with the mission to include young people in decision-making that affects their lives.



Overarching theme	Description	GUB projects that included this idea
Nature	Easily accessible and plentiful, varied vegetation, beautiful Includes spaces for wild and domesticated animals Includes gardens	Comp plan 2010, Civic Area 2012 and 2014, Valmont City Park 2013, TMP 2013, GGN 2013, Resilience 2015, OSMP 2015
Hanging Out	Inexpensive retail and cafes for teens Outdoor spaces for studying, good nightlife options for teens, safe spaces	Comp plan 2010, GGN 2013, Civic Area 2014
Art and Design	Varied materials, colorful, eco-friendly, high quality materials that last; art and beauty integrated throughout	Comp plan 2010, GGN 2013, Civic Area 2012 and 2014, Valmont City Park 2013
Independent mobility	Walkable, bikeable, bus-able neighborhoods and city, with separate bike and pedestrian lanes; safety from cars and people, including well-lit underpasses and safe bus waiting spaces; safer and more clearly marked cross walks	Comp Plan 2010, Transportation Master Plan 2013, Civic Area plan 2012, GGN 2013, Valmont City Park 2013, OSMP 2015
Affordable and inclusive	Housing, retail, and activities; a city that works for all ages, abilities, ethnicities and income levels	Comp plan 2010, Civic area 2014, Great Neighborhoods 2013, Resilience 2015
Playful Cities	For all ages, especially teens; play does not need to be limited to playgrounds, also includes playing fields, interactive art, and playful city features such as bus stops	Civic area 2012, Civic area 2014, GGN 2013, TMP 2013

Transportation/GO Boulder

15 minute neighborhoods

Growing Up Boulder (GUB) worked with children and youth to identify youth's perspectives on what makes an ideal neighborhood. This project, called "15-minute Neighborhoods", was initiated in response to the City of Boulder's ongoing movement to create neighborhoods where many local services and goods are accessible within a 10 to 20 minute walking radius. GUB partnered with various local schools and after-school programs to work with in their respective communities.

The project involved the following participants:

- Thirteen 3rd graders from Whittier International Elementary school, and two English Language Development teachers
- Four 9-11 year olds involved in the Youth Services Initiative (YSI) after-school program at the Manhattan public housing site
- Eight 6th and 7th graders from Casey Middle School's "Leadership class"

GUB facilitated a series of activities with each group that invited youth to explore their neighborhoods and begin to think about what characteristics make a better neighborhood. The purpose of these activities was to find meaningful data that the city could then be able to incorporate in future designs.

- Total number of children: 25
- Number of CU students: 2 (1 intern, 1 volunteer)
- Number adult partners: 11



Open Space and Mountain Parks

In 2015, GUB began working with the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) to engage children and youth in their North Trail Study Area (North TSA) planning process. GUB and OSMP saw this as an opportunity to explore ways that youth engagement might support OSMP planning initiatives, so the project was conceived as a trial, to learn about each other and explore participatory opportunities.

For the North TSA planning project, GUB engaged children ages 4-17 in participatory activities held at one of the trailheads at the edge of the study area. Participants included 10 children (ages 4-5) from Boulder Journey School; 25 children (ages 3-17, approximately 20 families) in a Family Day event; and 60 Junior Rangers (ages 14-17) and 10 Crew Leaders employed by OSMP as part of their Junior Ranger Program. In addition, three Boulder High School students worked with OSMP and GUB staff to design communications back to the summer's participating students about the project. Many of the young people's recommendations, gathered through the GUB process, have been integrated into the final North TSA plan.

- Number of children and youth: 98
- Number CU undergrads: 1 GUB intern
- Number of adult community partners: 14



Parks and Recreation

Valmont City Park and Civic Area graphics

Growing Up Boulder interns and staff created visual representations of how young people's ideas were included in the visioning of the 2014 Valmont City Park project and the 2012-15 Civic Area Project. These graphics will be used in presentations to both academics and children to graphically show how child and youth ideas are incorporated into planning projects in Boulder.

