



**Molly Smith, REFP, AICP**  
Resume/Curriculum Vitae

Molly Smith believes in creating Common Ground by celebrating the intersection of educational vision, community values and creative design. She is an educational planner, facilitator, author, speaker, community member and a Mom. She is the founder of thinkSMART planning which is committed to the creation of learning environments that support the latest thinking in teaching and learning.

A diverse life and broad range of experiences have created a deep passion for bringing together educators, architects, and community to imagine amazing learning environments that promote and support young learners in their journey to excellence. Early in her career, Molly was fortunate to be architecturally trained by amazing architect/planners who followed in the traditions of Pena's Problem Seeking methodology as well as Alexander's Pattern Language. CEFPI planner/educators such as Dr. Harold Hawkins and Dr. George Copa also influenced the collaborative workshop style that she utilizes today in all of her work.

As a Mom and community member, Molly has a deep passion for protecting and providing excellent school environments for both children and educators. She recognizes that, to many children, school will be the safest and most joyful environment in their lives. These youngsters will grow to become amazing adults because of the experiences they have today. She recognizes the responsibility of providing and protecting the voice in the process for children that they do not always have.

She has volunteered extensively to share a variety of planning tools and techniques with peers at the Association for the Learning Environment and other professional organizations in multiple states and over many years. While others may believe in keeping such effective interactive techniques a secret, Molly believes just the opposite: that school facility planners should be spreading the good news about collaborative educational planning and design – allowing us to create environments that support teaching and learning and all of its changing textures. Every great school provides a place of safety, joy and encouragement to the young minds that will lead our country in the future.

Currently, she provides expert leadership in creating the learning plans, educational specifications, master plans and strategic plans for educational facilities all over the US. Her broad-ranging experience includes facility programming, master planning, space utilization analysis, budget and financial analysis, and site selections for well over \$1B of educational space over the last 20+ years. Molly has been fortunate to work nationally with a wide range of award winning design firms and prominent school districts creating amazing environments for teaching and learning.

Before founding thinkSMART, Molly was a Principal and Director of Planning for BPLW Architects and Engineers, a 150-person architecture and engineering firm. In this role, she coordinated the planning division of the company and mentored young planners. The planning division worked extensively throughout the Southwest assisting in the design of school facilities as well as partnering to provide planning expertise to other well-known design firms.

A nationally-recognized authority on all aspects of K-12 planning, Molly is often invited to teach, speak and write about planning and facilitation. A natural presenter, Molly has addressed numerous practitioner-based audiences at national educational conventions. She has been invited to guest lecture at the Arizona State University School of Architecture, and has written and spoken extensively on school planning techniques and school facilities' connection to student improvement. Currently, she is collaborating with Robert Hershberger on a book entitled Architectural Programming and Pre-design Manager, co-writing new standards for the planning portion of the architect's national review board exam (NCARB), and co-authoring a mini-monograph series on planning for architects for NCARB.

Molly is equally comfortable in the world of education and architecture, making her a valuable asset to both entities. She is uniquely positioned to positively influence the profession of school facility planning through writings, speaking, facilitation, and up and coming young practitioners. A seasoned planner, she is the rare individual who can shift effortlessly between right and left-brain thinking – effectively connecting the abstract to the concrete. She is a natural extrovert with a passion for community

involvement. Her skill as a facilitator allows her to generate discussion, separate extraneous information, and build upon collective input to create consensus.

## professional experience

thinkSMART planning, inc. Founder/ Principal 2007- Present  
BPLW Architect and Engineers, inc. Principal in Charge/ Planning 1995 – 2007  
Architectural Research Consultants, llc. Facilities Planner 1993 –1995  
State of Florida Facilities Intern Planner 1991-1993

## certifications and affiliations

Association for the Learning Environment, Recognized Educational Facility Planner, REFP  
American Institute of Certified Planners, Certification #119786, American Planning Association  
Council of Educational Facility Planners International, Past President SWR,  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
American Association of School Administrators  
Texas School Board Association  
Arizona Association of School Building Officials  
America's Schoolhouse Council, Associate Member  
Rotary Club International

