

# The Nation's First Playful Learning Installations in Affordable Housing



WHERE PLAY IS PART OF THE PLAN!



# Sharswood

Live and Learn—a pilot initiative that aims to expand education equity by integrating Playful Learning into *all* affordable housing developments.

For more information, visit: [LiveandLearnPHL.org](http://LiveandLearnPHL.org)

## PILOT PROJECT FACILITATORS

Watchdog  
Playful Learning Landscapes  
*In collaboration with*  
Masters Group Design

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### Developer

Pennrose

### Architects

WRT

### Community Partners

Lower North Philadelphia Community  
Development Corporation  
Brewerytown Sharswood Community  
Civic Association  
Brewerytown Sharswood  
Neighborhood Coalition

### Design and Fabrication Contributors

Masters Group Design  
Mural Arts / Donna Grace Kroh  
FutureTogether

### Funders

Lead funding by William Penn  
Foundation  
Additional support provided by:  
Pennrose  
Pennsylvania Housing Affordability  
and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund

# Run the Road

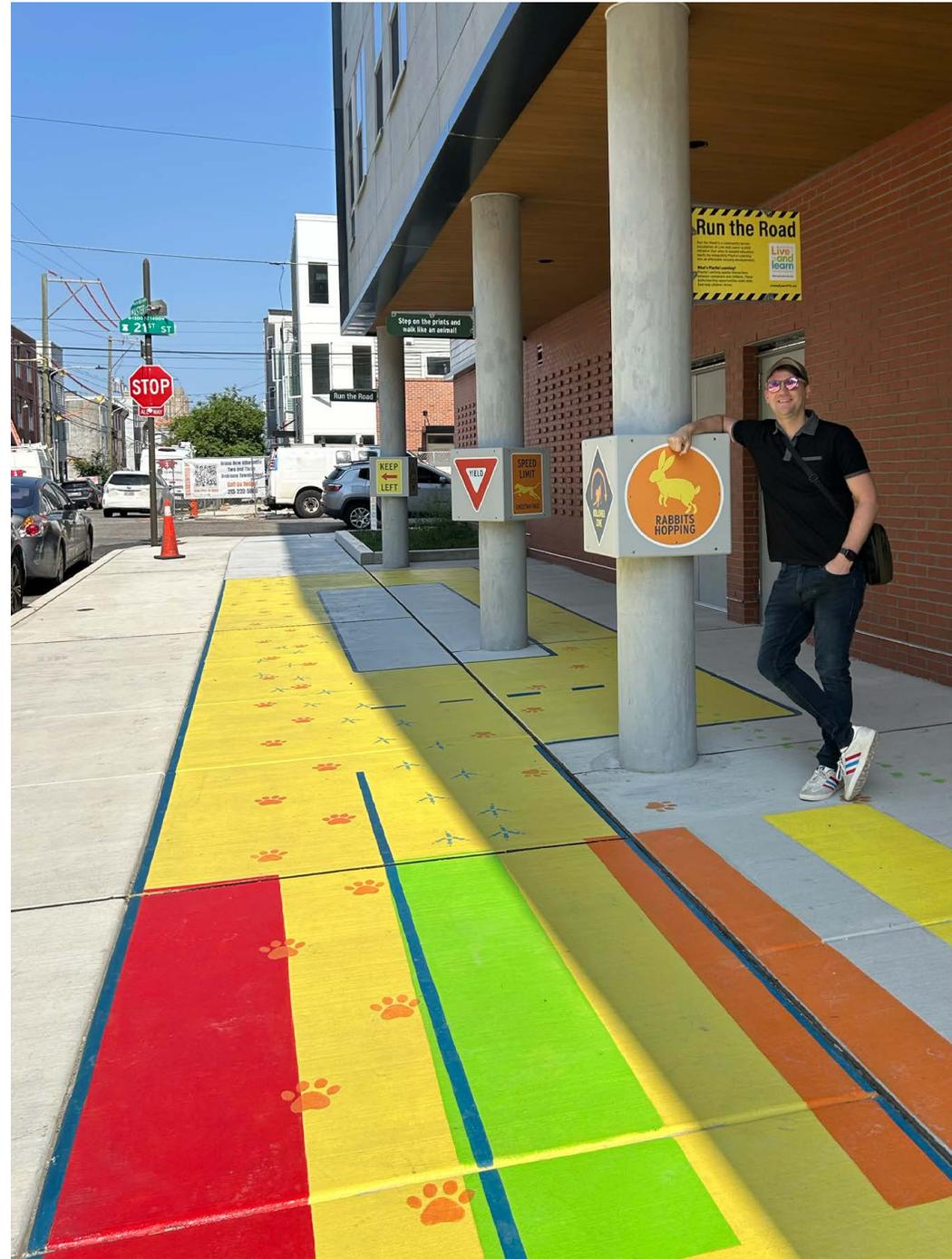
2045 Master Street / Philadelphia, PA

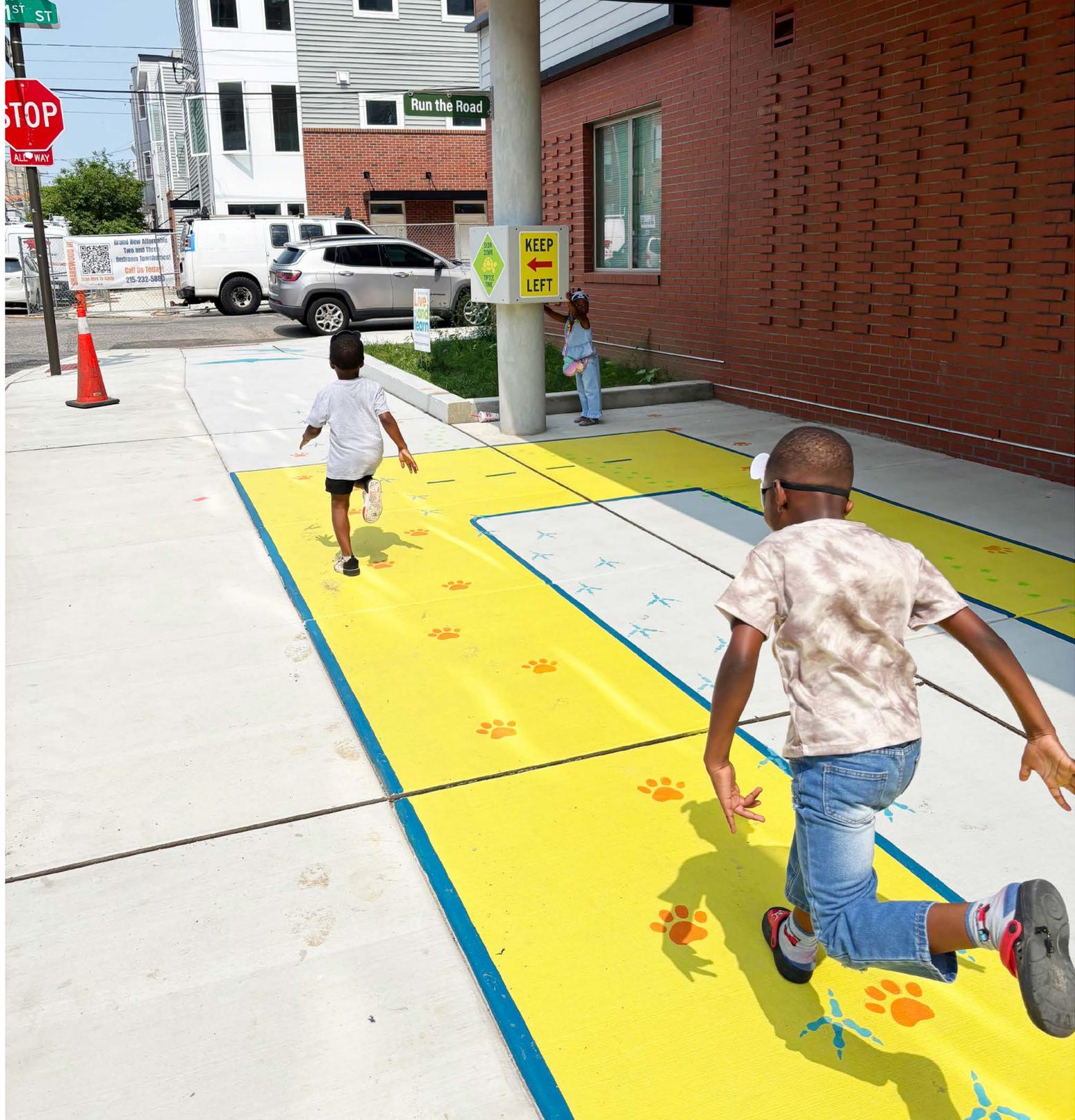
Ready, set, go! Run the Road turns life skills into a fast-paced adventure. Concrete columns are wrapped with spinning signs—stop, yield, go left, or race “cheetah fast!” Kids can invent their own games as they follow the colorful sidewalk course, walking like animals and learning to move through the world with confidence and fun.

