

Central NStat Working Group #3 - Physical Space

April 5, 2021 - 4-6pm

Notetaker: Patrice

NStat [Playbook](#) with more information on all the amazing work completed by NStat teams can be found here: <https://map.cityofnewyork.us/publications/>. NSI can also support residents in receiving a printed copy of the playbook. The NYCHA's Connected Communities [Guidebook](#) addresses urban design issues at NYCHA campuses.

Physical Space Jamboard - Issue #3 Play + Recreation

- *Breakout Group #1 Safety + Group #2 Health notes are also included in this jamboard.*
- Issue: There are not enough safe, clean and accessible green and open spaces for multi-generations of NYCHA residents to relax and play. Existing spaces are underutilized due to cleanliness, lack of programming and poor lighting and maintenance.
- Solutions
 - The Ingersoll b-ball court was a success in engagement and activation!
 - The Castle Hill Court/Patterson Gardens (asset forfeiture funding)
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 - Community gardens at Patterson Houses - Eric Murray reports less garbage being thrown out of the window where he keeps a garden.
 - Earth Day events in the garden in partnership with local businesses. Some events include cleaning up public spaces and painting benches in Castle Hill.
 - Hosting recurring events that use affordable resources and don't require much in terms of physical space to successfully host for/with residents. (Erin Johnson, Green City Force)
 - *Beautification is a great way to combat sanitary issues like trash and rodent infestation.*
- Obstacles
 - Communication barrier between Association President + the body. Van Dyke was able to overcome this obstacle (Alaire Cappell).
 - Outdated play areas
 - Ongoing maintenance of current playgrounds
 - Overly complicated processes.
 - Lack of understanding in approval process for space activation at NYCHA
- What do you want to see happen? What are new ideas?
 - Community Local Action:
 - Prioritizing community outreach is really important work. The opinion of residents is key to a positive outcome.
 - Include sharing with residents about existing frameworks of what can be done and how to do it.

- Tap into local business owners for support and continue investment from key community stakeholders.
- Easier permitting process to get resident ideas realized.
- Advocate for increased funding to provide for resident engagement throughout the capital funding/project process.
 - Challenges are the time required and complication of legal agreements and approvals. If it's something new, it can require additional maintenance. Sometimes, if you have money for capital improvement, you don't have funding for engagement or activation or vice versa (Delma Palma)
- Agency Action:
 - Expedite the approval process.
 - NYC Parks has Partnership for Parks + Green Thumb. What would it look like to get Connect Communities staffed with folks that do community engagement support for a variety of stewardship groups, capital projects, etc.
 - Ted Enoch, Partnerships for Parks: will support with this effort - provide technical support etc. We can identify public parks directly bordering NYCHA developments. When both agencies support NYCHA, the positive impacts are clear and this cross-sector partnership can accomplish our goals through this process and NStat Working Group.
 - There's also an existing partnership between GreenThumb and some NYCHA community gardens - but there's limitations on which gardens they can support, and how many - not broadscale partnership on greenspace.
 - Another partnership between NYCHA and New York Restoration Project (another community gardens nonprofit)