## advisory and board participation

International Board Representative for the SWR of the Association for Learning Environments 2018  
Chair, School Safety and Security Taskforce A4LE 2018  
Desert Botanical Garden Children's Garden Advisory Board 2017  
A4LE Southern Region Board Strategic Planning Facilitator 2017  
CEFPI School of the Future Juror 2011  
CEFPI International Conference Committee Member 2010  
Advisory Board Member to New Mexico Public Schools Authority 2005-present  
CEFPI Planner of the Year Juror 2007  
CEFPI SWR Design Award Juror 2008  
CEFPI SWR President 2005  
CEFPI SWR Vice President 2004  
CEFPI Strategic Planning 2005  
Downtown Art Planning and Selection Committee Mesa, AZ 2003-04  
CEFPI Member Review of the Ohio School Facilities Board 2002  
Advisory Board Member Arizona School Facilities Board Student's First Program 1999-2001

## education

Master of Architecture  
Florida A&M University  
Bachelor of Architecture  
Florida A&M University

## publications & presentations

Adaptive Architecture: Changing Parameters and Practice, Prieser, Wolfgang, et. al, contributing author, 2018.

National Council of Architectural Review Boards Mini Monograph Series for Planning, Hershberger, Smith, and Hardy, in progress. 2018.

Architectural Programming and Pre-design Manager, 2nd Edition, Hershberger, Smith, and Hardy. in progress. 2018.

"Flipping for Student Success," with Jim Brady. *School Planning and Management*. January 1, 2015.

"Tools for Planning Professionals" Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl. Portland, OR. September 2014.

"Tools for Planning Professionals" Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl. Indianapolis, IN. September 2013.

"CTE/STEM Connection." Virginia Educational Facility Planners, February 2013.

"What's in your Toolbox?" Alaska Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl. Anchorage, AK. December 2011.

"What's in your Toolbox?" Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl. Nashville, TN. September 2011.

"15 Things to Consider in Student Centered Schools" American Association of School Administrators Conference, Phoenix, AZ. February 2010.

"Energy Sustainability, Myth and Magic", CEFPI International Schools Conference. Washington, DC. Sept, 2009.

"Agile and Appropriate: Northwest Career and Technical Academy"  
CEFPI Midwest Great Lakes Regional Conference, Columbus, OH April 2009.

"Agile and Appropriate: Northwest Career and Technical Academy"  
CEFPI Pacific Northwest Regional Conference, Vancouver, BC. May 2009.

"Envisioning the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Middle School." Aurora Public Schools. Aurora, CO. May 2009

"Planning Reaps Rewards in Clark County" Smith, Molly. *School Planning & Management*. Spring, 2009.

"NWCTA: 2008 MacConnell Award Winner" Smith, Molly. *CEFPI Communicator*. Spring, 2009.

"Planning Strategies to Incorporate Learning Styles into the Design Process", CEFPI High Performing Schools Conference. Tampa, FL. Feb, 2009.

"LISD, New Elementary School Model", CEFPI High Performing Schools Conference. Tampa, FL. Feb, 2009.

"High Performance Design for Education", Northwest Career and Technical Academy" CEFPI Webinar. November 2008.

"Learning Environment Matters", CEFPI Conference, San Diego, CA 2008.

"Learning Environment Matters", Arizona Charter Schools Association, Cave Creek, AZ 2008.

"What Really Works: Clark County School District; Northwest Career and Technical Center", CEFPI High Performing Schools Conference. Scottsdale, AZ. Jan 2008.

Presentation "LISD Good to Great" TASB/TASA Conference. Dallas, TX. Sept 2007.

Jury Participant Planner of the Year, Council of Educational Facility Planners, Intl. 2007.

Presentation "LISD Good to Great" CEFPI Southern Region. San Antonio, TX April 2007.

"Adaptive Reuse for School Facilities." NSSEA Conference, Orlando FL. March 2006.

"Building Community: A Post-Occupancy Look at the Maryvale Mall Adaptive Reuse Project." *Issuetrak CEFPI Journal*, February 2006.

