



# The Nature Engineering Science Technology Theatre

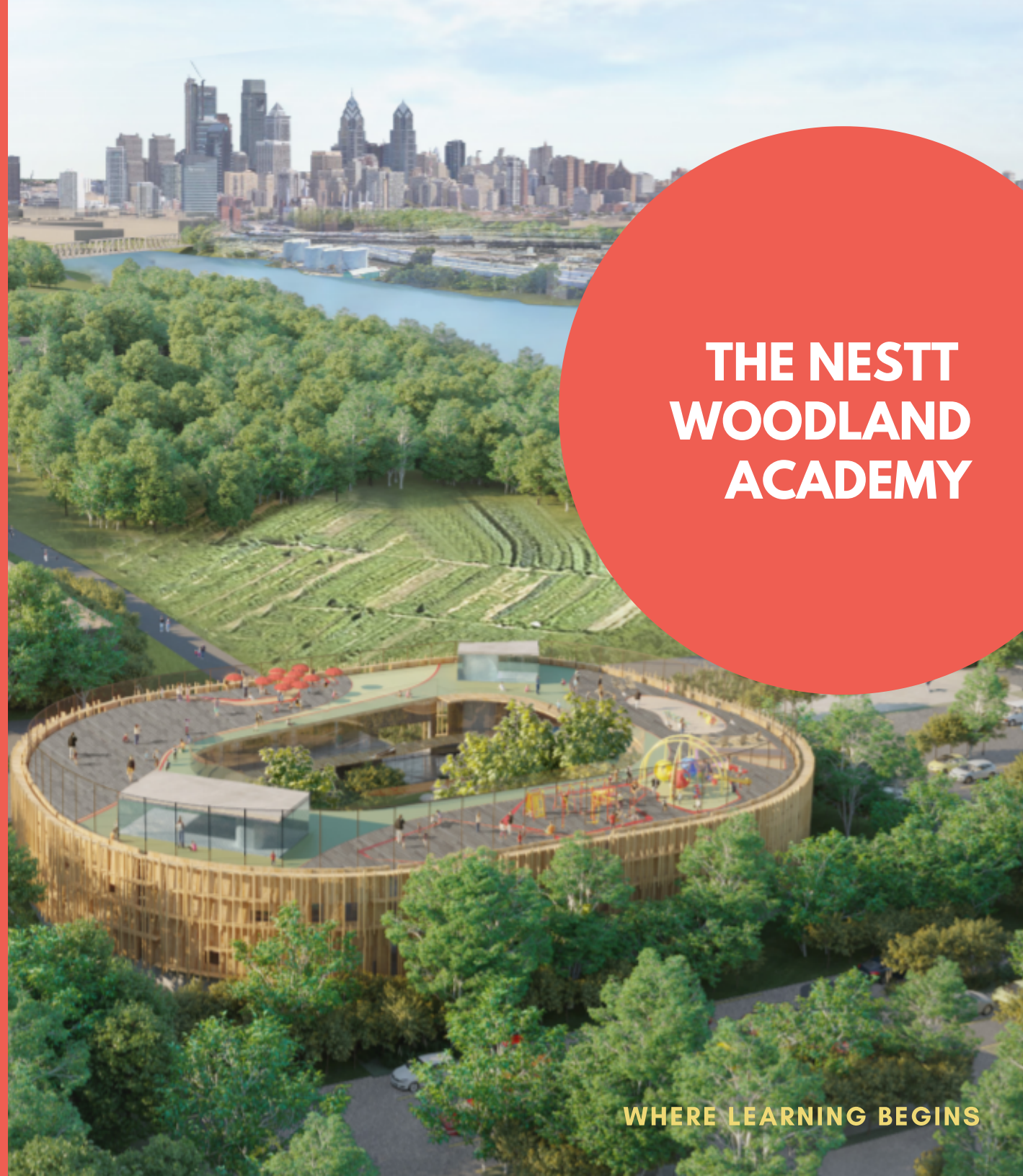
Woodland Academy, Bartrams Garden, Greater Philadelphia Health Action & The Southwest Leadership Circle builds a unparalleled path for wealth and excellence for the Southwest community through the creation of

