

EAST HARLEM CENTER PARTICIPATORY DESIGN MEETING #3: REPORT

JULY 18, 2018

OVERVIEW

Children's Aid continues to work with the East Harlem community to establish a vision and plan for the rebuilding of the East Harlem Center. On July 18, we focused on the types of spaces that will best match the programs and services most important to the community. The community offered excellent ideas and feedback that will help us design an East Harlem Center for the next generation. More than 40 East Harlem Center family members, youth, local community members, Children's Aid staff, elected officials, and other key stakeholders attended. The July community workshop was the third session in a summer engagement process that will culminate with the release of a final report on September 8. The report will be a guide for a community advisory committee that will continue to work with Children's Aid through the design and construction phases of the rebuild.

Upcoming workshops

MAY

✓
May 12
Community
Workshop
Process &
Program
Brainstorm

JUNE

✓
June 6
Family
Focus
Groups

JULY

✓
July 18
Community
Workshop
Space + Design
Priorities

AUGUST

✓
July-
August
Staff and
Youth Focus
Groups

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 8
11am-5pm
Community
Celebration
+ Release of
Priorities Report

UPCOMING
EVENT!

What the day looked like

Welcome, Introductions, and June 18 Recap
Activity 1: Day in the Life in the East Harlem Center
Activity 2: Build Your Own East Harlem Center
Large Group Report Back
Next Steps + Closing

Languages spoken:

- English
- Spanish



Who attended?

- Parents of children who use the center
- EHC youth participants
- Elected officials
- Community Board 11 members
- Local residents
- Children's Aid President & CEO, board members, and staff

GENERAL COMMENTS

- There needs to be more space for dropping off, picking up, and waiting.
- There were a lot of suggestions for a connected library and computer room.
- Flexible classrooms should be able to combine into one large classroom. This could also be used as a multipurpose room for slightly larger events, such as film screenings, lectures, and presentations.
- Spaces where privacy is needed should be set apart from areas that will draw a lot of activity and foot traffic.
- There needs to be enough space to hang out and mingle, including a dedicated space for teens.
- If the roof had shade or an enclosure, it could be a flexible space for multiple uses such as special events, parent yoga classes, teen activities, etc.
- Staff offices and workspaces should be distributed on every floor.
- Participants also suggested that there should be a basement that can be used as a general storage area.

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Activity 1: A day in the life in the East Harlem Center

Youth

- Most common activities are sports and recreation, learning, and mingling
- While they do some waiting between activities, they often go straight into programs after being dropped off

Parents

- Most time spent dropping off/picking up, hanging out, and at gatherings/special events
- Most participate in a lot of activities in a single visit, but do not spend much time waiting
- Mingling happens between many different activities

Staff

- Spend a lot of time in every activity except for sports
- Mingling mostly happens at the beginning or end of their work day
- Need to be able to get help with challenges before and after many different activities

Community Members

- All have been to a gathering or special event when they visit the center, and usually partake in other activities before
- Mostly spend time mingling or at a gathering or special event
- Don't spend much time waiting

Activity 2: Build your own East Harlem Center

Top choices for each space:

ROOFTOP

- Playground
- Other suggestions: pool, greenhouse, dance studio,
- teen room, playground for older students, flexible outdoor space with shade

FIFTH FLOOR

- 2-4 flex classrooms
- Staff offices
- Art room
- Other suggestions: teen lounge, reset room, pool, library, STEAM lab, mental health /dentist

FOURTH FLOOR

- 2-4 flex classrooms
- Staff offices
- Dance/music/drama room
- Other suggestions: computer room, flex classroom for games or STEAM, counseling rooms, medical clinic, staff lounge, kitchen

THIRD FLOOR

- 1-2 flex classrooms
- Staff offices
- Computer room/library
- Other suggestions: art room, kitchen, counseling rooms, comfy couch room, crying room, teen lounge, conference room, gym

SECOND FLOOR

- **Early Childhood Classrooms required on Second Floor**
- 2-4 flex classrooms
- Staff offices
- Art room
- Other suggestions: teen lounge, reset room, pool, library, STEAM lab, mental health /dentist

FIRST FLOOR

- **Gym required on First Floor**
- 4 Early Childhood classrooms
- Staff offices
- Other suggestions: family room, early childhood playground, lactation room, playroom, kitchen

OUTDOOR AREA

- Playground
- BBQ and picnic area
- Rock climbing
- Other suggestions: garden, sports activities area

For more information, contact: eastharlem@childrensaid.nyc