"Why Schools Should be Lean and Green." *School Planning and Management*, June 2004.

Presentation "Career and Technical Center for CCSD." CEFPI Chicago, IL. October 2004.

"Planning for Furniture and Fixtures to Last a Lifetime" *School Planning and Management*, October 2002.

"The Re-Tooling of Vocational-Technical Facilities." NSSEA Conference. Tampa, FL. February 2002.

"Computer Labs: A Sensible Solution for the Foreseeable Future" *School Planning and Management*, June 2000.

Peters, Ron and Smith, Molly. "New Schools from Old Space." *The Education Facility Planner*, 1998, V-34, No. 3.

Professional Seminars for the Council of Educational Planners, ASBO, NSBA, NSSEA, and ASU.

## educational planning experience

### Capital Plans/ Master Planning

- Master Planning, Queen Creek Unified Creek, AZ 2017
- District Facilities Master Plan, Tucson Unified School District, AZ 2016
- District Facilities Master Plan, Hutto Independent School District, TX 2015
- District Facilities Master Plan, Park City School District, UT 2015
- District Facilities Master Plan Update, Santa Fe Public Schools, NM 2014
- District Facilities Master Plan, Clovis Municipal School District, NM 2012
- District Facilities Master Plan, Artesia Public Schools, NM 2011
- District Facilities Master Plan, Carlsbad Municipal School District, NM 2009-10, and 2014.
- District Facilities Master Plan, Santa Fe Public Schools, NM 2009
- District Facilities Master Plan, East Valley Institute of Technology, AZ 2007
- District Facilities Master Plan, Rio Rancho School District, NM 2005
- Master Campus Site Planning, Tustin Unified School District, CA 2008

### Educational Planning

- Educational Specifications, Vail High School #2, Vail SD, AZ 2018.
- Educational Specifications, West Bloomfield Middle Schools, West Bloomfield SD, MI 2018.
- Educational Specifications, Leander Middle Schools, Leander ISD TX 2018.
- Educational Specifications, Biltmore Preparatory Academy, Creighton SD, AZ 2018.
- Educational Specifications, Creighton Elementary School, Creighton SD, AZ 2018.
- Educational Specifications, Forney ISD, TX 2017.
- Educational Specifications, Georgetown ISD, TX 2017.
- Educational Planning, Queen Creek New Elementary and High Schools, AZ 2017.
- Educational Planning, District Capacity Study, Gilbert Public Schools, AZ 2017
- Educational Planning, Rio Rancho Early Childhood Center, Rio Rancho Public Schools, NM. 2017.
- Educational Planning, Gilbert Public Schools, AZ 2016
- Educational Specifications, Sheldon Independent School District TX 2016
- Educational Specifications, Liberty Independent School District TX 2016
- Educational Specifications, Lewisville Independent School District TX 2016
- Educational Specifications Alvarado School District, TX 2016
- Educational Planning, Comal Independent School District TX 2015
- Educational Planning, Amphitheater School District, AZ 2014
- Educational Planning, Deming Intermediate School. NM 2014
- Educational Planning, Laramie County School District #1 5/6 Elementary Schools. WY 2014
- Educational Planning, Paloma School District New K-8 School. AZ 2013
- Educational Planning, Carlsbad School District New Elementary Schools. NM 2013
- Educational Planning, Red Mesa School District New CTE Center. AZ 2013
- Educational Planning, New STEM K-8 School, High Plains Environmental Academy. WY 2013
- Educational Planning, Mat Su STEM Career Academy. Mat Su School District. AK 2013
- Educational Planning, Hanna Elementary School WY 2012
- Educational Planning, HEM 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Middle/High School WY 2012
- Educational Planning, ASU Polytechnic Campus K-12 College Preparatory Academy. AZ 2012
- Educational Planning, Bernalillo High School. Bernalillo Public Schools. NM. 2012
- Educational Planning, King Career Center. Anchorage School District. AK 2012
- Educational Planning, Socorro Schools, San Antonio Elementary School. NM. 2012
- Educational Planning, District-wide Middle/High Schools. Santa Fe Public Schools. NM 2012.
- Educational Planning, New District High Schools, Leander ISD, Leander, TX. 2012

