LONGHOUSE RESERVE
Growing Up With Art & Nature

LongHouse Reserve

Preschool Curriculum

• LongHouse Reserve
  Naturally lends itself to the preschool population.
  It is an ideal setting to Focus on color, shape, Form and function.

The Mission

* Beauty
* Conservation
* Education

• “We learn best through a three-dimensional experience, we learn faster and deeper from the experience of being in the space.” Jack Lenor Larsen, founder

SHAPE

Every possible shape can be found throughout the garden walk. See LH map for locations.

• The Amphitheater and the Council Ring (SW corner of the property) are prime examples of circles monumental in size. Grace Knowlton’s Spheres are ideal for comparing sizes.

Rectangles abound, the Atlas cedar trained horizontally is a fine example.

Cylindrical figures are also abundant, the Tree Men in the Forest by Toshiko Takaazu are a favorite.

Squares are visibly interspersed in the layout of the gardens and pathways.

• Free form shapes are exemplified by the sculpture as well as by the exotic plant collection.
COLOR

Both the gardens and the art reflect the gamut of the rainbow and color themes change with each season.

- Greens in every shade are the year-round color as conifers abound.

- April daffodil display with more than a million blooms is a study in yellow in all its hues.

- The red garden combines cedar posts in a heightened perspective with scarlet azaleas, flowering plums and Japanese maples. See this in May for the full impact.

- Later come the infusion of purple, pink and white. The golden laburnum walk blooms in early June. The sand dune garden, the pond, and the heather gardens display subtler shades.

FORM OF FUNCTION

The design of the landscape offers alleys, hedges, dunes, mazes, an arboretum, a secret garden, and much more. Beginning botany or horticulture may be introduced, there is a vast array of species.

- Sketching is a natural activity and can be done anywhere during the tour, as well as back in the classroom.

- The amphitheater or the council ring are perfect locations for musical instruments or story time.

- The pond is a wonderful location for observation as fish, tadpoles, birds, and turtles are a common sight.

- The dune garden is an ideal replica of our coastline and comparisons can be made.

- Many of the sculptures are naturals for counting, size comparisons, simple math concepts, and spatial relations.

- Undoubtedly along the way you may see a gardener and occupations as well as maintenance may be discussed.

- A study of multiculturalism may be a natural as the house itself is a take-off of a Japanese 7th-century shrine, many of the artists represented the Asian and bamboo proliferates the gardens.
As you turn any corner of this garden, children will delight in being greeted by something unexpected. LongHouse Reserve is an ideal spot to foster conservation, inspire creativity, and encourage art appreciation.

**CARRY OVER IDEAS:**

- Concept books:
  Color, shape, size, counting, spatial

- Observing seasonal differences

- Planting bulbs or seeds
  Read: *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
  *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

- Composting

- Landscape collage

- Leaf pressing, bark rubbing or drying flowers

- Watercolors, sand painting

- Mobiles

- Clay or stone sculptures

- Asian study