Wrapping one corner of the building is a vibrant mural packed with hidden traffic sign shapes for a fun I-Spy challenge. At its heart is a smiling girl holding an adult’s hand—a warm reminder of caregiver support and guidance as children step into a world of learning and imagination.



Run the Road





1st ST

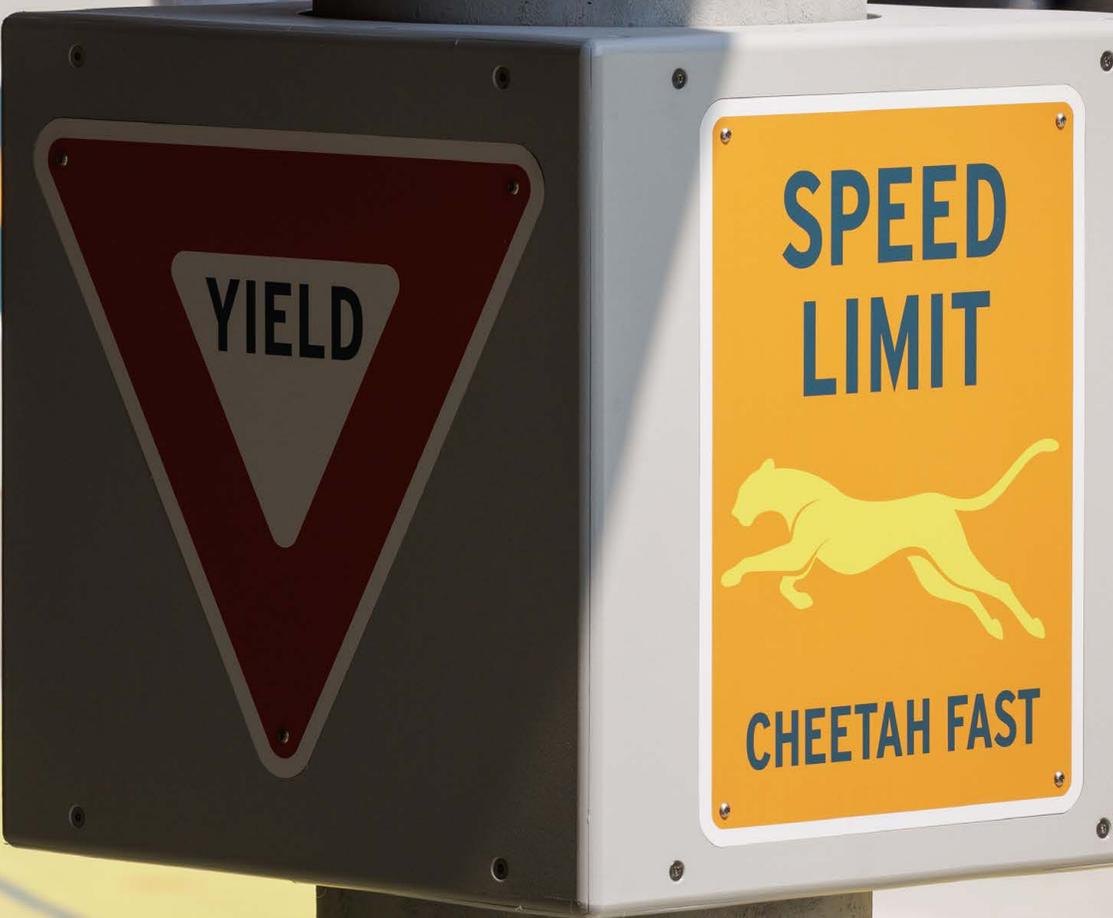
STOP  
ALL WAY

Run the Road

KEEP  
←  
LEFT

SHREVEPORT, LA  
We need more affordable  
Two and Three  
Bedroom Townhomes!  
Call us Today!  
215-232-5887  
Click Here To Apply

Live  
and  
Learn







2045 MASTER

Rotate the traffic signs to make your own rules!

**MURAL KEY**  
Have more shapes do you see?  
What else do you see?

**W&A** Architects, Inc.  
Run the Road  
www.runtheroad.org

STOP

KEEP RIGHT

site pieces



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Corporation  
Brewerytown Sharswood  
Community Civic Association  
Brewerytown Sharswood  
Neighborhood Coalition

### Design and Fabrication Contributors

Amber Art and Design  
Masters Group Design  
Berry and Homer  
Color Reflections

### Funders

Lead funding by William Penn  
Foundation  
Additional support provided by:  
Pennrose

# Community Rooms

2000 Ridge Avenue & 2016 Master Street / Philadelphia, PA

## Navigation Stations

Custom-designed tables encourage residents to use their imagination as they navigate their way through the world.

