

Sound Landscaping

Percussion Play has the industry's most comprehensive portfolio of outdoor musical instruments to choose from. Combining sculpture with music, our instruments are ideal for schools, Parks & Rec teams, local authorities, family attractions, housing developers, and landscape architects looking for dynamic, inclusive, playful items which add energy and soul to countless outdoor spaces.











Integrated with local architecture or landscaping, they cross the boundaries of regular play equipment and can be appreciated by everybody, irrespective of age or ability.

Constructed of resilient, easily cared for materials, these instruments can withstand the worst effects of the elements, in all sorts of environments, with no detriment to their sound or tuning. Each instrument is designed to avoid costly or long-term maintenance. Where possible, we've designed the instruments to be played simply by using your hands, but where beaters are required, we've engineered them as one complete piece attached using coated stainless-steel cables.

Most instruments are made from 316 stainless steel or anodized aluminum with high corrosion resistance, making them stand out in terms of durability, performance, and appearance.

"No matter who's playing the instruments, they sound wonderful and draw people into the park both young and old. They are just fun! We live in a winter city and these instruments give opportunity to bring life to the park year-round."

♪ Valerie Bassett **♪**

Basset Associates Landscape Architecture Inc.





Therapeutic Landscapes

Music is like physical exercise, it is for all ages and for all people. Participation in music leads to good health and well-being. Music making is fun and uses different skills from the ones that most people usually employ on a day-to-day basis making it relaxing, relieving feelings of stress and anxiety.











Outdoor musical instruments are an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy the outdoors. They are fully inclusive, accessible, and multigenerational. Grandparents can play alongside their grandchildren or even great grandchildren! Children with disabilities who are often left to sit and watch their friends and siblings have fun, can now play side by side in a sensory-rich playground environment.

Everyone and anyone can make music. Playing musical instruments can help bring communities together across generations, cultures, social classes, income brackets, and ability in a way that no other medium can. It transcends language limitations, instead providing its own language of rhythm and melody to enable players and users to communicate with each other non-verbally. Providing opportunities for members of a community to be around each other in this way promotes familiarity, the formation of healthy relationships, and helps to engender a sense of belonging for those who participate. Music can help to develop a more harmonious society if access to it is provided and engagement is promoted.

"The outdoor musical instruments create a durable way for kids to engage in creative and inclusive musical play. Kids experience so much joy when interacting with the instruments. You can see it in their faces that they are delighted."

♪ Falon Mihalic **♪**

_andscape Architect & Project Manager





Music on Main Street, IN

For over 40 years, there has been a movement across the United States to revitalize communities that have seen economic development move away from town centers. The nonprofit Main Street America is helping Main Streets in towns across the US bring communities together and stimulate business development.

One such town is Versailles, whose charity, Main Street Versailles, seeks to draw positive interest to the downtown area and square, creating activities and events for the community. Founded almost a decade ago, it has brought entertainment and interest to the center of the town, which now boasts Percussion Play's outdoor musical instruments.

The feedback from the community showed they wanted an array of things, from public restrooms, live music, splash pads, and a playground with green space, benches, and picnic tables. A development plan was soon drawn up, and town officials agreed to develop a Pocket Park next to the town hall.







The nonprofit looked for musical elements to include in the space and was soon inspired by a roadside park on Main Street in Laurel, Mississippi, which included instruments from Percussion Play. Main Street Versailles members realized they would act as an inclusive, intergenerational activity with both children and adults being able to play together.

Two sets of Freechimes, a <u>Large Babel Drum</u>, a <u>Cajon Drum Circle</u>, and <u>Cadenza</u>, have now been installed and draw both young and old to the center to create music and have fun.

Since their installation, the area has seen an increase in intergenerational play. The local Facebook group shows people of all ages enjoying the instruments.

Percussion Play's instruments are part of a bold project happening across the United States to re-build 'social fabric,' something Versailles is achieving as it breathes life back into the community.

"I walk around the square, and kids are out there playing the chimes. The sound of the instruments is really pretty and has a lovely tone. I also love how the instruments are aesthetically pleasing."

→ Holly Wehr
→

Director of Community Development for the Town of Versailles





Esquina de Musica, TX

In partnership with the Open Architecture Institute, the project "Esquina de Musica" or "Corner of Music" created by Falon Land Studio landscape architects, has seen a neighbourhood street corner transformed into a bright and inviting community space complete with outdoor musical instruments and a dance floor.

'Esquina de Musica' is an interactive musical sculpture playground for kids at the Leonel Castillo Community Centre in Houston, Texas. The BakerRipley Leonel Castillo Community Center is located in the near-northside of Houston and provides a variety of services to the community including After School Young Leaders Programs, Senior Services and English as a Second Language Classes.

The Percussion Play outdoor musical instruments create a durable way for kids to engage in creative and inclusive musical play. The project team wanted to include instruments that were easy to install, sounded beautiful, and were accessible to kids of different ages and abilities. Included in the Music Corner is the <u>Cherub</u>, <u>Congas Pair</u>, and <u>Handpipes</u>. Each instrument features a unique base that was custom-created for the project.







Public Art and Sound Sculpture for City of Burbank, CA

A beloved park in the City of Burbank, California, close to the glamour of major Hollywood film studios, has been given a public artwork facelift with a mural and interactive sound sculptures, including musical instruments from Percussion Play.

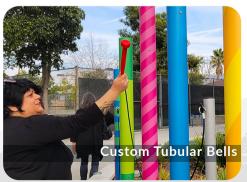
"The Answer is Yes" mural and interactive sound sculptures now boldly enliven the entrance to the popular Verdugo park and aquatic center and were designed by artist Dina Fisher.

