



**Lincoln Nursery School**  
at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

November 1, 2024

**Dear Friends,**

As we celebrate Lincoln Nursery School's 80th anniversary this year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible community that has helped shape our school over the years. This milestone also offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on our past and celebrate the core values that Lincoln Nursery School has anchored to since the 1940s! These are the same essential principles that will guide our future.

Since the beginning, Lincoln Nursery School has embraced a cooperative model as its foundation to create a strong, connected fabric of teachers and families to support children and strengthen the school. This vibrant community model relies on the dedication and contributions of all families. It is this collective effort that has enabled us to provide enriching, high quality educational experiences for generations of children.

The second founding element of Lincoln Nursery School is play. Children need to play, now more than ever! Play is how children learn, improving their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. Our teachers scaffold children's play with open-ended materials; design environments that deepen their explorations; and offer empathy and problem solving support when a conflict arises. The whole world could benefit from LNS teacher love!

The impact and legacy of LNS is felt and reflected all around our community—from school-aged students, to alumni raising their own children, to grandparents who drop off and pick up their grandchildren each day.

**As we imagine the future of LNS, this is the moment to invite you—our cherished community of current and alumni families, friends, and supporters—to partner with us and ensure LNS thrives for years to come.**

The school's leadership completed a new strategic plan last year that highlighted two vital initiatives to the school's future:

### **1. Supporting Our Skilled Teachers and Staff**

At the heart of our school are the incredible educators who inspire and nurture our children every day. Their work is deeply rooted in the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which centers on an emergent curriculum built from careful observation of the children's play, questions, and interests. This approach requires not only a profound understanding of early childhood development but also extensive time and effort from teachers outside the school day to reflect and plan meaningful learning experiences.

However, the field of early childhood education faces challenges, especially around skilled staff. Many schools are struggling to hire and retain qualified teachers, with early childhood professionals leaving the field or choosing public school roles that offer significantly higher pay.

**Your contributions this year will help us continue to attract and retain the best educators, ensuring our classrooms remain places of joy, discovery, and growth.**

## **2. Creating a Cohesive Campus**

When LNS moved to deCordova in 2012, it became the first preschool embedded in a contemporary art museum in the United States. In the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the environment itself is seen as the “third teacher.” Providing inspiration from the art and sculptures around us and the 30 acres of lawns, forests, fields, and gardens to explore, our unique setting shapes how children explore, learn, and engage with the world around them.

LNS is happy and excited to have secured “Studio Green” for our robust extended day program. This means the LNS campus encompasses all the buildings in our “village” and gives the school the unique opportunity to think cohesively about the space for the first time. This year, the school will embark on a comprehensive visioning and design plan with the goals of updating our studios, creating spaces for teachers, students, and parents to gather, and ensuring our landscape reflects our values of building community and learning through play.

**We have the exciting opportunity to invest in this space—ensuring it remains a vibrant, creative, and inspiring environment for our children for generations to come.**

## **Join Us in Building the Future**

Your support—whether through your time, resources, or financial gifts—makes all the difference. Together, we can continue to nurture a community where children thrive, explore, and grow; where our teachers are supported, resourced, and valued; and, where our home and grounds extend the education and experience.

As you think about the impact and legacy of LNS, we hope you will consider making a donation that is meaningful to you to support the school this year. Every gift brings us closer to our goal of \$400,000 and makes a big impact on our community. Thank you for being on this special journey with us.

With warmest regards,



Nancy Fincke  
Director