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Op-Chart

DAVID ROCKWELL

Unpacking Imagination

In an age of childhood obesity and children tethered to electronic consoles, playgrounds have rarely been more important. In an age of constrained government budgets, playgrounds have rarely been a harder sell. Fortunately, the cost of play doesn't have to be prohibitive. In creating the Imagination Playground in Lower Manhattan — a playground with lots of loose parts for children to create their own play spaces — we realized that many of the elements with the greatest value to children were inexpensive and portable. Although traditional playgrounds can

easily cost in the millions to build, boxed imagination playgrounds can be put together for under \$10,000. (Land costs not included!) The design below is one that my architecture firm has done in collaboration with the New York City Parks Department and KaBoom, a nonprofit organization. But it needn't be the only one out there. There are a lot of ways to build a playground — and a lot of communities in need of one. Let a thousand portable playgrounds bloom.

-DAVID ROCKWELL, president of the Rockwell Group

PLAYGROUND IN A BOX

5'-2"

FRONT ELEVATION

4'-5"

5'-0"

SIDE ELEVATION

OPENING DIAGRAM

SCHEDULE OF LOOSE PARTS

- 8 PRIMARY BLOCKS
- 4 LONG BLOCKS
- 5 LITTLE CHEESES
- 2 PLUG GEARS
- 8 PLUGS
- 2 CHUTES
- 4 STRAIGHT CHANNELS
- 5 SMALL PLUGS
- 10 BLOCKS W/ HOLE
- 10 SQUARE BLOCKS
- 2 CLOVER GEARS
- 4 SQUEAKY HINGES
- 5 NICKELS
- 2 ARCH CHUTES
- 4 BENT CHANNELS
- WATER
- WACKY CART
- SAND

DISTRIBUTION & LOCATIONS

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- COMMUNITY CENTERS
- CHURCHES
- HOSPITALS
- HOUSING
- Y.M.C.A./Y.W.C.A.s
- NEW PLAYGROUNDS

- NURSERY SCHOOLS
- FAMILY DAY CARE
- PARKS
- HEAD START
- MILITARY BASES
- FEMA/POST-EMERGENCY
- EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS

FOUND PARTS (ADD YOUR OWN)

- CARDBOARD TUBES
- PVC PIPES & ELBOWS

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 825 lbs

LOAD-BEARING CAPACITY: 1000 lbs

MINIMUM AREA EA. BOX: 10' X 10'

MINIMUM PLAY AREA: 225 sf

MATERIALS/BOX:
POWDER-COATED STEEL
FRAME AND HIGH-DENSITY
POLYETHYLENE PANELS

MATERIALS/BLOCKS:
RECYCLABLE CROSS-
LINKED POLYETHYLENE FOAM

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

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BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW PLAYGROUND

DATE 9-26-10	DRAWN BY: JA, HG	APPR. BY: DR, MH
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