Commissioned by the City of Burbank, California, last year, there was an open call for artists to submit their work. Dina answered this call and thought about all the possibilities, but she knew it had to include music! She chose to include the <u>Tubular Bells</u> and <u>Cyclone</u> for the musical elements. To match the vibrant mural serving as a backdrop to the instruments, the Tubular Bells were powder coated in jazzy colors and patterns.

The instruments and mural are themed toward diversity. Represented in the mural is Burbank's Sister City's Youth Programme, and all 4 Sister Cities are depicted in the artwork. As a permanent art installation, it animates the park's primary passageway and appeals to all ages, inviting the public to discover, interact, and engage by sparking curiosity and creativity on site.







Lions Pride Park Brings Community Alive, PA

Great public spaces draw people together, bring communities alive, generate pride and a sense of belonging, foster connections, and create opportunities. Lions Pride Park in Warrington, Pennsylvania, has managed all of this while breathing new life into a disused space. The popular outdoor space has even been named one of 2021's Great Places in Pennsylvania by the American Planning Association's Pennsylvania Chapter in the category of 'Great Public Spaces'.

Created from a shared vision of the local Lions Club, Warrington Township, and local school students, the park is a model of accessibility and intergenerational use that is exciting, attractive, and engaging. The Township and the Lions Club employed the services of Landscape Architects Viridian Landscape Studio to transform the ideas of local elementary school students and the public through surveys, interviews, and multiple design workshops, to create an exciting, accessible public play space unique to Warrington - one that would become a centerpiece of community life.









The focal points of the new park are The Grove and Kids' Mountain, home to a brand new, unique playground that includes large, long slides that descend from the playground's mountain top.

This area encourages creative free play and physical challenges with climbing towers, swings, bridges, and space for winter sledding. A sensory trail leads to the top of the mountain that is planted with native species and pollinator plants.

There is also an array of visual, audio, tactile, and sensory experiences throughout the Park, including a smartphone app that provides information about the park for blind visitors, and an area for outdoor musical play. The grove included Rainbow Sambas, Akadinda, Tubular Bells, Congas, Duo, Cherub, Sansa-Rimba and Alto Diatonic Freechimes. This music area has a mixture of instruments tuned to both pentatonic and diatonic scales to empower both aspiring musicians and those with little musical knowledge.

"Not a day goes past that you cannot hear the beautiful sounds of music traveling across the park. The community wanted real musical instruments in the park - not just noisemakers - and the intergenerational play they provide totally supports the ethos behind this playground"

♪ Tavis Dockwiller **♪**

Principal and Founder of Viridian Landscape Studio





The Evolution of Community Spaces

Many see loneliness as one of the most significant health concerns this century. The importance of social connection and relationships have been brought into sharp relief by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The importance of access to green spaces and parks in built-up urbanizations was proven to be a crucial factor in residents' mental and physical well-being throughout the pandemic. Public spaces - a place of free and open access - are traditionally linked to social, cultural, or economic exchanges and are again gaining increasing importance as a component of everyday quality of life, especially in urban areas. Growing public attention to loneliness in our communities has been accompanied by designers and landscape architects beginning to challenge traditional modes of play and playground design and extend the role of open play spaces to include a range of different social agendas, including combating loneliness in all ages.

Social isolation and loneliness are well-known causes of depression, mental health problems, and physical illness. Usually associated with older people, new Harvard research suggests that feelings of social isolation are on the rise and that those hit the hardest are older teens and young adults.







The potential for the hybridization of play spaces, where the spatial boundaries between adult and children's activities merge, can result in innovative and uplifting settings that encourage connections plus opportunities for shared creativity while helping to secure a community's future prosperity.

The notion of intergenerational activity and play has increasingly drawn attention over recent years, and a growing body of scholarly literature has begun to point more and more toward the premise that when adults and, in particular, seniors become involved in cross-generational learning activities with children and adolescents, huge benefits are accrued by both parties.

Adding outdoor musical instruments to public spaces certainly encourages creativity, and due to its universal appeal, playing music can successfully bridge intergenerational gaps. The combined effects of musical play and intergenerational social participation have proven to be incontrovertibly beneficial for improving and maintaining seniors' physical and mental health. Children's play changes when intergenerational; research shows children display higher levels of language and problem-solving skills when they have more contact with adults. It promotes socially-valued behavior for teenagers and young adults, helps them gain new perspectives of their community, and teaches empathy and compassion.

Given the opportunity to participate, regardless of physical or psychological impairments, musical play in public spaces can serve as a productive, meaningful, and financially accessible activity for all. Percussion Play has the vision to create inclusive musical oases in towns and cities worldwide to encourage us to connect.





Music Matters

When searching for inspiration and the right instruments, you can browse through our website to find and download all the necessary files and technical documentation, enabling you to create your unique solution for the play and activity space.









Alternatively, to incorporate our products into your plans quickly, our CAD & 3D drawings, product specifications, media files, and more are free to download from the Percussion Play CAD details page. This is an online source for manufacturer-specific product information for input into working plans and specification documents.

Percussion Play has supplied instruments to projects in school playgrounds, parks, activity trails, family attractions, museums, hospitals, senior centers, seaside piers, zoos, and even a cruise ship.

No musical knowledge or skill is required to create beautiful sounds and all instruments are orchestrated to be pleasing to the ear for the players and those listening nearby.

"We placed the instruments as a sculptural accent piece, for park visitors—of all ages, to discover on their own. Clients of all physical abilities can surround themselves in sound and vibration by standing or sitting at the center of the chimes"

♪ Laura H. Lieneck **♪**

LLA Senior Landscape Architect









