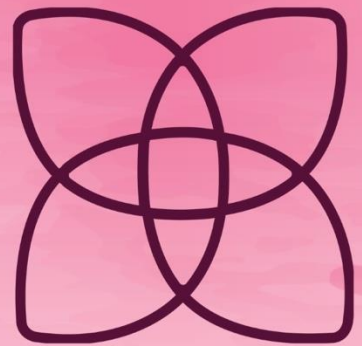


DESIGN EDUCATION FOR KIDS

Calgary Team's National Priority



CALGARY . QBE
Quality In The Built Environment
Designing Inclusive, Sustainable and Healthy Cities



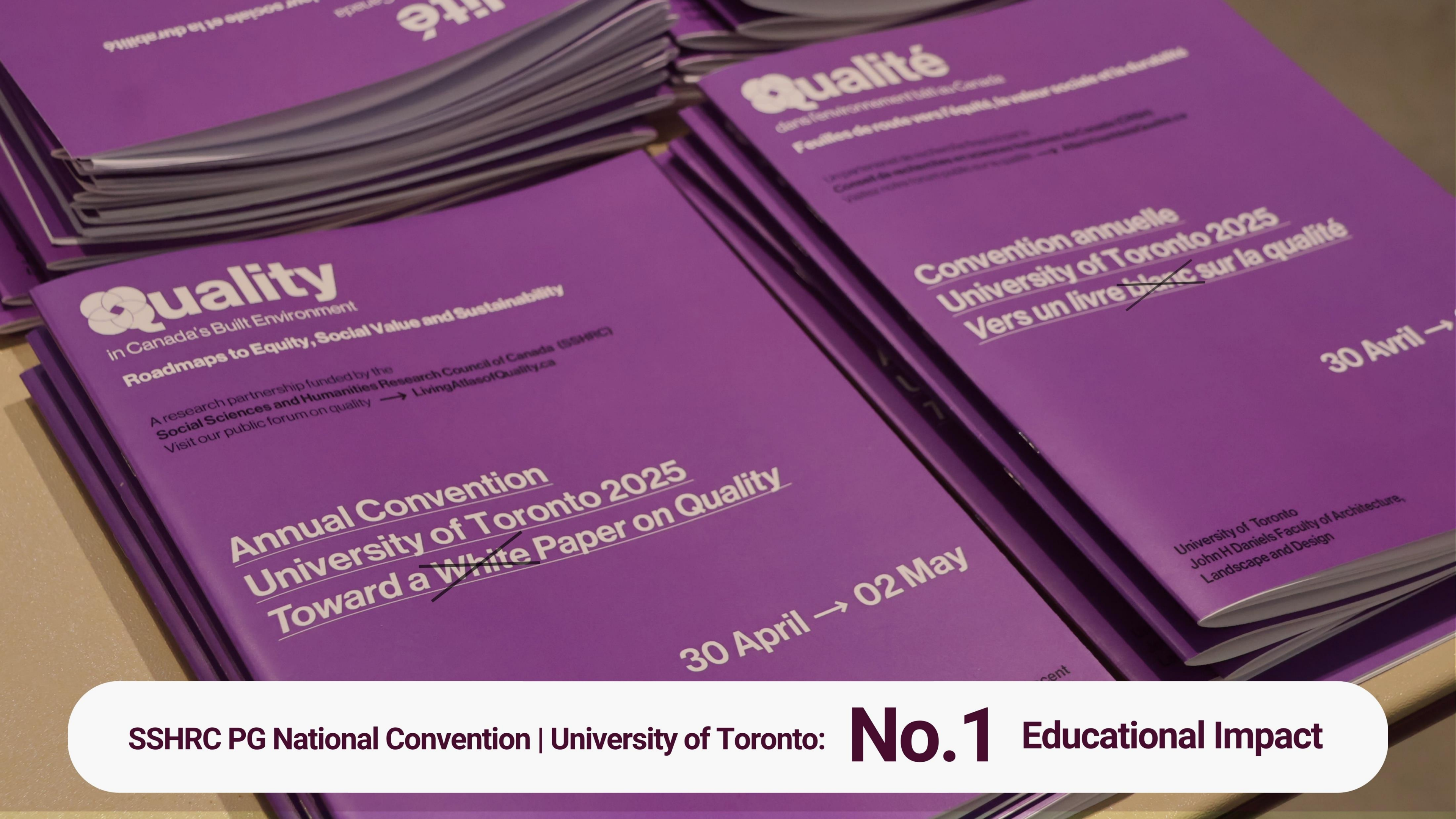
QUALITY IN CANADA'S
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council
of Canada (SSHRC) . Partnership Grant