- Educational Planning, New District Elementary Schools. Gallup McKinley County Schools. NM 2011.
- Educational Planning, New District K-8 Schools, Tucson Unified School District. 2010.
- Educational Planning, New District Middle Schools, Leander ISD, Leander, TX 2010.
- Educational Planning, New District Elementary Schools, Roswell Independent School District. Roswell, NM 2009.
- Educational Planning, New District Elementary Schools, Clovis Municipal School District, Clovis, NM 2009
- Educational Planning, New District Middle Schools, Clovis Municipal School District, Clovis, NM 2009
- Educational Planning, NATIVE Vocational Technology Center, NATIVE SD, Flagstaff, AZ 2009
- Educational Planning, Citracado Biotech/Medical Sciences STEM High School, Escondido, CA 2008
- District Educational Planning, Elementary and Middle Schools. Lyon County School District, NV 2008
- Educational Plan, Chandler Preparatory Academy K-12, Arizona 2007
- Educational Planning and Charette, Washoe County School District Regional Technical Institute, NV 2007
- Educational Planning & Learning Plan, Leander Independent School District New Elementary Prototype, Texas 2007
- Educational Vision Plan, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Pre-K to Post Secondary, Washington 2007
- Educational Planning & Learning Plan, Prototype Career and Technical Schools, CCSD, Nevada 2006 (With VCBO)
- Educational Planning & Learning Plan, Rio Rancho High School, New Mexico 2006
- Educational Planning Loneman Indian Tribe K-8, South Dakota 2006
- Educational Planning, New Middle School Prototype, AJUSD, Arizona 2005
- Educational Planning, Queen Creek Middle School, QCUSD, Arizona 2005
- Educational Planning, Marc T. Atkinson Middle School, CSD, Arizona 2004
- Educational Planning, NW Career & Technical Center, CCSD, Nevada 2003
- Educational Planning, George W. Smith Junior High, MPS, Arizona 2002
- Educational Planning, Cesar Chavez High School, PUHSD, Arizona 2000
- Educational Planning, Abraham Lincoln Traditional School K-8, WESD, Arizona 2002
- Educational Planning, Bret Tarver Elementary School, CSD, Arizona 2002

### **Career/ Technical Education**

- Red Mesa High School Career and Technical Education. Red Mesa, AZ 2013
- Career and Technical Schools, KCC. Anchorage School District. Anchorage, AL. 2012
- V. Sue Cleveland High School, RRPS, NM **MacConnell Award Finalist 2010**
- NW Career and Technical Academy, CCSD, NV **MacConnell Award 2008**
- Prototype Career and Technical Schools, CCSD, Nevada 2008
- New Career Tech Center, Henrico County Schools, VA 2008
- Del Lago Biotech/Medical Sciences Academy, CA 2008
- Washoe County School District Regional Technical Institute, Nevada 2007
- Health Sciences Addition, East Valley Institute of Technology, AZ 2005
- Campus Facility Master Plan, East Valley Institute of Technology, 2005.
- New Campus, East Valley Institute of Technology, AZ 1995

### **Higher Education**

- University of New Mexico, Science and Technology Facility, NM, Strategic Planning
- New Mexico State University, Engineering Complex III, NM, Facility Planning
- East Valley Institute of Technology/ Maricopa Community Colleges, AZ, Capital Facilities Master Plan
- South Mountain Community College, Classroom Bldg Guadalupe Campus, AZ, Facility Planning
- Health Sciences Academy, East Valley Institute of Technology/ Maricopa Community Colleges, AZ, Facility Planning
- University of New Mexico, Science and Technology Facility, New Mexico, Strategic Planning
- New Mexico State University, Engineering Complex III, New Mexico, Facility Planning
- South Mountain Community College, Classroom Bldg Guadalupe Campus, AZ, Facility Planning