

Director's Annual Report
2023 -2024

LNS Board Goals:

1. Review and revise (as necessary) the Family Handbook to ensure the information within it is:
 - a. Current and accurate
 - b. Presented using language that evokes partnership and participation
 - c. Formatted consistently throughout
 - d. Organized for easy/intuitive reference(President and Director)
 - *The Director and Assistant Director make changes in the Family Handbook to accurately reflect programming and the Department of Early Education and Care licensing requirements.*

2. Research employer-provided health care plans for staff and determine whether LNS can offer a plan to employees. (Director)
 - *Preliminary research indicated that the small number of employees at LNS makes it prohibitively expensive for LNS to offer health insurance. We will continue offering a health care stipend to our employees and will be working on a more formalized Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)*

Faculty:

Mark Weltner announced his retirement after 20 years of teaching at LNS! Diane Greeley requested a personal leave of absence that was granted and then extended through the school year. She decided not to return for the '24-'25 school year. Lindsay Clemens has decided not to return to LNS after three years in the role of floating and afternoon teacher.

The teacher model for Studio Red will change from a morning and afternoon co-teaching teams to a team of 3 teachers for the long days.

The Trustees laid off the Learning Engagement Department employees in February. LNS pedagogy of Place Based Education is enhanced by the L&E liaisons with this void in the partnership, LNS created a new position, Art, Environment and Pedagogy Coordinator. Emily Silet, a former Trustees employee in the L&E department has been hired for the position. New hires for the '24-'25 school year: Charlene Foley, Michelle Perreault, Nancy Wurtz, a co-teacher for the afternoon program will be finalized soon.

External Professional Development and Visits

During the school year we had several educators, administrators and faculty spend a morning at LNS to observe programs, spend time in the studios focusing on environments and documentation and talk informally with teachers and administrators. Two workshops were given:

- "Learning Stories," presented by Paula Hinchliffe and Mariana Stefanini to Jacobsen Early Childhood Center, Boston, MA

- "Place Based Education," presented by Mariana Stefanini and Nancy Fincke to Boston College Children's Center

Internal Professional Development Days:

November 9, 2023, Music & Movement Workshop presented by Rubi Lichauco

March 21, 2024 - Neurodiversity presented by Beverly Montgomery

LNS partnership with deCordova

This has been a challenging year for the partnership due to many changes in the Trustees organization. Michael Busack became the most recent DeCordova's Portfolio Manager, we are continuing the monthly meeting format established with Pilar Garro (the former manager) to communicate about operations and programming.

Prior to the Trustees reorganization and subsequent lay offs, Emily Silet role changed at the Trustees. Sarah Brockway remained as our one Learning and Engagement liaison visiting each studio approximately 45 minutes a month, including facilitating small groups of children with a teacher in the sculpture park. She also attend the first hour of the LNS monthly faculty meeting.

Afternoon Program

This year the Afternoon Program returned to the LNS Studios due to the Trustees decision not to rent the Carriage House Studio. Sixteen families are participating in the program over the course of a week. Three children from Studio Red stay from 3:00-4:00 on the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.