## At Home in Sharswood

This I-Spy mural explores the theme of identity and belonging through a vibrant depiction of the Sharswood neighborhood. The colorful map highlights recognizable landmarks and historical points of pride. Children can search for hidden images like eagles, water ice, pretzels, and more!



EXIT  
FIRE



**Play the Letter Ladders!**  
Create a chain of words where the last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word!

A	N	P	T	N	P	C
F	G	E	S	D	R	P
B	S	D	S	E	P	T
B	K	E	S	D	R	E

**Play the Letter Ladders!**  
Create a chain of words where the last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word!

# Tell a story!

## How to play:

- 1 Start with #1. Pick the main character of your story.
  - 2 Move to #2. Pick where your story takes place.
  - 3 End on #3. Pick what happened in your story.
- Tell a story by choosing icons from each square, then ask a friend to create their story next!

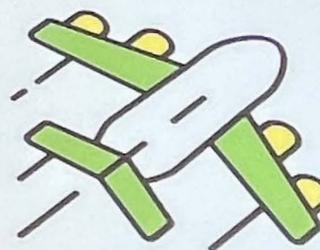
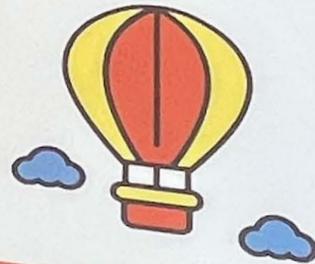
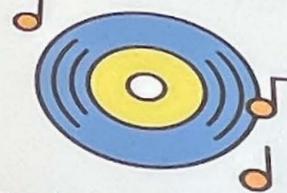
## 1 Who is your character?



## 2 Where does your story take place?



## 3 What happened?





Play chess or find the

☆	●	▲	★
▲	■	▼	□
■	●	▲	□
●	○	▲	●
■	○	▲	●
■	○	▲	●

Every color

A shape with four sides

All shapes!

Outline!