Nov 21, 2025 | National Online Convention
Public Debates on Quality in Canada's Built Environment



SSHRC PG Calgary Site | National Strategies Conversation: **No.1** Educational Impact



SSHRC PG National Convention | University of Toronto: **No.1** Educational Impact

Reinforced by Local & National Partners

Including:



Calgary
Construction
Association

&

Rick Hansen
Foundation





Reinforced by Local & National Partners

- Clear and well-defined approach
- Realistic timeframe for implementation
- Feasible within existing resources
- Broadest potential impact across sectors

A major

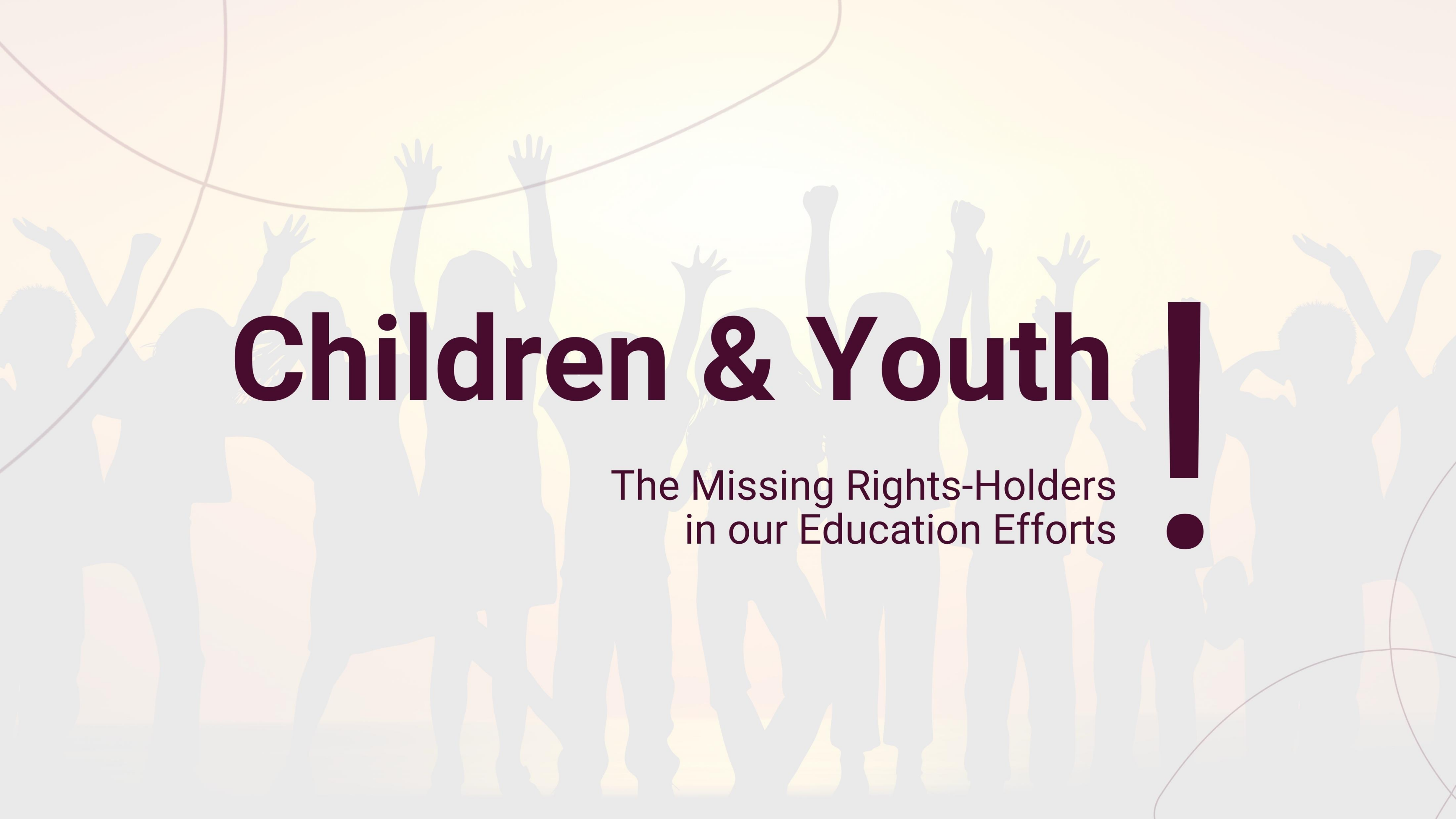
Gap . . .

