



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

King Towers | Site Summary

SCAN-Harbor Founded in 1977, SCAN-Harbor is a non-profit youth and family service organization that provides a variety of integrated support to the highest risk children and families of Harlem, East Harlem and the South Bronx. With programs as diverse as early childhood education, substance abuse treatment, violence prevention, performing arts, literacy programs, LGBTQ support, after school activities and events, employment skills training, and youth leadership, SCAN-Harbor's positive approach builds on individual, family, and group strengths.

Location: King Towers Community Center, [2 W 115th St, New York, NY 10026](#).

Existing Programs include after school activities and youth evening activities, senior programs, and parent/family support. Other programs include karate, kitchen demonstrations, double dutch/hula hoop, podcasting, heavy lifting, sound engineering, sewing machine, printer/plotter, youth council, art room, "Big park" socials, and rooms are "a canvas at night".

Facilities: Kitchen, classrooms, art room, game room, music/audio studio, weight room, large convening spaces, and two floors with elevator. Some partnering organizations include New York Junior League, Good Shepherd, and Children Village. SCAN-Harbor also hosts its Get Healthy East Harlem program, promoting health habits from its participants. *The residency dedicated space is flexible and will be decided through consultation with the site partner. For now, the artist can be stationed in a classroom.*

Site Background & Resident Feedback: King Towers Houses was developed in the early 1950s. It currently has over 2800 residents across 10 buildings. The population is composed primarily of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian resident populations. The site boasts large play spaces ie. basketball courts. Residents are engaged with the center, primarily more seniors than youth. Notable figures from the development include fashion and music locals like Got the Scouts, Mike Unseen, and Nail the Gang, and more. It is also known for its basketball history, King Dome basketball courts similar to Rucker Park/And 1 era. The community has always been engaged with building its own culture. An important example of that engagement comes from the renaming of the center itself, from the formerly titled Foster Center. To honor Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., an effort was spearheaded by the community of residents who live in and around King Towers to use his name for their home.

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

- Visual arts,
- Fashion, and
- Performance

Residents noted that art programming can take place outside the community center in different outdoor areas, ie. play and under-utilized space as well as the community center. Some community needs mentioned include youth programming, health and wellness, and community safety. Other historical references included Harlem history, the birth of salsa, and deep fashion roots. *Other considerations for art programming include creating something new or innovative, and making use of existing resources.

Other notable interests included dance, painting, and film/photography. Community needs also mentioned include food justice, intergenerational programming, environmental justice, parental/family programs, and outdoor beautification.

Words to describe art include: *connection, able to tell a story, alive, happy, cheerful, peace, awesome, beautiful, better, calm, celebrated, cultural, empowered, good, great, gucci, safe, inspired, hopeful, important, vibrant, amazing, uplifted, aware, involved, not alone, loved, serene, creative, chill, free, wanted (belonging), warm, welcoming.*

Some takeaways from the event:

- Sound engineering*
- Affirmations on posts/plaques throughout neighborhood*
- Mixed cultural art (all races)*
- Sketching, making squishies, origami*
- Focus on queer citizens and what they've been through*
- Focus on mental health and disabled neighbors*
- Show that not all people in our neighborhood are violent*

