



Natural Learning Initiative 20th Anniversary

DESIGN INSTITUTE

March 25-26 | Virtual Conference

NC STATE



Re-Naturing Urban Childhood: Making Friends with Planet Earth



Exploring pond life at the Discovery Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, NYC

Re-Naturing Urban Childhood: Making Friends with Planet Earth

The current pandemic frames an especially powerful moment, re-emphasizing to the global community that global crises can only be solved through global solidarity, by striving to support the evolution of cultural values that commit all peoples to caring for the health of the global bio-system that human survival depends on.

Evolution of planet-friendly values and viable cultural change requires children and youth to play and learn with nature first-hand, where they live, every day, in places created by new policies and processes, in both historic and contemporary urban/izing settlements.

An emerging framework of treaties, conventions, and policies, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Social Determinants of Health, and Nature-Based Solutions, frame the NLI 20th Anniversary Design Institute and provide synergy and solidarity for all involved.

Attendance is expected from policy makers, educators, designers, researchers, environmental advocates, college instructors, governmental officials, licensing regulators, etc. These mainly frontline professionals work in childcare centers, schools, zoos, museums, nature centers, botanical gardens, conservation organizations, cultural enterprises, municipal park systems, design offices, and higher education institutions.

Webinar Information:

naturalearning.org/20th-anniversary-design-institute

AGENDA

	Thursday, March 25, 2021		Friday, March 26, 2021
9:00	<p>Welcome to Day 1!</p> <p>Robin Moore, MCP, Hon.ASLA, Director, NLI</p> <p>Mark Hoversten, PhD, Dean, College of Design</p> <p>Meg Calkins, Head of Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning</p> <p>Nilda Cosco, PhD, ASLA, Director of Programs, NLI</p>	9:00	<p>Welcome to Day 2!</p> <p>North Carolina Children and Nature NC CAN</p> <p>Rich Rairigh, Ronda Hawkins, Linda Kinney, Robin Moore, Nilda Cosco</p> <p>Natural Learning Initiative's Award!</p>
9:20	<p>P1 – Robin Moore, MCP, Hon.ASLA, Director, NLI <i>Global Thinking, Local Action Creating Nature-based Solutions.</i></p>	9:20	<p>P5 – Isami Kinoshita, Professor, Otsuma Women's University; Professor Emerita, Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Horticulture, Chiba University; Mitsunari ('Charlie') Terada, PhD, Research Fellow, Chiba University; & Mariia Ermilova, PhD, Post-doctoral Researcher, Chiba University <i>Children's Play with Nature through Cross Generations</i></p>
9:50	Q&A	9:50	Q&A
10:00	<p>P2 – Karla Leonhardt-Zacharias, Cultural Pedagogue & Kati Landsiedel, Environmental Educator, PA/SPIELkulture.V. <i>Play, Culture & Sustainability: Reconnecting Cities, Kids and the Planet</i></p>	10:00	<p>P6 – Cheryl Charles, PhD – Co-founder and CEO Emerita, Children & Nature Network <i>The Ecology of Hope: Connecting Children and Nature in Cities</i></p>
10:30	Q&A	10:30	Q&A
10:40	<p>P3 – Marilena Flores Martins, Co-founder and Counselor & Janine Dodge, IPA Brazil Director, International Play Association Brazil <i>Children's Play as a Catalyst for the Sustainable Development Goals.</i></p>	10:40	<p>P7 – Cam Collyer, Principal of People and Place Consulting and Senior Advisor, Evergreen <i>Neighbourhood nature play: Elevating design and program in local landscapes</i></p>
11:10	Q&A	11:10	Q&A
11:20	<p>P4 – Natural Learning Initiative Exhibition Launch "20 years of Outdoor design for children and families"</p>	11:20	<p>P8 – Louise Chawla, Professor Emerita, Program in Environmental Design, University of Colorado Boulder <i>Connecting with Nature and Coping with Environmental Challenges: The Importance of Involving Children in Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity</i></p>
11:50	Q&A - Interactive	11:50	Q&A
12:00	Closing. See you tomorrow!	12:00	Wrap up, final remarks, Adjourn. Stay connected!