A major

Gap . . .

Canada has no coordinated approach to K–12
(Kindergarten to Grade 12) quality design education.



The background features a light yellow-to-orange gradient. Silhouettes of children of various heights are shown from the waist up, with their arms raised in the air. A thin, dark line representing a globe's equator or a similar circular path curves across the upper portion of the image.

Children & Youth

The Missing Rights-Holders
in our Education Efforts



A group of diverse young children are sitting on a wooden floor, focused on drawing on large sheets of paper. They are using various colored markers and pencils. In the background, other children are seated at small wooden tables, also engaged in activities. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark red filter.

Our Proposed National Strategy

Quality Design Education for Children

Development of a tiered, cumulative K–12
design-focused curriculum, grounded in experiential learning.

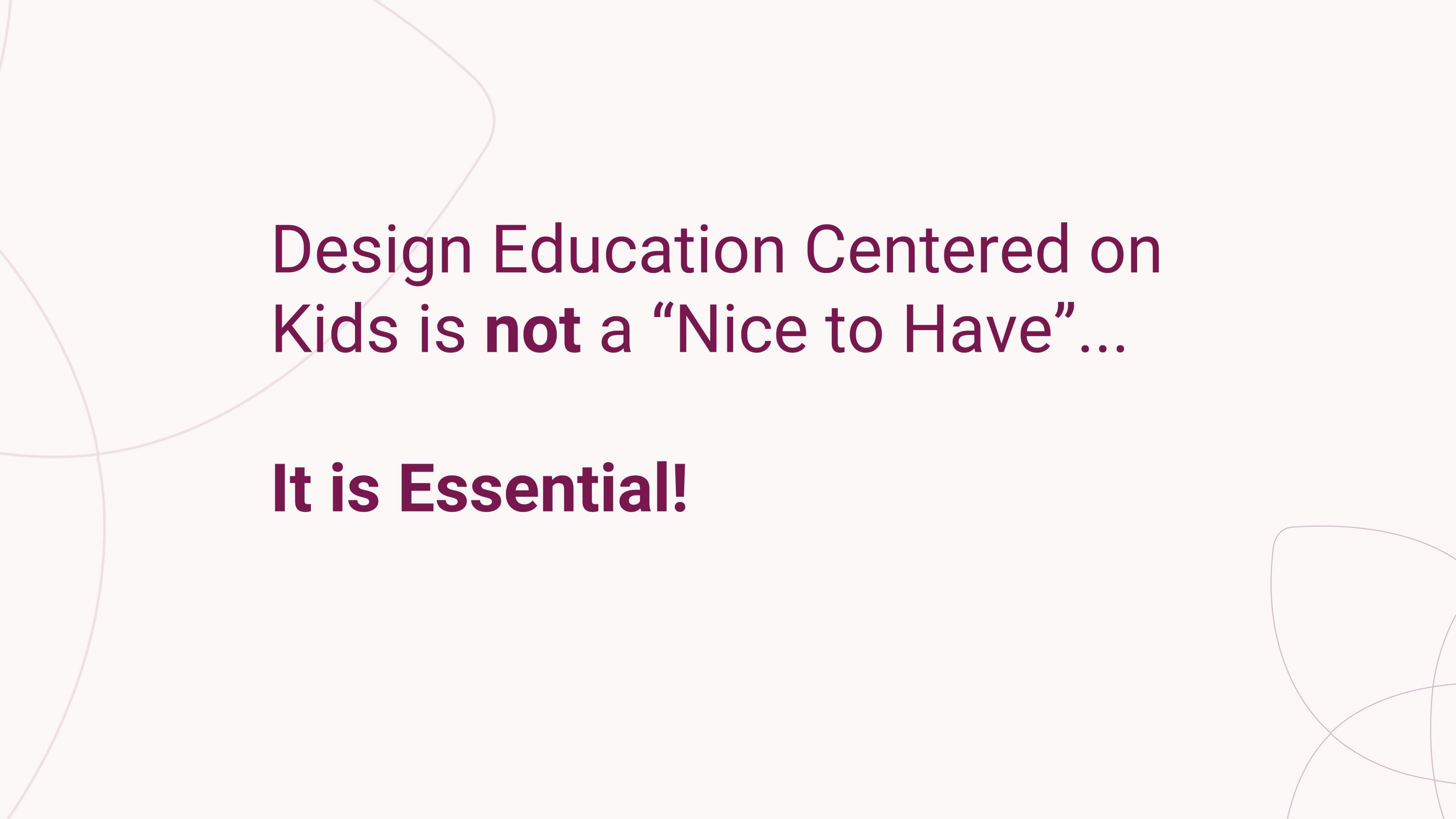
How We Grounded Our Strategy:



