Southwest Baltimore Charter School

Sustainable Growth Challenge 2017/2018

By: Sherry Russell, Sarah Turner, and Sarah Wallace
Acknowledgements

● Southwest Baltimore Charter School
● Southwest Baltimore Community
● Dr. Byoung-Suk Kweon
● Erica Brockman
● Karen Brown
Outline

I. Challenge
II. Site Inventory and Analysis
III. Design Process
IV. Solution
V. Outcomes
VI. Conclusion
Challenge
Challenge

- Provide a unique and age-appropriate play space for students
- Include ADA accessible play equipment
- Address and incorporate extremely steep slope on the school’s property
- Incorporate an area to be used as an outdoor classroom
- Provide outdoor seating for teachers and students to enjoy lunch
- Provide a welcoming entrance space for the school
- Provide a memorial for a deceased teacher
- Utilize a grant received by the school for a pollinator garden
Site

- No outdoor waiting space
- Non-ADA HC ramp
- Underutilized front
- Steep slope
- Invasive vines
- School garden
- Dilapidated portable classroom
- Outdoor classroom space
Site Inventory and Analysis
Site Location
Southwest Baltimore (Pigtown)

- Drugs, crime, prostitution
- High level of poverty
Demographics

- Primarily African-American
- Majority of students receive free/reduced price lunch
- Underperforming compared to the state of Maryland
Site Surroundings

Legend
- SBC School
- Parks (30)
- Schools (9)
- Museums (7)
- Shopping (4)
- Entertainment Venues (3)
Circulation
Sites and Sounds

- Graffiti and limited green space
- Noise pollution
- Distracting activities on hill and at Carroll Park Skatepark
Hydrology

- Gwynns Falls Watershed
- Location close to Gwynns Falls River
Target Areas

Enhance Entry Area

Utilize Slope

Screen Distracting Views
Process
Site Visit

- Meet with Erica Brockman
- Discuss design program
- Explore school grounds
- Perform Site Analysis
Design Discussion
Design Solution
Goals

- To provide welcoming, age-appropriate play spaces and structures that inspire waves of creativity amongst the students and community.
  - Promote social engagement
  - Encourage educational exploration
  - Motivate physical wellness
Functional Diagram
Site Plan

Legend
1. Memorial garden
2. Pollinator garden
3. Seating
4. Amphitheater
5. Climbing structure/slides
6. Natural playground

Southwest Baltimore Charter School
Amphitheater and Play Structure
Amphitheater and Open Space (looking northwest)
Play Structure (looking north)
Welcome Area
Outcomes - Environmental

- Natural play spaces encourage environmental literacy and stewardship
- Amphitheater provides bioretention
- Welcome garden supports pollinators
- Native vegetation support the environment
Outcomes- Social

- Encourages students with disabilities to attend the school
- Welcome area encourages communication amongst community members
- Provides a safe space for the community
Conclusion

- Invest in Baltimore schools
- Introduces environmentalism to students
- Provides safe play spaces for students
- Implements memorial for important community member
- Improve student quality of life