WELCOME TO DAY 1!

Mark Hoversten

Mark Hoversten, PhD, FASLA, FCELA, AICP, is dean of the College of Design, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Meg Calkins

Meg Calkins, Professor and Head of Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Nilda Cosco

Nilda Cosco, PhD, ASLA, Research Associate Professor, Director of Programs, NLI, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Robin Moore

Robin Moore, MCP, Hon.ASLA, Director, NLI, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Global Thinking, Local Action: Creating Nature-based Solutions.

When children play, they learn. The more diverse the play space is the more diverse the learning. The more nature there is the greater the natural learning. Learning about nature (tacit learning). Learning through nature (about each other, cooperation, imagination, creativity). Learning naturally (peacefully, relaxed, destressed, engaged with nature's ever-changing sensorium—fragrance, light and shadow, spectral colors, air across faces, buzzing insects, flitting butterflies, bird song). Direct, primary experience. Impossible to synthesize. This is the impact of nature-based, biophilic solutions we need to achieve together, by design, in cities, for the coming generation of Planetary Lifesavers—starting in year zero. We adults have an awesome responsibility to make this happen, to guarantee the right to nature for generations to come!

SPEAKERS: DAY 1

Robin Moore

Robin Moore, MCP, Hon. ASLA, is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning and Director of the Natural Learning Initiative (NLI), College of Design, NC State University. He holds degrees in architecture (London) and city and regional planning (MIT). Since 2000, he has guided NLI in pioneering an interdisciplinary, environment and behavior approach to built-environment design and research for children and families in underserved communities, focused on interaction with nature. Moore is consultant to governmental and nonprofit organizations and leading design firms, a recognized author, former chair of the Environmental Design Research Association, and former president and Honorary Member of the International Play Association.



Play, Culture & Sustainability: Reconnecting Cities, Kids and the Planet

There is no doubt that children of today are the adults of tomorrow. But how are we preparing children for life in a world in crisis? How can we empower them to take responsibility for the future of the planet? PA/SPIELkultur e.V., based in Munich, Germany, has decades of experience in developing play projects and networking with partners on different levels. We present some Spielkultur concepts and methods by showing a sample of projects, practices, and networking activities. Sheep, aliens, bees, waste, theaters, and gardens transport children to realize what's really important. By engaging kids in meaningful, immersive play and by taking them seriously we can show that they themselves can be the agents for an ever-changing world.

SPEAKERS: DAY 1

Karla Leonhart-Zacharias and Kati Landsiedel

Karla Leonhart-Zacharias is an educator, cultural pedagogue, and cofounder, with the late Wolfgang Zacharias, of Pädagogische Aktion/Spielkultur E.V., Munich, Germany. Working with the Munich City Youth Office for more than 40 years, PA/Spielkultur provides urban play and learning programs and events for children, young people, and families across the city, with a focus on “cultural education” within and outside of school, at the intersection of the arts, media, nature, and all the senses.

Kati Landsiedel is an environmental educator with a special interest in sustainability questions: How can we achieve a healthy relationship between humans and nature? How do we want to live together? What is a “good life”? She believes that children develop a sense of responsibility for the planet when they build a connection with nature. This can happen in a playful, sensual, immersive learning process including a range of fun tools and methods like, role play, hands-on experience, research projects, various media and digital technologies that spark creativity, interaction and participation.



Children's Play as a Catalyst for the Sustainable Development Goals

This presentation will explore how children's play can be a catalyst for achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. It will share what IPA Brazil - the Brazilian Association for the Right to Play and Culture has been doing to promote these goals and the challenges faced in doing so.

