

Lincoln Nursery School at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum | The Trustees

The innovative partnership between Lincoln Nursery School (LNS), deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, and The Trustees represents the first nursery school embedded in a contemporary art museum in the United States. Aligned in philosophy, pedagogy, and community, these institutions have a shared vision for the next generation—to create a sense of wonder and awe for nature, art, curiosity, and play,



The partnership is reciprocal. DeCordova and The Trustees have a thought partner in Lincoln Nursery School who is an expert in early childhood education, innovative use of materials, open-ended questions, and process over product. Their roots in the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education informs the prompts, display, and materials chosen for deCordova's interactive spaces and informs the structure and creative spirit behind youth and family programs and the deCordova camps. Both organizations embody a spirit of creativity, curiosity, and community that fuels a reciprocal relationship that has grown since 2010.

Lincoln Nursery School at deCordova is a unique experiment in art, education, family engagement, and "creativity" as essential to our collective culture. Residing in four sky-lit studios, sixty young students and their teachers use the campus as their classrooms. They quickly take ownership of the museum—observing and responding to the changing artworks, the work of the various staff and artists, the flow of the seasons, and museum visitors.

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum





LNS, a learning community residing in an inspiring 30-acre Sculpture Park, builds relationships with people, art, and the natural environment while at the same time serving as stewards of deCordova. The emerging curriculum of the school allows for deep exploration of the Park and conservation trails. Returning to the same places over time alongside their teachers, children reflect on their experiences, supporting their educational experience.

Children delight in being outside, moving, exploring, discovering, and using their imaginations. In deCordova's unique environment, opportunities abound to notice, wonder, tell stories, and experience art firsthand. In the studio classrooms we explore materials as languages for expressing thinking and making connections, often interacting with the sculptures and exhibitions—such as an artist installing work or a giant crane removing a sculpture in the Park. Together we become a community of learners open to developing new understandings of how to care for each other and our environment.

Lincoln Nursery School

In addition to philosophical alignment, LNS supports the work of The Trustees through active memberships, financial donations, purchasing of gala tickets, and participation in community partnerships. Alumni families engage in family programs, enroll in the hive summer camp, and deepen our connection to the Lincoln community from a young age through their love of art, nature, and the environment.



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