Precedent study of
design + architecture
education programs



Cross-sector
brainstorming
session with partners



Design Education Centered on
Kids is **not** a “Nice to Have”...

It is Essential!

Why This Strategy Matters

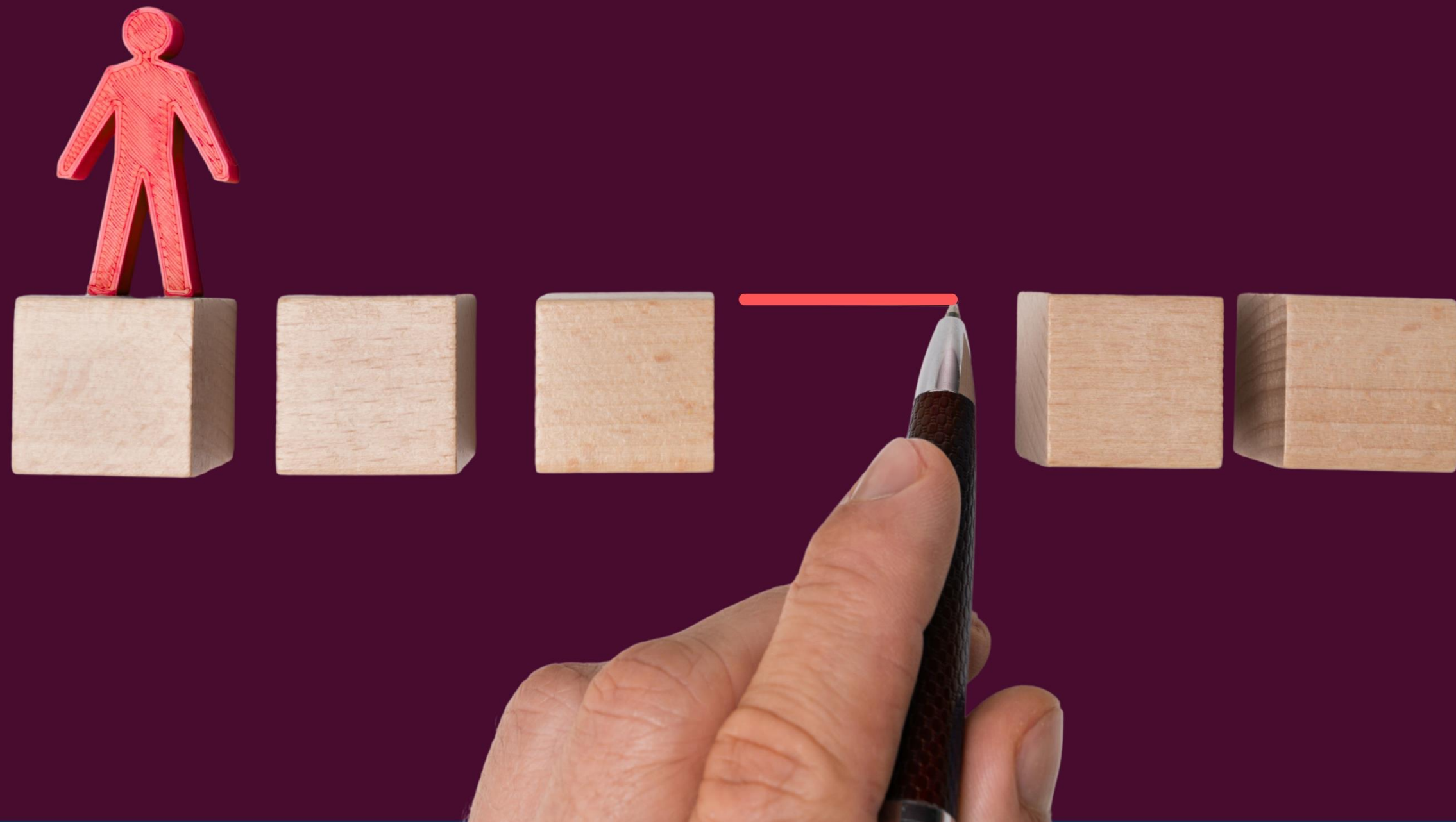
- Builds a stronger **future workforce**
- Deepens **community engagement**
- Improves **decision-making** in the built environment
- Highlights opportunities for **cross-sector collaboration**



What Effective Programs Have in Common

- **Hands-on, place-based approaches**
- **Aligned with school schedules**
- **Investing in teachers**
- **Collaboration between educators and architects**

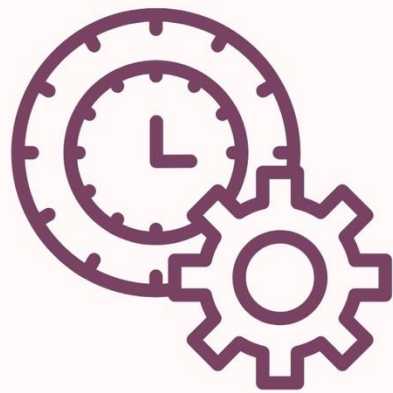
Local Strengths → **National Gap** → Our Response



