

From the Chapter President

Saskatchewan Members,

I hope that everyone is having a great start to the 2017-2018 school year. This fall has flown by, and now that the weather is turning we are excited to shift our focus towards the 2018 A4LE Conference on January 24-26, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Regina. Our organizing committee is excited to host this conference and looks forward to showing off many of our new facilities and seeing new and familiar industry partners from the facility design, operation and maintenance spectrums.

A4LE believes that the planning and operation of facilities is essential for successful learning and that networking across disciplines is critical. I encourage you to attend our conference; sign up early to take advantage of the great hotel rates available before Christmas. We look forward to seeing you!

2018 Conference highlights:

- The theme of this conference is *Building for a New Generation*. We will tour up to 4 schools which have been carefully planned to accommodate our future generations and communities. We will also explore many technical, cultural and design topics that will lead the next generation of learners and facility users into the future.
- School tours will include the Joint Use Harbour Landing/St.Kateri School, École Connaught Community School, Sacred Heart Community School and the māmawēyatitān centre, a shared facility between Regina Public School (Scott Collegiate), the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library.
- Our tradeshow participants and sponsors will be on hand to discuss new products and partnerships with delegates and attendees.

On a personal note, I had a chance to visit Atlanta for LearningSCAPES 2017. It is always interesting to hear about the issues and successes that other jurisdictions are facing and how they are overcoming those challenges through innovation. The conference had a strong theme of inclusion in education and presented a variety of unique perspectives. It was refreshing to see that Saskatchewan is in line with many of the current trends in educational facility design and delivery.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

20UNDER40

Pacific Northwest Region #20U40A4LE

20 Under 40

The Pacific Northwest Region will again be hosting their exclusive event this spring in Vancouver, BC.

Designed for 20 members under the age of 40ish, on April 11-13th, 2018, they will bring together industry professionals, school district representatives, educators, architects, designer/engineers, and planners for a synergistic, collaborative, and fun gathering of our younger A4LE members.

It will provide a one of a kind opportunity for the next generation of leaders within our industry and province to:

- engage with approximately 20 of their peers from around the Pacific Northwest Region
- explore new and progressive educational facility projects from a design, construction, processes, and user point of view
- define and hone leadership skills and principles to carry forward in their continuing careers
- discuss opportunities and strategies to further the mission of A4LE
- enjoy Vancouver, BC. and all the wonderful and vibrant things it has to offer

For more information on how to attend this event please contact:

Kirstin Mahan Thompson, Saskatchewan Governor:

kmthompson.eema@sasktel.net

Chris Roszell, Saskatchewan Chapter President:

crozell@p3arch.com

If you would like to participate as a sponsor, either to support the event, or to assist in sending one of our Saskatchewan attendees, please contact:

Kirstin Mahan Thompson, Saskatchewan Governor:

kmthompson.eema@sasktel.net

Heather Morgan, Saskatchewan Chapter Director and Scholarships coordinator: hmorgan@DIRTT.net

Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to be involved!

SAVE THE DATE!

- 20 under 40 in Vancouver, April 2018
- PNW Regional conference in Seattle, May 2-4, 2018
- LearningSCAPES 2018 in Chicago, Fall 2018

The Saskatchewan Chapter Executive is always looking for people that want to help and support our chapter. As well, we welcome any comments or suggestions so please do not hesitate to drop us a line.

Chris Roszell
President
Saskatchewan Chapter

2018 Saskatchewan Chapter Annual Conference

January 24-26, 2018

Building for a New Generation

DoubleTree by Hilton

1975 Broad St, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P1Y2 Canada

[Click here](#) for more information or to register.

Please note that the cut-off date for hotel rooms is December 22, 2017.



