

# Playtime in AFRICA design charrette

## call for participation

Mmofra Foundation invites you to collaborate in the first phase design of a community play space and children's centre in Accra, Ghana, incorporating the best possible opportunities for active, imaginative play and hands-on learning. The Playtime in Africa Initiative is a response to the dire need for safe, purpose-designed public spaces for children in the cities of sub-Saharan Africa. This project is envisioned as a prototype of sustainable, child-focused urban design in Ghana, which can be replicated elsewhere.

We are seeking professionals, educators and students in the fields of: architecture, environmental and civil engineering, natural playground design, sustainable building methods, public health, and urban planning. We welcome anyone who is passionate and knowledgeable about creating children's spaces.

## ways to get involved

Your participation is important to the success of this grassroots/global effort.

Here's how you can contribute:

- > Attend the May 2012 charrette in Accra, Ghana
- > Engage with global collaborators in the interactive online community
- > Become an institutional partner
- > Volunteer with Mmofra Foundation in the lead-up to the charrette
- > Indicate your interest in attending a future design or construction event

For further information on the project, please contact Amowi Phillips at [info@mmofraghana.org](mailto:info@mmofraghana.org).

may 29-31, 2012 | accra, ghana





## who we are

Mmofra means "children" in the Akan language of Ghana. Active since 1997, Mmofra Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the cultural and intellectual lives of all children in Ghana. Through our Playtime in Africa Initiative, we will seek support to develop and maintain our urban green space as a pioneering and uniquely West African model for the benefits of nature-inspired play in child development and community place-making.

## what is a charrette?

A charrette brings multidisciplinary professionals and community stakeholders together for a period of intensive work to explore solutions to a design challenge.

At this charrette, we plan to:

- > discuss the "state of play" in Ghana's urban centers, and establish the guiding principles of the project
- > consolidate data from local neighborhood mapping, community input, and international models, and apply the findings to the site
- > brainstorm innovative solutions to our specific design/engineering challenges
- > document outcomes and lay the groundwork for the next phase of development

## problem solving

The Playtime in Africa charrette hopes to transform existing site challenges into opportunities for creative design. Participants will address issues including sustainable building techniques, water management, soil remediation, renewable energy solutions, interactive outdoor features, and more.

## the project site

The site is an approximately 900 sq. meter plot in Accra, currently being used as an organic market garden, but otherwise undeveloped. The site is flat with some trees, located in a low-lying area off a major intersection in the mixed use/mixed income neighborhood of Dzorwulu-Abelenkpe. The area has schools, residences, and a variety of enterprises catering to multiple levels of economic and social community. Urban development has contributed to poor drainage and soil salinity, which has affected some nearby buildings.

*Mmofra Foundation does not undertake to fund travel or other costs associated with participation in the charrette. However, we may be able to provide information to support independent fundraising efforts.*

To learn more, please visit [www.mmofraghana.org](http://www.mmofraghana.org).