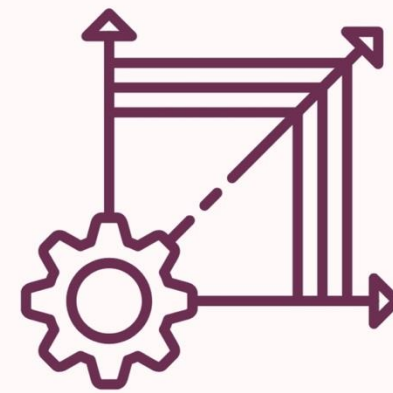
A Powerful and Feasible National Action



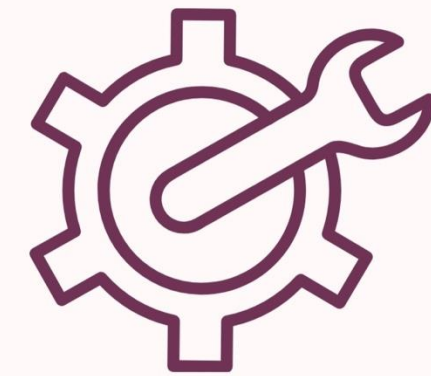
**Low-cost
materials**



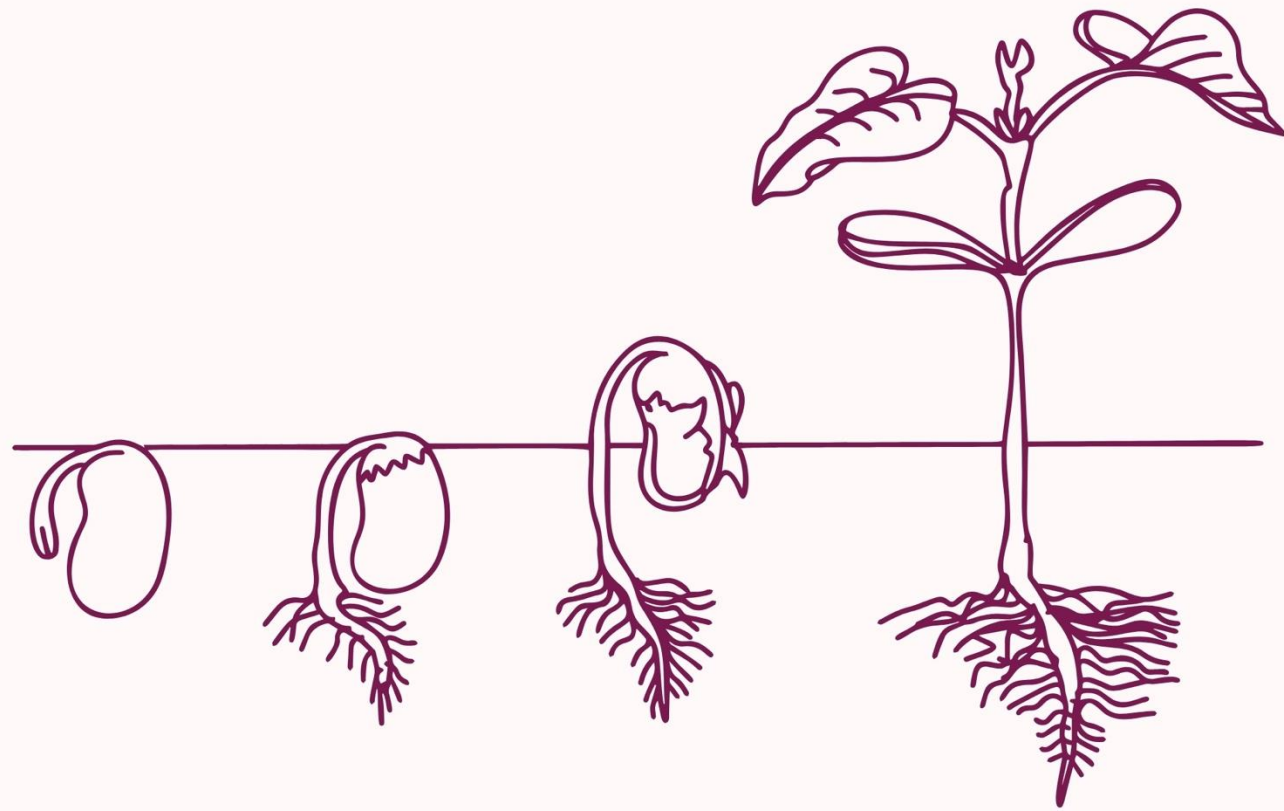
**Manageable
time blocks**



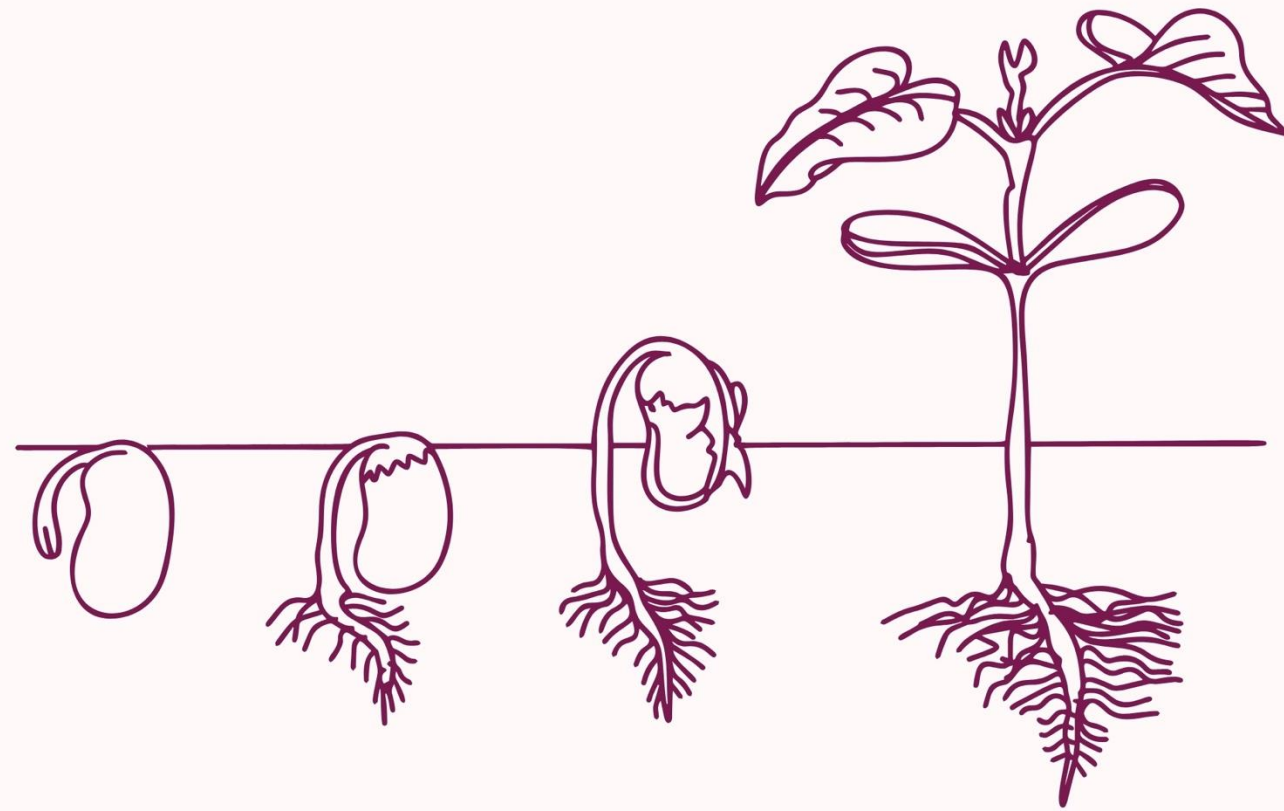
**Scalable
nationwide**



**Customizable
locally**



Transformative



Transformative

DESIGN →

- equity
- health
- climate
- etc.



The Promise of Quality Design Literacy



The Promise of Quality Design Literacy

quality of life for all



CLEAR PATH...

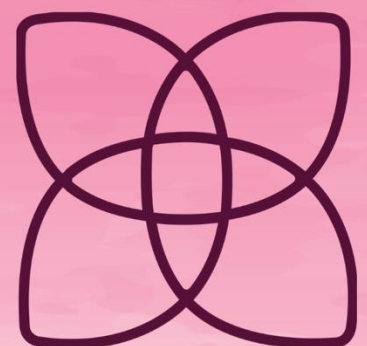
It fills a national gap with a realistic, scalable, and evidence-backed path.

BETTER PLACES...

Design-literate kids become informed users, contributors, and future shapers of better places.

QUALITY OF LIFE...

Early design education strengthens equity, wellbeing, and long-term quality of life for all Canadians.



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Thank you

Calgary Team