LearningSCAPES 2017, Atlanta

"Reimagining: Architect as Advocate in Education"
Leif Friggstad, Architect MSAA MAIBC MRAIC

Educational facility design and planning is a new venture for me which dovetails well with my relatively young career as an architect. With the opportunity to attend my first A4LE international conference, LearningSCAPES provided me a 'deep dive' into the variety of topics and considerations a designer could ascribe to as a participant in educational environmental planning. All weekend long buzzwords and catch phrases threaded together the discourse of varied session topics, providing a consistent ring in your ear to put to memory: autonomy/choice, collaborative/flexible, holistic/wellness, transformative, STEAM, lifelong learning, technology as equity, biophilic design, social/emotional health, designing for the 21st century student and so on. All of these being relevant and exciting topics which can immediately be pursued to some degree in current work opportunities.

Amongst these exciting ideas/concepts/strategies, to my surprise I found myself most challenged by an otherwise benign Q&A at the end of a session that diverted unexpectedly into a discourse about fear and courage at it relates to those actively participating in shaping the future trajectory of educational delivery. It was generally acknowledged that fear is often the greatest hindrance both for the administrator and designer alike that prevents one or both participants from attempting something that is new or on the fringe beyond 'conventional practice'. Conversely, it takes a significant degree of courage and leadership to champion these new directions for the potential benefit of enhancing the quality of student/staff experience and the effectiveness of learning environments. Rather than assume that we as architects fit into the process of designing space to suite the pedagogy of a school system, could it be that we imagine the opportunity to contribute progressive spatial ideas that potentially instigate change in future teaching systems and structures?

As it takes a courageous leader within a school division to chart a new course in educational delivery, we as planners and designers may want to consider seeking opportunities that can offer our opinion and expertise beyond and before typical project delivery. We could encourage more conservative school administrations towards self-evaluation of how they see their current students different from tens years ago while enticing them to envision how a student may learn differently 10, even 20 years from now. What those spaces could look and operate like should be the excitement and vision of future educational facilities worth finding our voice to advocate for.

Leif Friggstad

Lyndi Dyck on LearningSCAPES 2017

LearningScapes 2017 'Global Innovations in Place' offered a variety of examples of designing schools for every budget and a variety of teaching methods. From a facilities perspective, there were two sessions particularly compelling.

The first is, the tour entitled "Visit the Renowned Ron Clark Academy (RCA)" was an amazing opportunity. The moment you enter the gates it is clear why this school is renowned; everything from the design, to the non-traditional teaching methods were inspiring. RCA is a private, non-profit middle school. When looking at prospective real estate, Kim Bearden and Ron Clark were told this area of town was no place for a school. RCA is a converted dilapidated awning factory, located in southeast Atlanta, in a community where poverty is rampant and crime rates are high.



This school focuses on stimulating children to learn through student engagement. Students are engaged via exterior and interior design and creative educational processes. The traditional double loaded corridor was discarded in favour of a design mash-up of Disney, Harry Potter, space travel, and your home living room combined. The vast majority of the school is Harry Potter themed, including: graffiti art on the exterior of the red brick to emulate a castle, dragon statues in the common areas, secret passageways for classroom access, and a cafeteria styled after Hogwarts itself. To enter Ron's classroom you must know the password. The password being passion, something the school exudes, a passion for learning and teaching.

While touring this school it was clear that this school was designed with exquisite taste and for children. Funding and building materials were almost entirely generated at a grassroots level, with the exception of a large donation from Oprah. Giving the community an opportunity to assist in the building of the school helped build ties with the southeast community. Graffiti art, and there was a lot of graffiti art, is donated by local talent from within the community and the designs change frequently throughout the school year.

The typical white spaces on classroom walls was not present, rather every wall is covered in art, student photos, statues, or shapes. Each classroom had its own theme, such as the candy room, famous musicians, dragons, space, etc. A common critique amongst the group was that this space is over stimulating for most students. The students are encouraged to stand and dance on chairs and tabletops. To my surprise, the furniture was standard grade furnishings. From a student perspective, dancing and jumping on furniture is engaging, however, from a facilities standpoint, this exercise could be a liability issue. This tour demonstrated the impact learning environments have on students, how design can encourage students to want to be there and how classrooms can be fun.

