We have a lot planned for this upcoming year and reflect back on some very successful programs that helped us close out 2016 with a bang.

**Last Quarter 2016 Events**

**Maker Space Tours at the Green Schools Summit**, hosted by USGBC Colorado and Teknion covered exciting, new, and unexpected territory as a pre-cursory event to the USGBC’s Green Schools Summit with a theme of "Beyond the Walls". Attendees were transported by the hybrid school bus provided by the Douglas County School District. The Citron Workspaces showroom at Industry located in the artsy River North neighborhood of Denver was home base for the tour group.

Tour participants moved next to **Roots Elementary School** and **Vickers Boys & Girls Club**. Both facilities, designed by Oz Architecture, share a campus to house pre-K through high school aged students. **Roots Elementary** is designed around "knocking down the walls of the traditional classroom" and features the "Learning Grove", a large open volume ringed with smaller spaces. The **Vickers Boys & Girls Club** serves elementary through high school with programs that offer learning and exploration beyond the school day. A lab with tools and equipment that encourage exploration for art and making.

Next stop was **Art Gym**, where member artists take advantage of a beautifully renovated former Safeway building. Spaces and equipment to practice art activities like culinary, dance, painting, photography, printmaking, jewelry and more. Opportunities for collaboration and inspiration flourish. Tour participants contemplated memberships here, intrigued by the beauty as well as the collaborative and creative energy of the place.

Sadly for some, the last stop was **Corkins Center at Graland Country Day School**. Completed just weeks before the tour, this new facility demonstrates Graland’s deep commitment to an innovation program for middle school students. The motto "Tinker, create, innovate" is evident here. see the new lab space fitted out with equipment and materials. Exciting things are to come for Graland middle schoolers who will love this new campus amenity.

As can happen with innovative products, at this point our bus experienced a glitch and would not start.

A few stalwarts plunged forward to **InWorks**. This space fosters 'radical interdisciplinarity', using innovation and design thinking to challenge students. InWorks is located on a street-front just off Larimer Square. It draws vibrancy and energy from the scene outside to complement the innovation energy inside.

Our tour capped off with a happy hour at Citron Workspaces, the perfect setting for exciting food experiments by the **Inventing Room**, including ice cream creations fueled by liquid nitrogen, and exploding whipped cream. Tour participants discussed how Making Environments are taking shape and will continue to find homes in districts across Colorado.

**2016 Green Schools Summit "Beyond the Walls"**

Another great summit day with wonderful speakers enjoyed by all of the attendees.

**Motion and Flexibility for Success in the 21st Century Classroom**

*Hosted by VS America, Inc. and OfficeScapes Schools*

This event featured a breakfast buffet followed by CEU certified presentations by Dr. Dieter Breithecker and David A. Stubbs II. Attendees were excited to hear these two dynamic speakers discuss and demonstrate how movement and flexible environments improve learning for 21st Century students.

**Holiday Design Awards Event**

Hosted by OZ Architecture, our popular annual Holiday Party drew a large crowd with delicious food, festive beverages, a wonderful place, and the exciting culmination to the Design Awards competition. Boards for the submitted designs were displayed and poured-over by fascinated attendees.
2016 Award Winners

- **Rockies Design Award – Unbuilt Projects**

- **Summit Design Award – Renovations**
  1. The Merit Award – DSST at Byers for Denver Public Schools by Eidos Architects.
  2. The Design Award – Valdez Elementary School for Denver Public Schools, by OZ Architecture.

- **Peak Design Award**
  2. Design Award – Roots Elementary School, a public Charter School at DPS, by OZ Architecture.

- **Planner of the Year Award** – Richard L. Huwa, RLH Engineering

- **People's Choice Award** – Stargate School, Adams 12 Five-Star School District, by Hord Coplan Macht

- **President's Award** – The voters of Colorado

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bond...School Bonds!**
**January 25, 2017**
Aurora Public Schools Professional Learning & Conference Center (PLCC)
15771 E. 1st Ave., Aurora, CO 80011

Now that the election is over, come hear from a panel of school districts, architects and general contractors about how various districts will implement their programs, and what that means for the design and construction industries. Don't miss the latest intelligence from industry experts on what the next several years will bring.

**Schedule:**

3:00-3:30 Networking
3:30-4:30 Moderated Panel discussion with school district representatives, architects and contractors
4:30-5:00 Open Q & A and discussion with panel members and audience

**Fee:**
$20 Member / $35 Non-Member
$40 Onsite Non-Member

**Southwest Regional Conference**
**March 21 through March 24**
This year's conference is in Salt Lake City, Utah. Save the dates and join us for what is always a very rewarding event with a dynamic group of professionals interested in creating the best learning environments possible for schools in the Southwest.

**Membership Committee**
Our association depends on the commitment and enthusiasm of active local members. Be sure to invite your friends and associates for one of our upcoming events. We would love to have them join us! Don't forget any emerging professionals who might especially benefit from the programs and connections offered by the Association. Please contact Sue Walker s.walker@vs-charlotte.com for information about joining our chapter.