

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LandCurrent Selected as 2010 Head Start Body Start Preferred Provider**

RESTON, VA, April 22, 2010 -- Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play (HSBS) today announced that LandCurrent Landscape Architects of Eugene and Portland Oregon, has been selected as one of 31 playground and play space companies, equipment manufacturers, and other creators of playground and play space-related resources for inclusion on its 2010 HSBS Preferred Provider List (PPL).

The elite group of vendors and consultants have been vetted by a panel of early childhood movement professionals and selected for their offer of discounts and value-added packages of safe and developmentally appropriate products for recipients of the upcoming HSBS 2010 Play Space Grant Awards. Nearly \$2 million in Play Space Grants will be awarded to Head Start Centers across the country this year by HSBS to improve their outdoor play spaces. Grant recipients will be able to purchase uniquely designed value-added packages created by the HSBS Preferred Providers at a minimum discount of 20% off the retail price.

According to Anita Van Asperdt, LandCurrent's principal landscape architect "We are pleased to be identified as a 2010 Head Start Body Start Preferred Provider and be able to support Head Start programs across the country in developing their outdoor play spaces. LandCurrent is a national expert at creating outdoor nature based playscapes. As landscape architects we have a strong understanding of the natural environment, habitat restoration, spatial composition and technical landscape construction know-how. We combine this knowledge and these skills into artful green play environments that stimulate children's natural curiosity."

"Outdoor play is associated with greater amounts of physical activity in children, and research has shown that opportunities for whole body exercise has a long lasting influence as preschool physical activity tracks throughout childhood," said Center Director, Karin H. Spencer, EdD. "Unfortunately children today spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation," added Spencer. "We want to help the Head Start staff discover the benefits of outdoor play across developmental domains and learn about the features of high quality outdoor play spaces that promote movement opportunities for children of all ability levels."

LandCurrent joins HSBS in its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles. Learn more about LandCurrent's participation and the Play Space Grants on the HSBS website at [www.headstartbodystart.org](http://www.headstartbodystart.org).

Head Start Body Start Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play (HSBS) is a project of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR), which are associations of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Funding for HSBS is provided by the Office of Head Start (OHS), Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of HSBS is to increase physical activity, outdoor play and healthy eating among Head Start and Early Head Start children, families and staff. HSBS will assist Head Start programs in creating healthy learning environments, both in and outside the classroom, through structured and unstructured physical activity that leads to the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of young children and reduces obesity and its associated costs. HSBS has three main objectives: (1) to inform and assist OHS in setting national priorities and developing policies; (2) to provide resources, training and technical assistance to Head Start and Early Head Start Centers; and (3) to administer and support grants for construction or improvement of outdoor play spaces at Head Start Centers.

LandCurrent is a full service landscape architecture firm located in Eugene Oregon. LandCurrent provides landscape architectural consulting services for projects varying in scale and program: urban design, public parks and natural areas, institutional and commercial development, and garden design. LandCurrent practices landscape architecture as art, providing each project with deep roots through a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues. LandCurrent looks closely at the site specific characteristics and challenges of every landscape, and its user's needs. This results in strong distinctive concepts that are contemporary in form and the underlying issues that drive form. Because of this conceptual strength, supported by thoughtfulness and craftsmanship down to the smallest detail, LandCurrent's designs stand out as unique artistic solutions.

LandCurrent specializes in the design of WaterWise environments, Nature Play, Discovery and Learning Landscapes, and Neighborhood Design for all Ages. LandCurrent is also known to have a unique ability at creating elegant solutions for complex site conditions. Projects include the Courthouse Neighborhood in Eugene Oregon, Hoquarton Park and Trail in Tillamook Oregon, the WaterWise Demonstration Garden in Eugene Oregon, and the Nature Discovery Area for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For more information visit:

[www.landcurrent.com](http://www.landcurrent.com)

[www.naturalplaygrounds.info](http://www.naturalplaygrounds.info)