- SHAPES
- Square
  - Circle
  - ▲ Triangle
  - ★ Star





Malcolm X

Cecil B Moore Library

Master St

BREWERYTOWN SHARSWOOD  
NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

Vaux High School

Girard College

LOVE

SHARSWOOD



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Community Civic Association  
Brewerytown Sharswood  
Neighborhood Coalition

### Design and Fabrication Contributors

Masters Group Design  
Weston Design and  
Fabrication Studio  
KSS Architects

### Funders

Lead funding by William Penn  
Foundation  
Additional support provided by:  
Pennrose

# The Backyard

2100 block of Ingersoll and Master Streets / Philadelphia, PA

Step into a whimsical pocket park where curiosity leads the way! Start with an I-Spy-style Little Free Library, prompting children to search for hidden icons. Standing puzzles challenge minds—boosting memory, teamwork, and creativity—while connecting explorers to nature and animals.

Meet the Critter Creator—a spinning puzzle where kids mix and match animal heads and tails to invent creatures and imagine their stories. At the park's end, a double-sided puzzle invites kids to match tiles or flip them to reveal a nature scene—asking, where do animals live?







Take a book



Leave a book



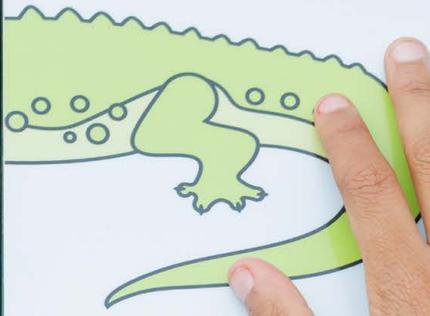
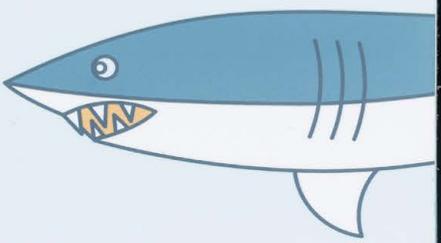


# Critter Creator

Create your own animal!

Tell a story!





# What Animals Live Here?

Complete  
the  
picture!

Find  
the  
matches!









## North Central Philadelphia

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Masters Group Design

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### Developer

Community Ventures

### Architects

KSS Architects

### Community Partner

Tree House Books

### Design and Fabrication Contributors

Weston Design and  
Fabrication Studio  
FutureTogether  
Masters Group Design

### Funders

William Penn Foundation

# A Graphic Novel Comes to Life

2137 N 15th Street and 2124 N 16th Street / Philadelphia, PA

These immersive, graphic novel-inspired spaces are filled with interactive features that spark imagination, storytelling, and connection.

Cozy up in the “Welcome Nook” with books and superpower prompts, or share your voice on the expressive bulletin board. Colorful wall murals, co-created with residents, inspire reflection, dialogue, and celebrate everyday heroism.

In one backyard, a transformed bike shed becomes a stage for storytelling, complete with a chalkboard and prompts. On the reverse side, an interactive puzzle wall and story wheel invite playful exploration. Similar puzzles appear at a second site in the Square, along with benches stocked with books and prompts—perfect for sparking conversation or dreaming up a big adventure.



SUSQUEHANNA SQUARE

2137 N 15TH STREET

HOW CAN YOU  
HELP OTHERS  
FIND THEIR  
SUPER  
POWER?

STEP INTO  
YOUR SUPERPOWER!

LEAD BY  
EXAMPLE!

HOW WILL  
YOU SPREAD  
KINDNESS  
TODAY?

CREATE A  
POSITIVE CHANGE  
TODAY! WHAT'S  
YOUR PLAN?



FINISH THEIR  
SUPER  
POWERS?

AND IN  
MOMENTS

STEP INTO  
YOUR SUPERPOWER!

HOW WILL  
YOU SPREAD  
KINDNESS  
TODAY?

