



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

### **Richmond Terrace Houses | Site Summary**

The [Jewish Community Center of Staten Island](#) was founded in 1929 with the goal of creating a home for the Jewish community by offering social, recreational, and educational activities. Over time, that mission expanded to help anyone who walked through the doors of any of our facilities. The JCC has become a true community center—not just for the Jewish community, but for the entirety of Staten Island. The JCC of Staten Island is dedicated to encouraging harmony throughout the community by providing facilities and programs that are open to all.

**Location:** Richmond Terrace Community Center, [71 Jersey St, Staten Island, NY 10301](#).

**Existing Programs** provide year-round out of school time activities, evening and weekend programming for youth ages 5 to 21 and programs for adults 22+, including seniors. We also offer 8-week summer camp programs, including weekends. There is a youth council and advisory board with strong parent involvement.

**Facilities:** Computer lab, large outdoor basketball courts, dance room, kitchen, cafeteria, exercise room, open/game space, teacher/staff lounge with lockers, and music room.

Some neighboring organizations include Distinguished Gentlemen and Sister to Sister. *The residency dedicated space is flexible and will be decided through consultation with the site partner. For now, the artist can be stationed in various rooms or open spaces.*

**Site Background & Resident Feedback:** Richmond Terrace Houses was developed in the early 1950s. It currently has over a 1000 residents across 6 buildings. The population is composed primarily of African-American and Hispanic resident populations. The site boasts a large outdoor basketball court. It will also have a multi-purpose/flex space upgrade by Snohetta in the coming months with retractable walls, sound proofing, and one-sided window for privacy.

Notable figures from the development include Dominique Ealy (WPL), Mac Wilds, Nigel Wyac, and Charles Fall and more. They have created a wellness space/library named after Marina Alvarez, a distinguished resident to remember her legacy. Certain activities and events included a Black History month live museum, solar system artwork themes, [outdoor gardening](#), and a competition to decorate the center doors.

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

- Dance,
- Painting, and
- Visual arts

Residents noted that art programming can take place in and outside the community center in different play spaces (playground, basketball court). \*\*Some community needs mentioned include youth programming, health and wellness, and education and employment services. Other considerations for art programming include creating something new or innovative, and making use of existing resources.

Other notable interests included music, performance/theater, creative technology, sculpture/site installations, architecture/design, film/photography. Other community needs include older/senior support, food and environmental justice, transportation assistance, community safety, parents/family, outdoor beautification.

Words to describe art include: *calm, ecstatic, educated, excited, inspired, cultivate talent and ideas, happy, good to be a part of it, open minded, powerful, relaxed, seen and heard, welcomed, like there is hope.*

Some takeaways from the event:

- Music, dance*
- Pool + game day, water events*
- Family games + sports outside*
- Food multicultural festival*
- Interactive music chimes, sculptures*
- Performing arts, dance performances, public art displays*
- Pull cultural items to make sculpture/art piece*
- Bring about mental health and wealth awareness*
- Ways to express and release emotions through dance and music*
- Public garden*
- Plant knowledge and care*
- Grow things and use for food event*
- Video games, coding/creative technology, game design, video games/sports*
- Musical installments, participatory music piece*
- Art/painting, pottery*
- self-defense classes*
- magic class, theater*

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