- 4 GUB interns

Burke Park Post-Occupancy Assessment

Visiting scholar and post-doc, Dr. Angela Kreutz, completed a multi-year, comprehensive post-occupancy assessment of the City of Boulder's Burke Park project, of which Growing Up Boulder was an integral part. She observed the use of the park and spoke to Frasier Meadows (a retirement community) residents, the broader neighborhood (including Mountain View Methodist Church and Blossoms preschool), and Horizon K-8 school staff and students. Her aim was to find out how Burke Park was meeting the needs and wishes of its users.

- 220 children and youth participated in surveys and child-led walks
- 40 adult community partners participated in interviews, plus behavior mapping

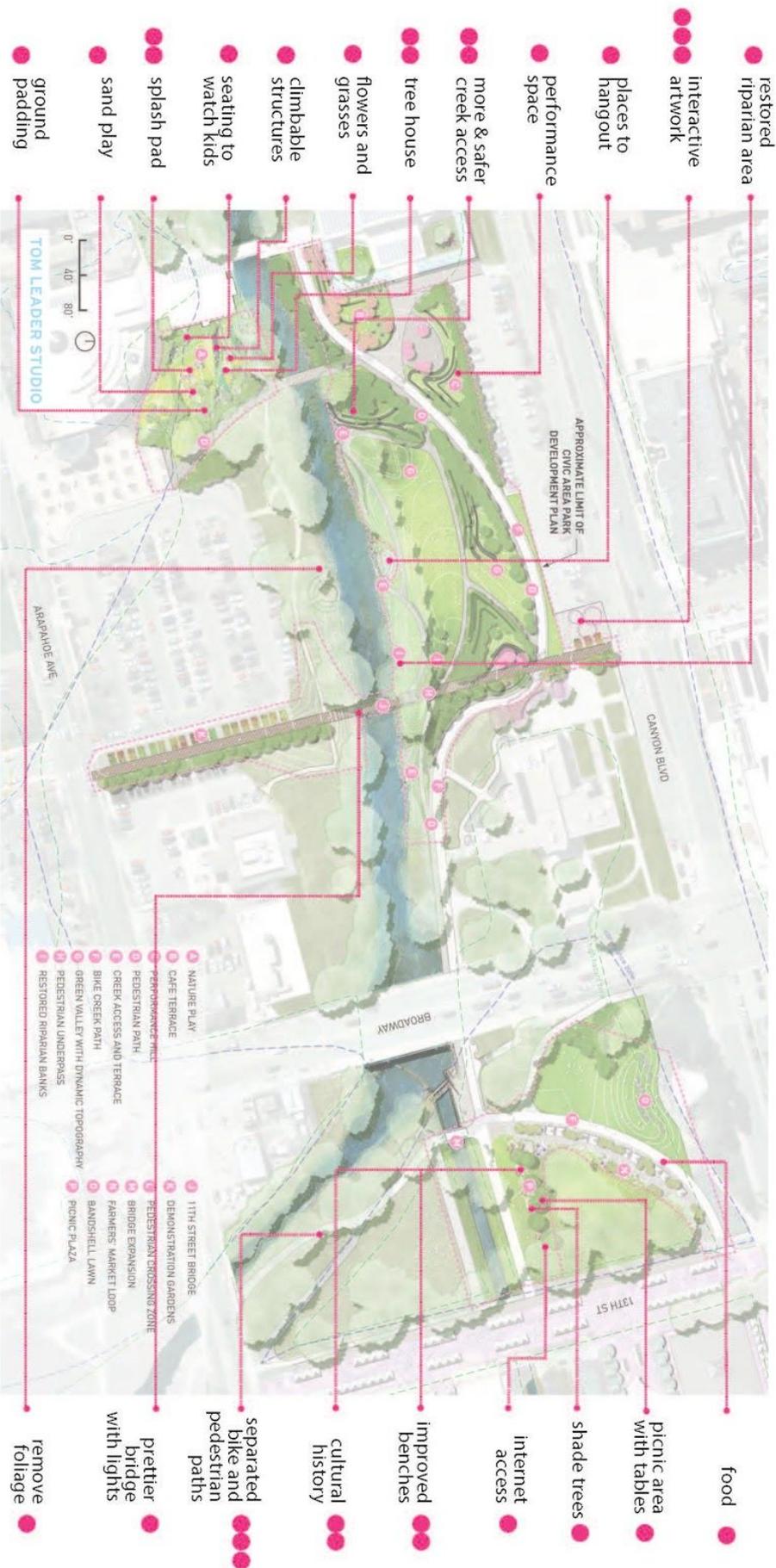
Teen Parks

During the spring semester of 2016, Growing Up Boulder began work with the City of Boulder's Parks and Recreation Department to engage youth, ages 11-18, in the design of teen-friendly parks. This project, which focused on the upgrade of the Howard Heuston neighborhood park as a prototype, was initiated in response to repeated requests from Growing Up Boulder youth for more youth-friendly park opportunities. Through research, visual preference analysis, field trips, and the construction of 3-D models, Growing Up Boulder worked with 11-14 year olds from the Casey Middle School leadership class and 14-18 year olds in the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (a career readiness component of the I Have a Dream program) to design an ideal, teen-friendly park. Undergraduate Environmental Design students from the University of Colorado Boulder mentored the COSI students. More than 50% of all students, 11-23, were from underrepresented backgrounds. Young people shared their ideas with city planners, professors, and other community leaders to incorporate into the plans for four Boulder neighborhood parks.

- 26 middle school students, 2 high school students = 28 youth
- # CU students: 5 ENVD students, 2 GUB interns = 7 ENVD
- # adult community partners: 2 Boulder city planners, 2 Boulder county planners, 2 professors, 4 Parks and Rec Advisory Board Members = 10 adults