SPEAKERS: DAY 1

Marilena Flores Martins and Janine Dodge

Marilena Flores Martins is a founder and former president of IPA Brazil - the Brazilian Association for the Right to Play and Culture. She is a life-long activist on behalf of children's rights and has helped develop several organizations dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable children and adolescents. She was instrumental in ensuring that children's right to play was included in important federal legislation in Brazil and served as Assistant Secretary at the São Paulo State Secretariat for Social Assistance and Development. She is an author and consultant in the areas of child development and the rights of children and adolescents. She is an Honorary Member of the International Play Association.

Janine Dodge is Director of the NGO, International Play Association (IPA) in Brazil. She is a recognized speaker about play and coauthor of several publications, including the book, *A Descoberta do Brincar* ("The Discovery of Play"). Prior to joining IPA, Janine had a successful 20-year career in marketing, strategy and social responsibility. She was Marketing Director for Unilever and BP-Castrol, and served at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Scotiabank, working in Brazil, Canada, the US and Chile. She has an MBA from the Schulich School of Business in Toronto and an International Relations degree from the University of Toronto.



Nilda Cosco introduces the 2021 NLI Exhibition!

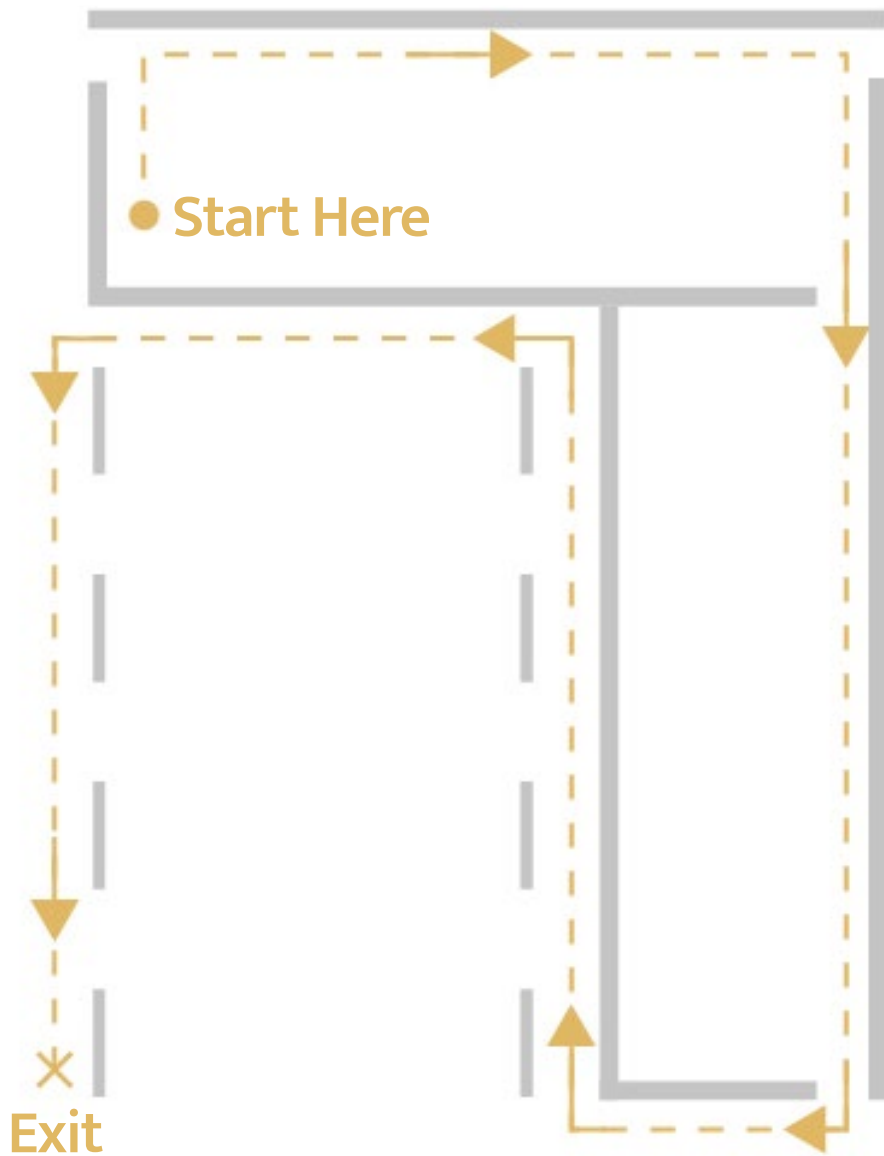
Explore NLI's past and present work using Artsteps, our virtual exhibition. This immersive virtual tour displays the far reach of NLI's programming across the country, including national partnerships with the National Wildlife Federation and PlayCore. Refer to the included map for the suggested route to best navigate the exhibition and enjoy!

