

EAST HARLEM CENTER PARTICIPATORY DESIGN MEETING #2: REPORT

JUNE 18, 2018

Children's Aid continued to work with the East Harlem community to envision the future East Harlem Center at a public workshop on June 18. Over the course of two hours, we focused on the programs and services that the East Harlem community wants to prioritize in the new building. 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 community workshop is the second of three public workshops that Children's Aid will hold throughout the summer. Children's Aid also held two focus groups for parents on June 6.

Upcoming workshops



What the day looked like

- Welcome, introduction, and framing
- Entrance Activity: Prioritize spaces and programs
- Discussion of factors to consider, trade-offs, and the construction timeline
- Activity 1: Values – Why I come to the East Harlem Center
- Activity 2: Trade-Offs – Program your own East Harlem Center
- Wrap up + Next steps



Languages spoken:

- English
- Spanish



Who attended?

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

June 6 Parent Focus Groups

What we heard

- Keep staff because they have built relationships with families and children
- Create programming and services that will allow students to grow within the center - not outgrow the space
- Create events for staff, parents, and community to interact
- Provide support to keep up with modern technology
- Create a safe and beautiful space
- Provide resources and support for mental health and substance abuse issues

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Key Takeaways

General Comments

- Provide support and programming for families – it will enable children to take advantage of the programs.
- Create programming that is connected – for example: job readiness and financial literacy.
- Offer critical educational support, recreation programming, mental health resources, and job preparedness that position youth for lifelong success.

Activity 1: Why do I come to the East Harlem Center?

Priority reasons:

- Family Support
- Academic Excellence
- Community

Activity 2: Trade-Offs – Program your own East Harlem Center

Service priorities for each program area:

Early childhood

- Workshops for parents
- 3rd teacher in classrooms
- Family advocacy

After-school and summer camp

- Open recreation
- Go!Healthy/Nutrition
- Arts & crafts

Teens

- Youth employment
- Literacy
- Scholarships

Adult, parent, and community

- Programming for immigrant families
- Family life and sex ed workshops
- Adult basic computer classes

Health and wellness

- Substance abuse counseling
- Mental health/therapeutic counseling
- Onsite health clinic

For more information, contact: eastharlem@childrensaid.nyc