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDEAS ARE REPRESENTED IN THE MASTER PLAN

CIVIC AREA | GROWING UP BOULDER, AGES 3-16 | BOULDER, CO | 2012 - 2015



www.growingupboulder.org

Other

Thorne consultation

In 2015-16, Growing Up Boulder (GUB) tested a new model to increase capacity: we hired a consultant to use the GUB model under the supervision of a GUB coordinator. As part of the Nature Kids/ Jovenes de la Naturaleza (NKJN) Lafayette coalition, funded by a [Great Outdoors Colorado \(GOCO\) Inspire](#) grant, GUB consultant, Darcy Varney Kitching, and one GUB intern worked with 3 groups of elementary school-aged children in Lafayette, Colorado to learn how they would like nature incorporated into spaces in their community. In addition, GUB consulted with the coalition on methods for inclusion of middle and high school students' ideas into the project. NKJN focused on a square mile area around the City of Lafayette's core, which has three elementary schools and the highest poverty rate in the Boulder Valley School District. The vision for the project includes an "emerald necklace" network of trails and parks so that all of the city's lowest-income youth will be within a safe, 10-minute walk of green space and have safe foot and bike access to all of the city's park areas.

- 31 elementary school-age children, 8 middle school children, 10 high school children= 49 children and youth total
- 1 GUB consultant
- Number of CU students: 1 GUB intern
- Number of adult community partners: 5



Collaboration with Walk2Connect

Growing Up Boulder strengthened its collaboration with the City of Boulder's GO Boulder program by adding two additional partners to the discussions: support from the Boulder Valley School District's transportation department and the non-profit Walk2Connect. The fruit of this collaboration resulted in Boulder's Walk2Connect coordinator, Darcy Varney Kitching, conducting walk audits of the 19th Street Corridor Multimodal Planning process in north Boulder with Boulder Journey School toddlers, Crestview Elementary School students, Centennial Middle School students, and Boulder High School students. Growing Up Boulder shared its interns and photovoice tools to support the walk audits.

