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# Architecture for Humanity presents new gym and playground design for Little Ferry school

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LITTLE FERRY LOCAL

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LITTLE FERRY - Architecture for Humanity continued its work with the Little Ferry School District on its "ReNew Schools: Washington School" project as representatives returned to the borough to present designs based on ideas that came directly from members of the community.

In November 2013, a community design workshop was held in the Washington Elementary School gym for residents, students, teachers and administrators to sketch out ideas they would like to see implemented into the design of the soon-to-be refurbished gymnasium and playground.

"We had a lot of great ideas that came out of the community design workshop," said Brian Baer, the project's coordinator from Architecture for Humanity. "We've come up with some great ideas for the reconstruction of the playground surface as well as the gymnasium itself."

Baer, architect Anthony Iovino and their respective design and architecture teams took the suggestions made by the public and incorporated them into a new design for the gym and playground at Washington Elementary and brought them at the public presentation on Feb. 6.

The playground will have a design inspired by motion and movement and took some of its inspiration from the idea of footprints leading students from the school building to the playground. In the design, blue and gold bubbles act as a trail that leads from the interior of the school's hallway into the playground area.



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Brian Baer, of Architecture for Humanity, explains the design for the new playground and gymnasium at a workshop at Washington School Feb. 6.



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Anthony Iovino, Little Ferry's pro bono architect, discusses the plans for a playground and new gymnasium at Memorial School. Iovino and Brian Baer, from Architecture for Humanity, held an open discussion

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"We were inspired by a lot of that lively debate and the cool ideas from the kids and the parents," said Iovino. "We've had a series of meeting between Brian's group, our group and the school to capture the spirit that we had that day."

with residents and answered questions on the new designs on Thursday

The design for the gymnasium also took plenty of inspiration from the workshop as it features brand new bleachers, which will be designed to pull out one section at a time, that bare the school's blue and gold colors. On the wall above the bleachers, the school nickname, "Royals," will be spelled out with one letter on each of the wall's six panels. The center court logo features a capital "R" with a crown on top to symbolize the school's "Royals" nickname.

It was also announced at the presentation that an additional donation may be possible for the project as Architecture for Humanity is currently looking into getting new basketball backboards donated to the new gym as part of the refurbishing process.

Baer said that his team will be moving on to the next design phases to design and develop the construction documents and get pricing quotes on the construction so that work on the gymnasium and playground can begin.

While no exact date has been set, construction could begin as early as this spring, Baer said.

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