# The NESTT





**An Unparalleled  
Place for Learning,  
Creativity, and  
Community**



**THE NESTT  
WOODLAND  
ACADEMY**

**WHERE LEARNING BEGINS**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Called by the alignment in the missions of GPHA, Woodland Academy, and partner Bartram's Garden, and guided by our Southwest neighborhood leaders, we have developed plans for The NESTT at Bartram's Garden, a one-of-a-kind nature-focused childcare facility and community resource center operated by Woodland Academy/GPHA.

The 50 acres of Bartram's Garden will serve as the outdoor classroom and environmental anchor for The NESTT. With approximately 33,000 square feet of indoor resources, plus roughly 13,000 feet of outdoor space, The NESTT would be sited directly adjacent to the nationally recognized Sankofa Community Farm at Bartram's Garden, ecologically significant natural tidal wetlands, and the forthcoming mussel hatchery operated by the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (opening in 2023). It would also offer easy access to the Tidal Schuylkill riverfront, including FloatLab, a planned floating classroom and art space with Mural Arts Philadelphia (opening in 2022), and the Bartram's Mile trail (connecting to Center City in 2022).

# NESTT LIFE

## Education

The NESTT—taking its name from its intentional focus on nature, engineering, science, technology, and theatre—would offer innovative hands-on learning opportunities for up to 200 students ranging from infancy through Grade 8. Lessons will intentionally complement and draw from the adjacent 50-acre National Historic Landmark Bartram's Garden and its track record of serving 10,000 students annually, with age-appropriate joint curriculum development available in everything from watershed education to African Diaspora culture, Quaker history to visual art, healthy living to horticulture.

## Health , Nutrition & Community

The NESTT would include clinical practice space for GPHA's integrated health services; multi-purpose community access rooms for events, meetings, and gatherings of all kinds; a community computer lab; and a teaching kitchen with commercial accreditation, to complement growing youth-led food sovereignty and food enterprise at the Sankofa Community Farm at Bartram's Garden.

# THE NESTT CAMPUS



# MARKETING

## Who are our competitors?

While many pockets of Philadelphia's neighborhoods have an over saturation of childcare facilities, Southwest Philadelphia has one of the highest unmet need for quality early care and learning. In addition, The NESTT's location and focus will set itself apart from all of the childcare facilities in the city.

## How are we different from others?

Building on nationally emerging movements for community ownership as a tool for building wealth in Black communities, this project links those documented financial benefits to a holistic and trusted community-led planning process that prioritizes children, families, and neighborhood green space in the form of a beloved public park. The NESTT will offer comprehensive education, Freedom School programming, and coaching for 200 families, with both interventions and benefits lasting well into each child's adulthood. Families connected to The NESTT will have better health outcomes, stronger educational performance, and break the cycles of poverty.



## SUSTAINABILITY

To plan this new space in concert with additional riverfront investments, Bartram's Garden, Woodland Academy, and GPHA partnered with the Southwest Community Leadership Circle to facilitate a community-driven planning process guided by DIGSAU, an award-winning local architectural firm. The formation and location of the NESTT has created a foundation to sustain it by the wealth of experience and dedication to the Southwest community that these stakeholders share.

The NESTT's sustainability is also secured by its ability to braid funding so that the tuition received for all levels of care for all of its students are covering the total cost of the quality comprehensive services that is being delivered. Through leveraging programs like Philly Pre K, Pa Head Start Supplemental, Pre K Counts and Child Care Works funding to ensure that families have more than one funding stream to completely close the gap between the cost of comprehensive quality care and families' ability to pay.

The NESTT's unique programming and focus will be carefully tracked and the data results collected will serve as evidence that children who attend the NESTT have better outcomes in a variety of areas including but not limited to health, academic, civic engagement, etc. Consequently, the NESTT will serve as a national model for comprehensive restorative practices to heal and empower communities to break the cycle of systematic racial inequities.