The following day one of the RCA tour participants, Erin Jones, facilitated the session titled "Creating Culturally Responsive Learning Environments". This session sparked a lot of discussion, especially from fellow RCA tour attendees. Erin's take on RCA was not an astonishment of this tremendous facility with modern and quirky teaching techniques; rather she was horrified by the lack of cultural and ethnic diversity in the staff and within the design features. The majority of the instructors were Caucasian, whereas the surrounding community and general student populous is not Caucasian. Erin's talk on this subject was only about half an hour, however, it sparked some real and genuine conversations throughout the day. People discussed how we incorporate cultural diversity in our facilities currently and what steps can be taken to encourage community engagement to celebrate the differences in cultures and ethnicities.

The dichotomy of these two sessions highlighted the challenges of the education world. Focusing on ingenuity and creativity may lead to accidental exclusion of key stakeholders during the design process as well as post-design. While many people found Erin's comments uncomfortable, she managed to get attendees discussing real issues that affect every school, regardless of their location.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our A4LE chapter for this amazing education opportunity.

Lyndi Dyck

Gerry McCudden Memorial Scholarship Recipients 2017

I am currently studying Audio Engineering and Production at the Centre for Arts and Technology in Kelowna, BC. The assistance of the A4LE has helped me to fund my education and which will allow me to pursue a career in TV/film or live sound in the future.

The student lounge in the school is filled with bright colours, music, seating, and computer and animation table set-ups. You can find students working and chatting there until midnight. This is my favourite place in the school. In the photos attached, you can see a long multi-coloured couch in front of a fountain, as well as one of three different white boards in the school that students can use to meet new people, find accommodations, advertise their services, or just doodle.

Amber Hammermeister



My post-secondary studies are taking place at the University of Saskatchewan, in the College of Arts and Science. I am taking courses that relate to both of my interests of physics and writing, which will guide me in the direction of which academic interest I would like to focus on. The 2017 A4LE Gerry McCudden Scholarship will allow me to afford mandatory costs like textbooks and tuition for my post-secondary studies. With aid in covering basic costs of my first year of university, I am now able to explore the opportunity to study abroad. Studying abroad is an opportunity that I am thankful to have, as I think learning through new experiences is important! I appreciate and am thankful for this scholarship from A4LE, it has opened many windows of opportunity for me.

Ella McKercher

School Tours – Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Ecole Connaught Community School Community of Excellence/Communaute d' excellence



Ecole Connaught Community School is a two storey, dual track French Immersion School with a current enrollment of 435 students, 43 staff and a 51 seat Daycare. The exterior of the school's façade is a more traditional and formal presentation at the North where it represents its historic predecessor and becomes a more playful modern feel as the building extends to the south façade, separated by a two-storey skylit atrium called Heritage Hall.

The school is based on the 21st Century learning model and is comprised of 17 Learning Studios divided into 3 Learning Communities each with its own wet/messy area, S.T.E.A.M. Studio, teacher collaboration room, and individual student washrooms. Bleacher stairs in Heritage Hall provide an additional presentation area, along with a multi-purpose Hip Hop Hall room, a festival room, bistro and a media center located in the heart of the school.

Constructed to LEED Silver standards, the school encompasses the feel and characteristics of the surrounding Cathedral neighbourhood and pays homage to the original building through the reuse of historical artifacts, contributions from local artists' murals and is themed after the unique characteristics of the surrounding community.

Flexible teaching environments along with the use of mobile furniture, technology-enriched studios allow for ever-changing learning atmospheres to occur daily throughout the school.