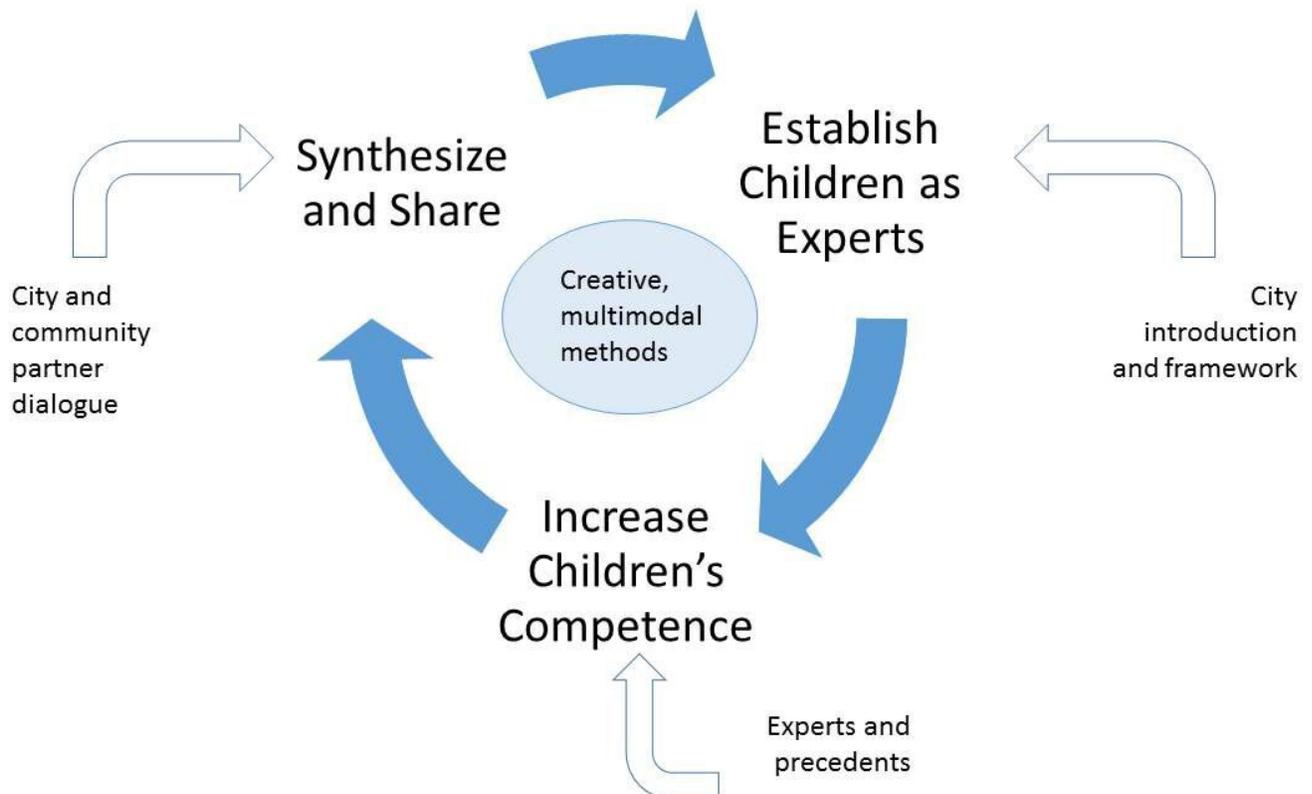
- 16 preschool students, 10 elementary school students, 3 middle school students , 1 Boulder High School student= 30 children
- Number of CU students: 1 GUB intern
- Number of adult community partners: 4

GUB evaluation matrix

Growing Up Boulder received a CU Outreach Grant to hire a graduate student, Stephen Sommer, to develop an evaluation matrix for Growing Up Boulder's work. As GUB receives increasing numbers of requests for its services, and as faculty devote additional time to evaluation and curriculum integration, having a graduate student devoted to this role was critical. GUB has used the Child-Friendly Cities Assessment Tool developed by the Children's Environment Research Group as an evaluation instrument for its projects in the past. Over time GUB found that this tool was a good indicator of impacts, but that it would benefit from refinement to GUB's program goals. In addition, we desired other modes of participatory evaluation that would provide richer details. Thanks to recommendations from the evaluation matrix based on interviews with community partners and best practices in evaluation, GUB has improved its evaluation methods. We have implemented several new tools for data collection and refined the pre- and post-surveys of the Child-Friendly City Assessment tool to better measure our desired outcomes.