## SITE SQUARE FOOTAGE (SF)

### CLASSROOMS

Infant Room (6 wks - 1 yr) 400 SF  
 Young Toddlers (1-2 yrs) 1,000 SF  
 Old Toddlers (2-3 yrs) 1,200 SF  
 Pre School (3-5 yrs) 6,000 SF  
 Afterschool (K-3) 1,600 SF

### AFTERSCHOOL & PROGRAM ROOMS

Indoor Play Space (Climbing Wall) 2,500 SF  
 Art Room 1,000 SF  
 Library 500 SF  
 Teaching Kitchen 800 SF  
 Computer/Quiet Rooms 1,600 SF  
 Assembly Space 2,500 SF

### ADMIN / SUPPORT

Meeting Room 1,500 SF  
 Offices/Admin/Therapy 110 SF  
 Teacher's Lounge 500 SF  
 Laundry 200 SF  
 Prep Kitchen 250 SF  
 Storage 1,200 SF  
 Bathrooms - Included in grossing

SUBTOTAL 23,850 SF

GROSSING (45%) 1.45

**BUILDING TOTAL 34,583 SF**

### SITE / OUTDOOR AREAS

Playground & Green Space 15,810 SF  
 Parking (1 space per 1,000 sf) 12,104 SF

**SITE TOTAL 27,914 SF**

# OUTCOMES

**100%** of families who needed emergency/crisis intervention services such as meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter received it successfully.

**72%** of families who needed housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs received these services.

**100%** of families who needed Mental health services received it successfully.

**67%** of adults who needed education services such as GED programs and college selection received these services.

**100%** of families who needed English as a Second Language (ESL) training services received it successfully.

**100%** of families who needed Domestic Violence services received it successfully.

**80%** of families who needed Health education received these services.

**85%** of families who needed Parenting education received these services.

**76%** of families who needed Asset building services (such as financial education, opening savings and checking accounts, debt counseling, etc.) received these services.

\*Woodland Academy Head Start Program also provided the following services but was not limited to: Substance abuse prevention and treatment, Child abuse and neglect, Child support, Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals and Relationship/marriage education services.\*

# OUR GOAL

## 12 Months

- Secure local planning grants
- Research community wealth building models
- Resume community planning engagement and Design work with Digsau.

## 2-5 Years

- Create a cohesive relationship between Bartrams Garden's Welcome Center, the NESTT, elementary, middle and high school that reflects strong community benefits and produces new young leaders within the community.
- Create an aggressive national fundraising plan
- Secure funding for the Projects
- Break ground
- Plan community open house
- Enroll the first 200 students
- Start collecting outcomes data



## **GPHA**

GPHA's mission is to provide quality comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy and child development services, through our expert staff of professionals.

While using a fiscally responsible approach, we seek to meet the needs of a diverse population, regardless of their ability to pay.

GPHA grew from a social movement dedicated to providing healthcare to every member of the community, regardless of their economic standing.

## **BATRAM'S GARDEN**

Bartram's Garden is a public park and 50-acre National Historic Landmark, operated by the non-profit John Bartram Association in cooperation with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and welcoming an estimated 100,000 visitors each year.

The mission is to create equitable relationships among people and nature through immersive, community-driven experiences that activate the Bartram legacy, Garden, and House, on land and on the Schuylkill River.

# **OUR PARTNERS**

## **Southwest Community Leadership Circle**

Dedicated community leaders advise Bartram's Garden, Woodland Academy and institutional partners on future programming, neighborhood investments, and local priorities.

## **Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School**

The mission of the RAPCS is to create a safe and healthy learning environment for middle school youth to develop into responsible participants in their education and our diverse society. We will provide rigorous instruction to prepare children for higher learning, the workplace, and life.

## **PIDC**

PIDC is a non-profit organization founded by the City of Philadelphia and the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia in 1958.

Our mission is to spur investment, support business growth, and foster developments that create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and drive growth to every corner of Philadelphia.