For further information about NLI's programming and partnerships.

Visit: <https://naturalearning.org/programs-projects/>

Take a Look:

<https://www.artsteps.com/view/604f73813349c251adce34b5>



WELCOME TO DAY 2!

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NATURAL LEARNING INITIATIVE AWARD

Rich Rairigh

Rich Rairigh, Director, Be Active Kids!

Ronda Hawkins

Ronda Hawkins, Early Childhood Professor, TLC Assistant Director, Sandhills Community College.

Linda Kinney

Linda Kinney, MA Play and Playwork, Conservation Education and Science, North Carolina Zoo.

Nilda Cosco

Nilda Cosco, PhD, ASLA, Research Associate Professor, Director of Programs, NLI, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Robin Moore

Robin Moore, MCP, Hon.ASLA, Director, NLI, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at NC State University.

Children's Play with Nature Across Generations: From Childhood Play Biographies to "Bio-Playtope"

When we surveyed school kids about the number of days they played outdoors each week, 80% of respondents in urban areas and 60% in rural areas answered that they did not play outside even one day. Today's children tend to play electronic games indoors because they have few friends around them. When we asked three generations about their childhood play, the older the generation, the richer their play, and the more nature knowledge and skills they acquired. Older adults taught children to play in nature. This may represent the last resistance against current social change driven by the "play DNA" of the older generation—reflecting an aging society with a declining birthrate. Interviewing adults about their childhood play, creating play biographies, and collaborating to revitalize outdoor play with nature, we named "Bio-Playtope." "Bio" stands for biography + biotope (habitat). "Bio-Playtope" suggests a biographical approach to recreating playful, natural environments through communication across generations. Interventions to intentionally take children outdoors may now be needed to promote children's play.

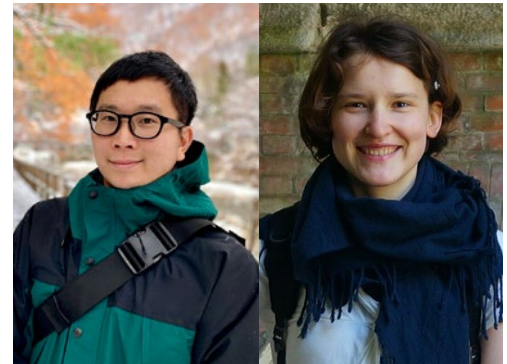
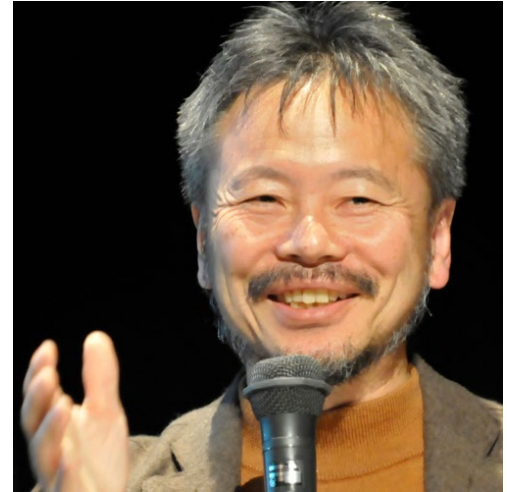
SPEAKERS: DAY 2

Isami Kinoshita, Mitsunari ('Charlie') Terada, and Mariia Ermilova

Isami Kinoshita, PhD, is Professor Emeritus, Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Horticulture, Chiba University, and Lecturer, Open Air University and Otsuma Women's University, Tokyo. Isami is a landscape architect and urban planner, drawing on themes of Japanese culture to work at the intersection of cultural animation, community participation, intergenerational play and urban landscape meaning and transformation (including the Taishido Four Generations Study).

