



About Sponsors

In considering the future of planning learning spaces, it is clear the community is at a tipping point. The timing is right to step back, gather, distill, and promote wide adaptation of best practices from the work of academic and design professionals across the country truly focusing on the future when realizing 21st century learning spaces for 21st century learners. The Learning Spaces Collaboratory (LSC) has an opportunity to contribute to shaping the future.

In 1992, when attention to learning spaces became part of Project Kaleidoscope's kaleidoscopic attention to transforming undergraduate learning environments, we were novices. There was then limited evidence from research or from the field on how to shape on-campus communities of practice, recognizing how spaces matter to learning.

Fast forward to 2017, when there is now a robust body of research about how learning happens and how planning spaces can influence learning. There is significant evidence on campuses across the country about "what works"—how spaces have an impact on learning, on learners, and on institutional learning communities. Yet many institutions today still conduct their planning of spaces based on current assumptions and questions from the past.

With the growing LSC archive of stories, data, research, and photos, together with our unique connections to peer organizations, the LSC has an opportunity to focus on the future of planning learning spaces. Our approach is to assemble, organize, and share best practices in planning learning spaces. In this we engage a diversity of colleagues in identifying, determining, and analyzing campuses where attention to the physical environment for learning is visible and recognized as forward-thinking. Our goal is to build a new community of explorers in planning spaces who ask audacious questions that embrace the future and recognize the changing context.

From this opportunity, the roundtables came into being, and have succeeded beyond my expectation in surfacing new kinds of questions, identifying stellar projects, and bringing new voices to the planning table.

The challenge—and thus my request for sponsorship—is to translate the messages from the roundtables, integrated with the LSC's archive, into a report on planning learning spaces that captures and advances what is known about planning for assessing 21st century spaces for 21st century learners.

This is not a modest undertaking. We require resources to support each step of the process toward completion in 2017—through updating the design and layout of the LSC website, to creating this interactive report that can be sustained and updated into the future.

Sponsors will have the opportunity to work with the LSC academic braintrust to shape the future of the LSC. Together we will explore the transition of the LSC website into an interactive resource and consider new opportunities for engaging local, regional, and national conversations about the future of learning spaces. The Learning Spaces Collaboratory will continue to make the case that audacious questions matter to our goal of building new communities of explorers in planning learning spaces that embrace the future.

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