

ENY Community Center:

Re-imagining Public Safety

Project Brief

HESTERST

**DC
DESIGN**

MAY 2021

DRAFT V9

THE EAST NEW YORK COMMUNITY CENTER (THE CENTER)

The East New York Community Center (the Center) offers an opportunity to re-imagine public safety in eastern Brooklyn - to center the voices of Brownsville, Cypress Hills and East New York residents in determining the vision of a safer, healthier, more just future.

HESTER STREET (HST)

Hester Street (HST), a non-profit with several years of experience working in the neighborhood, works with communities in the design and development of new buildings, programs and policies to address the root causes of inequity and injustice.



THE EAST NEW YORK COMMUNITY CENTER (THE CENTER)

Currently operated by the NYPD, the Center is located at 127 Pennsylvania Avenue at the corner of Liberty Avenue, right on top of the Liberty Ave C train station and on the border of Cypress Hills, East New York and Brownsville. Newly renovated in 2016, the building houses classrooms, a computer lab, fitness center, dance studio, music room, indoor basketball courts and counseling space.

We'll work closely with local community-based organizations, service providers, libraries, senior centers, schools and small businesses to think big about the ways the Center can engage and inspire neighborhood youth, support a generative, supportive and collaborative relationship between police and community, and advance an innovative model of community-led safety and justice.

Community engagement findings will form the foundation of an innovative, integrated and actionable set of recommendations that address community needs and priorities and advance equity, justice and social resilience. Those recommendations will inform a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a non-profit that will run the Center and its programs in the future.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WORK TO:



Engage community members in a transparent, inclusive and participatory process



Better understand the relationship between the NYPD and the surrounding communities - including opportunities and pain points



Identify the kinds of programs, services and community spaces community residents most want and need;



Explore ways in which the Center can help build mutual trust and respect, increase safety in Brownsville, Cypress Hills and East New York, and minimize violence, killings and excessive use of force;



Advance Community Priorities and a transformative vision of public safety;

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to develop a bold, actionable plan that lays out a clear path to implementation and sets the tone for an innovative vision of community and youth development, public safety and NYPD/ community relations.

OUR TIMELINE



KEY PARTNERS

Center for Court Innovation
Brownsville Community Justice Center
Youth Design Center
Arts East New York
Cypress Hills LDC
Brooklyn Public Library
Green City Force
East New York Farms
!Community Board 5
Councilmember Barron
Councilmember Diaz
Councilmember Ampry-Samuel

OUR TEAM

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ABOUT HESTER STREET

Hester Street deploys urban planning, design and development expertise to support community-led change, so that cities are shaped by the people. We are a mission-driven non-profit and we work closely with community-based organizations, public and private agencies to advance community-driven planning and policymaking and equitable community development. We focus on low-income communities and communities of color – people and places that historically and systematically have been left out of decision-making. Our vision is for a racially, socially, and economically just, vibrant and resilient world.