



<https://www.communityfund.nyc/fromrootstoarts>

### **Bushwick Houses | Site Summary**

**Grand Street Settlement, Inc.**: The settlement house model came to New York when the city was at critical mass. In 1916, Grand St. Settlement opened its doors, creating a community that would transcend place and time. Their goal is to empower people, support families, and encourage community members to advocate for themselves and others.

**Location:** Bushwick Hylan Community Center, [50 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206](#).

**Existing Programs** include early childhood, kids after school activities and youth evening activities, senior programs, and support for individuals with families. Some neighboring organizations include The Wick, Los Sures, and Office of Neighborhood Safety resident team.

**Facilities:** Kitchen, game room, clubhouse coordinator space, STEM lab, workout room, open gym with auditorium stage, senior space, and several classrooms. *The residency dedicated space is flexible and will be decided through consultation with the site partner.*

**Site Background & Resident Feedback:** Bushwick Houses were developed in the early 1960s. The community is home to over 2,500 residents residing in eight buildings. The population is composed primarily of Hispanic and African-Americans residents.

PHCF and partners engaged residents in surveying and community brainstorming. Bushwick Houses residents identifies the following areas of interest:

- Visual arts,
- Dance, and
- Music

Residents noted that art programming should take place in and outside the community center ie. building entrance/lobby and play spaces. Some community needs mentioned include youth programming and safety. Other considerations for art programming include creating something new or innovative, and making use of existing resources.

Other notable interests included architecture/design, creative technology, film/photography, performance/theater, spoken word, sculpture/site installation. Community needs also mentioned included Health & Wellness, Education and employment services, intergenerational programs, older adult/senior support, community safety, and environmental justice.

Words to describe art include: *alive, comfortable, content, creative, free, good, welcoming, feel good about their neighbor, happy, inspired, involved, to be known, love, proud, safe, and whole.*

Some noted takeaways from the event:

- The art should be inside buildings.
- More art for children to stop bullying.
- Partnering with artbridge (past experience).
- Art should reflect the neighborhood, cultures, and nationalities.
- Grounds are bland, need color and inspiration.
- Can be a mix of mediums, visual art and music.
- Flower art + flower beds.
- Community center as a safe haven, art should be in the central area.
- Art should be vibrant, on grounds/walls outside.
- Fashion and clothing, graffiti.
- Artwork on basketball court + playgrounds.
- Art inspiration like inside the "F" Train.
- Ancestral, cultural art.