Notable Features:

- The building occupies 5304 m² that is situated where the original 102-year-old Connaught once stood.
- The school construction period was 610 days and was built at a budget cost of \$21,219,129.00.
- General Contractor was Quorex Construction.
- Architect was NumberTEN Architectural Group and CITE360 Studio



Heritage Hall



The Crescents Learning Community



Wet / Messy Area



Media Center located within the Avenue



South Exposure Classrooms and modern aesthetics



South Facing Playground and Childcare Center



Repurposed Heritage Artifacts at the Outdoor Learning areas

mâwawêyatitân centre

The mâwawêyatitân centre is named after a Cree word meaning 'let's be all together,' is a unique partnership between Regina Public Schools, the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library. It houses the new Scott Collegiate, Albert Scott Community Centre, Regina Public Library Albert Branch, and Community Police Centre and daycare. It also features significant community and ceremonial spaces. The three partners collaborated to create a collective amalgamation of programming and services based on the following principles:

- Learning across the community – everyone is responsible for education
- Building and Neighbourhood Concepts – Integrated services, sharing space, governance and learning programs
- Integration of programming and space rather than co-location



In order to accommodate a vastly diverse range of programming, the design of the facility follows many 21st century learning principles and redefines flexibility. Over 70% of all spaces are considered shared uses with almost as many being able to be booked by community groups and public. Both shared and dedicated spaces are connected to and spill out into the commons. The Commons act as the central gathering spaces for students, staff, community members to share, learn and engage.

The building was thoughtfully designed to maximize integration and security with the majority of the dedicated learning spaces are located in four grade based personal learning communities located on the second floor. The main floor is largely public with many of the specialty rooms, including the shops, art rooms, dance studio and commercial kitchen being devoted to both school and community spaces and will offer a variety of joint programming. The facility also boasts two full size gymnasiums, one for school and one for community use and a 30 seat infant and toddler center. The project was built on the existing Scott Collegiate school site which remained operational during the building and is now demolished



Sacred Heart Community School

With Phase 2 set to be completed in early 2018, the new Sacred Heart Community School is an Urban Playground; a blend of natural colours and design elements balanced with a fun and youthful design. As a corner stone of the community, the school has been designed with adaptable functionality to accommodate different teaching styles and techniques. It also helps fulfil the needs of a variety of user groups from both inside and outside the school with the integrated Daycare and the public Early Learning Family Center.

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 1-4

LearningSCAPES 2018
CHICAGO 2018
PALMER HOUSE HILTON

ASSOCIATION FOR
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
Enhancing the Educational Experience

2018 LearningSCAPES Annual Conference and Exposition

November 1-4, 2018
Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, IL

February 1 – January 31

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Sarah Turnbull Interior Design

**Regional / Chapter Member
Care Manager**

As an effort to serve Chapters and Regions more effectively, Association staff members are fully dedicated to providing support to the leaders and individual members of each region. Please contact [Donna Robinson](#) at 480.239.0688 for article submissions and regional events and activities.



**2018 Pacific Northwest Regional
Conference**



May 2-4, 2018

Open Your Umbrella: Empowering Students Through Design

Motif Seattle

Seattle, WA



SchoolsNEXT

The [SchoolsNEXT Design Competition](#) offers an opportunity to illustrate the kind of creativity that students bring to the planning and design process. The competition highlights the importance of well-planned, healthy, safe sustainable and resilient schools that foster student and teacher achievement and enhance community vitality. The annual competition, open to middle school students, challenges student teams to design their learning environments to enhance learning, conserve resources, be environmentally responsive and engage the surrounding community. The multi-disciplinary solution requires students to follow a planning process from the concept phase to completion of the project, with thorough documentation. The students will present their project to a jury for review.

Schools around the world are advancing the limits of public education by providing real-world learning experiences and opportunities for students to ask questions and problem solve, collaborate and gain experience tactile, hands-on work. This is a 21st Century learning approach where students are enabled, engaged and empowered through a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) curriculum, leadership and teamwork proficiencies to master the 21st century skills they need to succeed in today's global economy.

Contact Donna Robinson for more information at donna@a4le.org.