CREATE A  
POSITIVE CHANGE  
TODAY WHERE  
YOU STAND

TODAY MY SUPER POWER IS...



HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR SUPER POWER TODAY?





JUMP HIGH!

WHAT GOAL ARE YOU REACHING FOR?



## A GRAPHIC NOVEL COMES TO LIFE!

Inspired by graphic novels, these Playful Learning installations are characterized by bright colors and bold, secondary characters, to bring the neighborhood story to life. The design invites community members to imagine, grow, read, act and explore. The multi-sensory installations inspire interactivity and create opportunities for the community to tap into their own unique superpowers while also celebrating the heroes around them.

### WHAT'S PLAYFUL LEARNING?

Playful Learning sparks interactions between caregivers and children. These joyful learning opportunities build skills that help children thrive.



A Graphic Novel Comes to Life! is a community-driven creation of Live and Learn - a pilot initiative that uses Learning into all affordable housing developments.  
[LiveandLearnPA.org](http://LiveandLearnPA.org)

### PROJECT SUPPORT

Lead support is provided by the Wilson Green Foundation. Additional support is provided by Community Ventures.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

Watson Playful Learning Landscape  
Masters Group LLC, K2 Architects

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The House Rules

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Subaltern Store community, Anand Studio LLC, Rise Together, Weston Design & Fabrication Studio





TELL A STORY!

DRAW YOUR STORY SETTING!

ACT IT OUT!

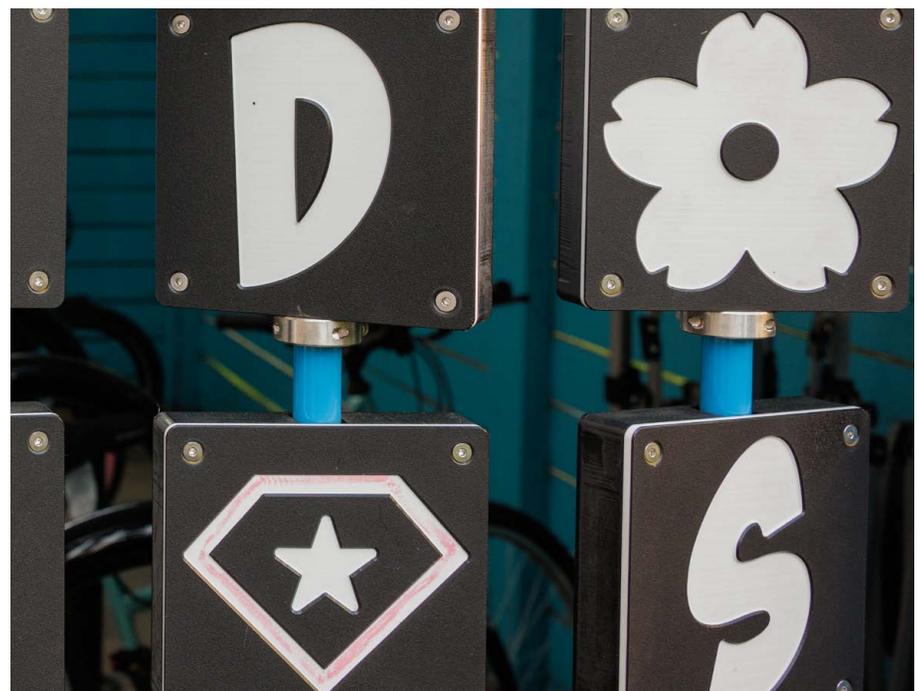
ONCE UPON A TIME...

HOW DO THEY HELP PEOPLE?

WHAT IS THEIR SPECIAL POWER?









SPIN THE PUZZLE TO SPELL THE WORDS!

GRAB A  
BOOK!

CAN YOU FIND  
CHARACTERS WHO ARE SUPER?



**SPIN**

**THE WHEELS  
TO MAKE YOUR  
OWN SUPERHERO!**



**WHO  
ARE THEY?**

**WHAT  
DO THEY DO?**