- Number of adult community partners: 10
- Number of CU students: 1 graduate student

Growing Up Boulder Model



2015-16 Funding

The following organizations funded Growing Up Boulder during the 2015-16 fiscal year:

- The City of Boulder: Planning, Housing and Sustainability; Parks and Recreation; Transportation; and Open Space and Mountain Parks;
- University of Colorado's Office of Outreach and Engagement: Participatory research grant;
- University of Colorado's CU Engage, Children, Youth and Environments Participatory Research grant for the Boulder-Mexico City exchange;
- University of Colorado's Diversity & Excellence grant for the poetry resilience project
- Ongoing in-kind support from the University of Colorado

Presentations

Growing Up Boulder presented at more than 5 conferences and public forums throughout the year, ranging from sharing the GUB model with a delegation of city planners and businesspeople from Broken Arrow, OK to presenting at the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) conference. Whittier Elementary School students, who had participated in the GUB Civic Area project the previous year, presented their thoughts at a Boulder City Council meeting. In addition, GUB sponsored two lectures in the Environmental Design Program's yearly lecture series:

- Tim M Hernandez's: Intersections, Stories, Voice: Expressions of Young People's Resilience
- Tuline Gülgönen: Children's Representations of Public Spaces in Mexico City



Writing

GUB's work was featured in blogs, websites, journals, and books during 2015-16, including:

- Child in the City blog posts <http://www.childinthecity.eu/category/blogs/>
 - More than ten blog posts from Tori Derr re: GUB; visit here for the full list: <http://toriderr.weebly.com/child-in-the-city.html>
- Growing Up Boulder's "Great, Green Neighborhoods" project is featured on the *Designing with Children* website produced by the University of Sheffield in the UK; http://designingwithchildren.net/db/great_green-neighborhoods_growing-up-boulder.
- Mintzer, M. and D. Flanders Cushing. 2017, in press. "Growing Up Boulder: Engaging children and youth in local decision-making." K. Bishop and L. Corkery (Eds.), *Designing for Kids in the City: Beyond Playgrounds and Skateparks*. Routledge Press.
- Derr, V., L. Chawla, and W. van Vliet. 2017, in press. "Children as Natural Change Agents: Child Friendly Cities as Resilient Cities." K. Bishop and L. Corkery (Eds.), *Designing for Kids in the City: Beyond Playgrounds and Skateparks*. Routledge Press.
- Derr, V. and E. Tarantini. 2016. "Because We Are All People": Outcomes and Reflections from Young People's Participation in the Planning and Design of Child-Friendly Public Spaces. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13549839.2016.1145643#.VsjGveZjxps>
- Derr, V. and A. Rigolon. 2016. "Participatory Schoolyard Design for Health and Well-Being: Supportive Policies for Children's Informal Play in Urban Green Spaces." C. Freeman and P. Tranter (Eds.), *Risk, Protection, Provision and Policy*. Volume 12 in T. Skelton (Ed.), *Geographies of Children and Young People*. Springer Press, Singapore. http://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-981-4585-99-6_21-1
- Derr, V., L. Chawla, and I. Pevec. Early 2017, in press. "Early Childhood," in A. Russ and M. Krasny (Eds.), *Urban Environmental Education Review* textbook. Cornell University Press. And associated video link.
- Derr, V., H. Ruppi, and D. Wagner. In Press. [Honoring Voices, Inspiring Futures: Young People's Engagement in Open Space Planning](#). Field Report for *Children, Youth and Environments*.

Acknowledgements

Thank you and farewell to GUB Co-Coordinator and ENVD senior instructor, Tori Derr. Tori accepted a tenure-track professor position at California State University Monterey Bay. While at GUB, Tori provided leadership, was a publishing powerhouse, and was a creative force. We are delighted to welcome Cathy Hill as a new Growing Up Boulder Program Associate. Cathy is working with GUB 10 hours per week to help design and implement GUB's curriculum as well as plan for GUB's future. As a master teacher of 35 years and GUB teacher partner for three years, Cathy comes with a wealth of experience in education and leadership. Mara Mintzer will remain at Growing Up Boulder's helm as its coordinator, a position which she has held since the program's inception in 2009.

Thank you to Growing Up Boulder's funders, community partners volunteers, interns, and children, who are recognized on the website. This report was prepared by Mara Mintzer in October 2016.