Mitsunari ('Charlie') Terada, PhD, is a researcher and practitioner in landscape planning, focusing on local governance for child-friendly communities. Since 2016, he has lived in Iwase Neighborhood and co-manages the community center. He consults on children's outdoor play in Japan acting as educator, coordinator, and playmate of children. Mitsunari is an IPA Japan board member, an International Schoolgrounds Alliance member, a researcher for the Japan Adventure Playground Association, and research fellow at the Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University.

Mariia Ermilova, PhD, is an ecologist and environmental educator with a focus on biocultural diversity. Since 2016, she has lived in Iwase Neighborhood and co-manages the community center. Currently, she is a post-doctoral researcher in the Spatial Planning Laboratory, Environmental Science and Landscape Architecture Course, Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University, Japan. Mariia is also an artist and member of Urban Sketchers International.



The Ecology of Hope: Connecting Children and Nature in Cities

People throughout the world are working collaboratively to connect children with the rest of nature in their everyday lives. For many, the worldwide pandemic has brought heightened appreciation for the importance of connecting people of all ages with nature, and especially children in their growing years. Drawing on research and practice, Cheryl offers reasons and resources for enhancing children's healthy development while caring for themselves, others and the Earth itself.

SPEAKERS: DAY 2

Cheryl Charles

Cheryl Charles, PhD, is an innovator, author, organizational executive and educator; one of the leaders of the worldwide movement to reconnect children, youth, families and adults with nature; co-founder and CEO Emerita of the Children & Nature Network (C&NN); member of the Steering Committee for IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication; international co-chair of IUCN's #NatureForAll; and lead author of the research synthesis, *Home to Us All: How Connecting with Nature Helps Us Care for Ourselves and the Earth*.



Neighbourhood Nature Play: Elevating Design and Program in Local Landscapes

This presentation will feature insights from a Canadian schoolground greening program that started by supporting grassroots community groups and for the past 20 years has created comprehensive, school district-wide approaches in 18 jurisdictions. Also included is a snapshot of four placemaking initiatives in municipal parks, focused on getting kids outside in nature, close to home.

SPEAKERS: DAY 2

Cam Collyer

Cam Collyer is a Principal of People and Place Consulting and Senior Advisor to a leading Canadian environmental charity Evergreen, where for more than two decades he created national and international initiatives in public space design, public engagement, programming, and playwork. He led development of a suite of children's programs at the Evergreen Brick Works as well as co-designed the award-winning Children's Garden. Cam is a leading international authority on the greening of schoolgrounds and has piloted placemaking initiatives with municipalities in Ontario focused on children and families. He is a co-founder of the International School Ground Alliance and a founding partner of Outdoor Play Canada.



Connecting with Nature and Coping with Environmental Challenges: The Importance of Involving Children in Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity

This talk begins by reviewing evidence for the benefits of connecting with nature for children's wellbeing and their likelihood of taking action to protect the natural world. When the natural world is threatened by change and loss, however, young people can express connection through worry and grief—to a degree that decreases their wellbeing. This talk presents research-based recommendations for helping young people cope with environmental change by building constructive hope—hope aligned with action. It shows the importance of involving children in collective initiatives to protect and restore biodiverse places and closes with inspiring examples.

SPEAKERS: DAY 2

Louise Chawla

Louise Chawla, PhD, is Professor Emerita and Fellow in the Community Engagement, Design and Research Center, Program in Environmental Design, University of Colorado Boulder. Louise is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Children and Nature Network and a member of the Steering Committee of Growing Up Boulder, a program involving children and teens in urban design and planning. Louise publishes widely on the subjects of participatory planning and design with young people and on active care for the natural world.



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Thanks for Attending!
See you next year!

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Two decades of nature play and learning

