

ARTiK

ART & ARCHITECTURE

What is community? There are so many definitions and answers to this question, but when we asked a group of students, the response was unequivocal: a sense of belonging. Schools and learning environments have challenges creating a sense of belonging for their students and faculty at the best of times. More recently, the COVID-19 epidemic left students constantly plugged in and at the same time feeling more alone than ever before. As schools and campuses reopen, there is a dire need to rebuild communities. Find out more at www.CommunityThruDesign.com.



Design transforms environments in ways that improve the human experience. The ONEder Grant supports exploration and research that impacts environments where work, innovation, healing and learning take place.

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Artik was honored to win a 2021 ONEder Grant for a multidisciplinary research project that explored design interventions in the context of building community in learning environments. Inspired by Eric Schaps' research paper 'Creating a School Community' we set out to determine how the built environment could foster the four strategies of community formation: cultivating respectful relationships, emphasizing common purposes and ideals, providing opportunities for cooperation, and providing opportunities for autonomy and influence. After reading several research papers, we conducted interviews, workshops, questionnaires, and case studies to collect information.



For each of those four community-building strategies, we identified several elements that contribute to their success, and further, a set of common hazards to community. Our team identified interventions that schools could utilize to build community at three different levels: re-utilization/operational level of intervention, minor interventions, and major interventions. With these different interventions identified, we hope that schools can tailor solutions to their unique community-building needs and budgets.

In addition to our research paper, Artik is excited to debut an interactive website for easy access to our results. Educators and designers interested in improving their own communities can find assessment guides, as well as our Building Community Tool. The ONEder Podcast, available from One Workplace's ONEder site, will also feature an interview of our team members Morana Medved and Lele Yu, explaining our inspirations, and process of the research.

Artik hopes this research and analysis will inspire designers, teachers, and operational staff in their efforts to create engaging communities and increase opportunities for better learning in school environments. As Artik continues to research and design, our team will expand interventions and strategies available to educators and designers in the quest for specific, customized solutions for their unique challenges. We are available to provide services to anyone who would like assistance in organizing their own community engagement, and to analyze the data collected to determine which interventions are the best fit for their own environment. Let us help you design your own thriving community!

