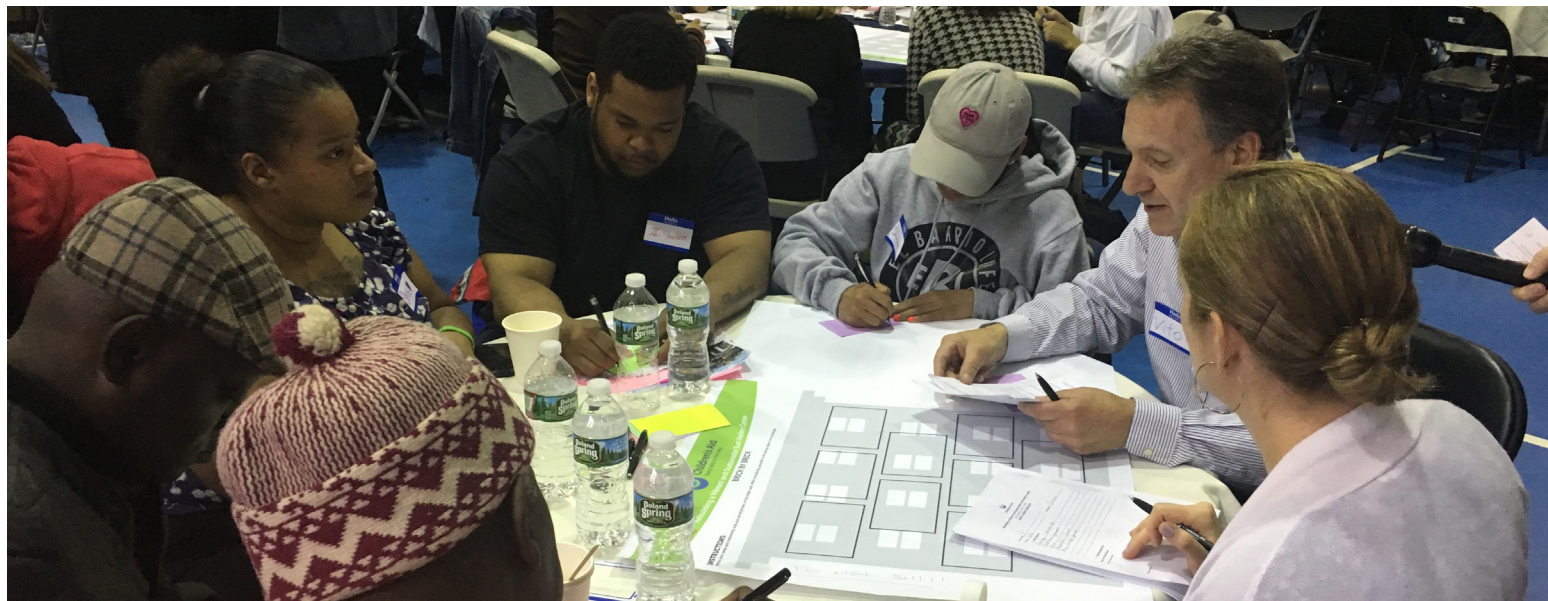


EAST HARLEM CENTER PARTICIPATORY DESIGN MEETING #1: REPORT

MAY 12, 2018

OVERVIEW



Children's Aid values its partnership with the East Harlem community and recognizes the critical role that the East Harlem Center plays in the lives of local residents. Therefore, Children's Aid is engaging the community in a series of workshops to garner input into the East Harlem Center rebuild plan and to ensure open communication with the local community moving forward. At the first workshop on May 12, Children's Aid staff worked with more than 60 East Harlem Center staff, participants and their families, local elected officials, and other key stakeholders over the course of three hours to share information about their redevelopment plans and to gather ideas for the programming and design of the new building. Children's Aid will hold two additional workshops during the summer to share information as it develops and to gather additional community ideas for the new center.

The meeting began with a presentation on key activities to date related to the East Harlem Center rebuild plan. Participants were then able to provide input into the rebuild plan in small group activities. In the first activity, they introduced themselves and chose one word or phrase they would like to see reflected in the new center. In the second activity, they talked about what they love about the current center, and they imagined what current programs should be brought back and what new programs should be created. In the final activity, they reviewed the community engagement plan and provided input on the process. There was a report back after the second activity, and at the end of the meeting, representatives from each group shared their big takeaways with the rest of participants.

MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome, introduction, and ground rules
- Activity 1: Introductions
- Activity 2: Your center priorities
- Activity 3: Overview of the engagement plan
- Wrap up + Next steps

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
- East Harlem Center Staff
- Children's Aid President & CEO, board members and central staff

Languages Spoken:



- English
- Spanish
- American Sign Language (ASL)

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Key Takeaways

General

- Overall, people felt that the discussion in small groups was productive and made it easier to feel heard.
- Publicly share summaries after every workshop and focus group so that the public can stay informed.
- Make sure local business owners, churches, fire department, and other community institutions are included in outreach efforts.
- Continue to reassure the community that the East Harlem Center will be rebuilt

Programming/Design Input:

- After-school, early childhood, arts and cultural programming and recreational activities are essential.
- Increase education on technology.
- Create programs to support family health and mental wellbeing.
- There is a need for public/open space in the new center to take the place of the basketball court that was sold.

Input on Engagement Process

- Produce a discussion summary after every meeting and focus group and make sure the community has access to it
- Conduct outreach to ensure different community institutions provide input, such as the police, fire department, health centers, religious groups, schools, and businesses.
- Make sure meetings last at least 1-2 hours
- Move youth focus group closer to the beginning of the process
- Schedule meetings early in the morning, after picking up kids, or on the weekends
- Provide childcare and food for kids at meetings
- Hold a focus group for deaf and hard of hearing

EAST HARLEM CENTER PARTICIPATORY DESIGN MEETING #1: REPORT

MAY 12, 2018

Programming People Love

GENERAL YOUTH PROGRAMMING



Early childhood programming for kids from 0-5 years old

After-school education and tutoring

Summer programs

Keystone (teen leadership) program

Summer youth employment

EDUCATION



Technology and STEM programs

College bound program

Scholarship programs

Support for immigrant parents such as GED, computer classes, ESL, job readiness

COMMUNITY



Fun events like BBQs and block parties

ARTS



Graphic design and other visual arts

Drumming

Performing arts

HEALTH



Indoor and outdoor recreation

Nutrition

Mental health support

Programming People Need

GENERAL YOUTH PROGRAMMING



Internship program for teens

EDUCATION



Financial literacy for all ages

HEALTH



Fitness program for youth and seniors

Onsite clinic with full health services for children

Pre-diabetes testing

Drug and alcohol counseling



Spaces people love

- Rooftop space
- Basketball courts
- Playground
- Community closet – revolving clothing collection for families in need
- Music Studio
- STEM Lab
- Kitchen
- Bathrooms

Spaces people need

- New gym
- Auditorium
- Dedicated space for teens
- Music room
- Computer lab
- Community garden
- Space for community partners so they can contribute to programming and services
- Solar panels
- Elevators

EAST HARLEM CENTER PARTICIPATORY DESIGN MEETING #1: REPORT

MAY 12, 2018

STAY INVOLVED to help Children's Aid design a new East Harlem Center!

Share your priorities about programs and spaces that will help kids learn, grow, and lead in the new center.

SAVE THE DATES!

MONDAY **June 18th** Programs
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY **July 18th** Space and Design
6:30pm - 8:30pm

SATURDAY **September 8th** **Community
Celebration!**
11am - 1pm
Release of Report

For more information, contact:
eastharlem@childrensaid.nyc