



DESIGNER NEWSLETTER

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Fundraising Ideas for Trained OLE Designers to Share During Workshops

The [Texas Tech Child Development Research Center \(CDRC\)](#) hosted a fundraising event at the First Friday Art Trail where they held a silent auction of donated gifts and displayed the children's artwork. Visitors were able to purchase an original piece of children's art and bid in the silent auction as a donation to the center. Guests of the event included children who attend the CDRC, parents, CDRC teachers and staff, as well as Lubbock Community Members.



Other centers have found success raising funds by receiving sponsorship for individual OLE settings or grouped areas. This is displayed on a larger, central plaque or smaller signs within the individual play settings. If you have additional fundraising ideas, email them to hs.cnl@ttu.edu so we can share them with the Designer Network.

This issue:

Fundraising Ideas for OLE Designers to Share During Workshops

PAGE 01

OLE! Texas Philosophy Applied to State Park's OLE Design

PAGE 02

TNLA Plant Database Resource for OLEs

PAGE 03

OLE! Lubbock Pilots Virtual Community Presentation

PAGE 04

Design Spotlight: New OLE! Designs

PAGE 05

OLE!TEXAS
OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

*OLE! Texas is an initiative of the Texas Department of State Health Services in partnership with other state agencies, universities, and organizations across Texas. For more information and a full partner listing, visit dshs.texas.gov/ole.



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY



OLE! Texas Philosophy Applied to a State Park's Outdoor Learning Environment Design

The [Texas Tech Coalition for Natural Learning](#) was invited to design an outdoor learning environment (OLE) at the [Palo Duro Canyon State Park](#) in Canyon, Texas. The team collaborated with the Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, which was formed as an educational and charitable support group for Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

The workshop was led in collaboration with Partners of Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Cindy Meador with West Texas A&M University and Arthur Schneider with Amarillo College, as well as the State Park Rangers. The OLE will be implemented in part thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Sara Sullivan, a retired elementary Amarillo Public School teacher, who spent many years as a supporter of the State Park.



The OLE was designed using the OLE! Texas philosophy and it will provide natural learning and active outdoor play to people of all ages who visit the park from all over the world. The OLE celebrates two activities well-known at the park: star gazing parties and bike trails of different difficulty levels to support children of various ages and physical abilities. Additional settings include natural structures for gross motor skills development, an outdoor classroom, loose parts play, along with many others. The project is awaiting approval from the Texas State Parks Division.



Look for these icons as you design butterfly and pollinator gardens, loose parts play, sensory gardens and plantings throughout an outdoor learning environment:



CHILD FRIENDLY



BUTTERFLY



POLLINATOR



FLOWERING



FRAGRANT

Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) Plant Database Resource for Outdoor Learning Environments

The [Best of Texas Plant Database](#) is a searchable online database brought together by both industry professionals and academic partners. The database provides icons identifying plant characteristics which helps Trained OLE Designers specify plants for various conditions, such as drought tolerant plants, plants for butterfly and pollinator gardens and child friendly plants.

back to TNLA Online

BEST of TEXAS
BY THE TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

Home [Plant Database](#) [Planting Guides](#)

Best of Texas
Plant Database

The Best of Texas Landscape Plant Database is a searchable online database brought together by both industry professionals and academic partners. This database gives both professionals and consumers a look at what plants perform best in the dynamic and often harsh Texas environment.

Plant Name Botanical Name Select Section

Select Color Select Region Select Exposure Select Water Usage

☐ Native ☐ Child Friendly ☐ Show Region Map

Icon Legend

FULL SUN	BUTTERFLY	SPECIMEN
PARTIAL SUN	POLLINATOR	FALL COLOR
SHADE	FLOWERING	COLORFUL FOLIAGE
AGGRESSIVE GROWER	FRAGRANT	SUITABLE FOR POTS
WATER SMART	DEER RESISTANT	CONTAINERS
CHILD FRIENDLY	NATIVE	



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The Lubbock OLE! Chapter Pilots a Virtual Community Presentation

Trained OLE! Designers typically lead a community presentation prior to the workshop to educate the community members, teachers, administrators, policy makers and parents about the OLE! Texas philosophy and its benefits to child development. The OLE! Lubbock Chapter tested a new method of splitting the community presentation in two parts.



The new process started with a shorter 30 minute educational presentation about the OLE! Texas philosophy, followed by the participatory workshop and development of the illustrative master plan. After the master plan was finished, OLE! Lubbock partnered with the center to facilitate a virtual community presentation held over Zoom. In this second community presentation, the team shared the OLE! Texas philosophy and unveiled the master plan. This strategy may improve funding opportunities for the center, while sharing the exciting project with the local community.

View the recorded community presentation at the [Coalition for Natural Learning website](#).



