

# City of Albany Community Center Feasibility and Location Study



ALBANY

for all.

Powered by Pride & Potential

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Powered by  SurveyMonkey®

# West Hill Community Center Needs Assessment Community Outreach & Information Collection Process

## Part I.

- Focus Group Meeting #1 - w. neighbors including members of the West Hill/West End Steering Committee and Arbor Hill neighborhood association
- Focus Group Meeting #2 – w. elected officials from the West Hill/Arbor Hill neighborhoods

## Part II.

- Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Visit to Phillip Schuyler Elementary School
  - Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00pm @ Swinburne Park
- Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00-1:30pm @ Black Lives Matter Park
- Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> Albany Victory Garden (579 Clinton Avenue)



# Surveys Collected

**165 Responses to the Survey Monkey**

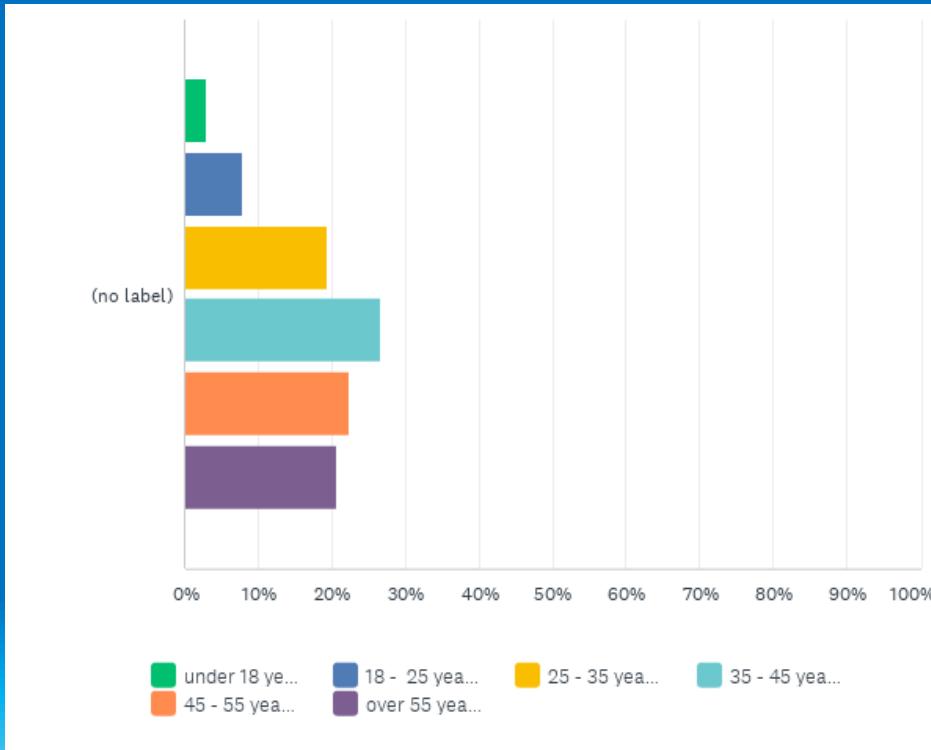
**36 Responses to the Paper survey**

**Total: 201 Surveys Collected**



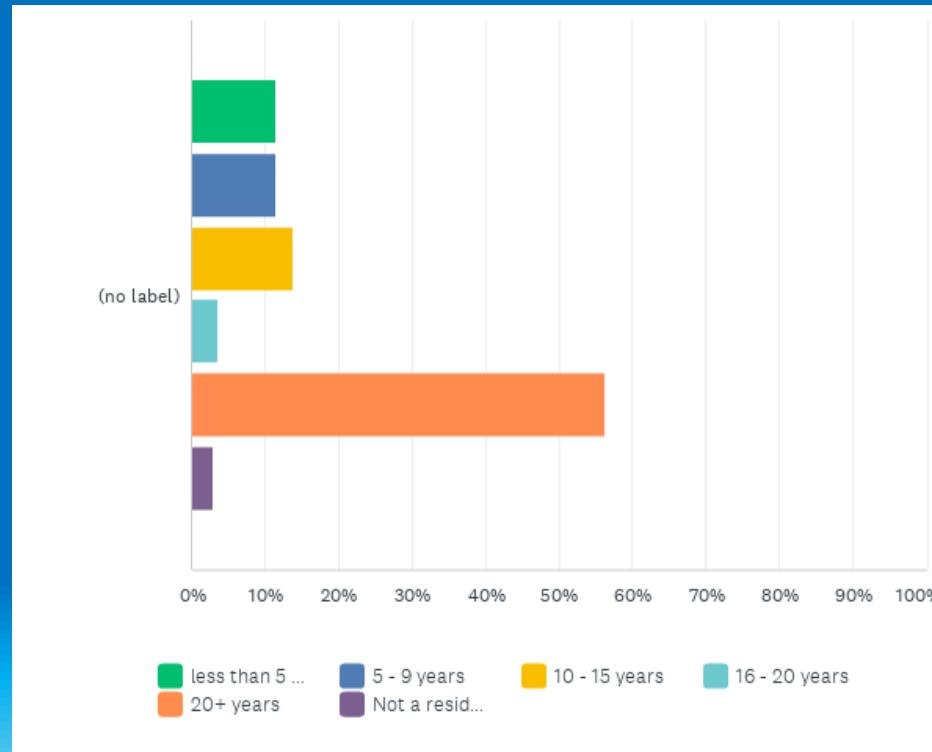
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# Q1: Please indicate your age range?

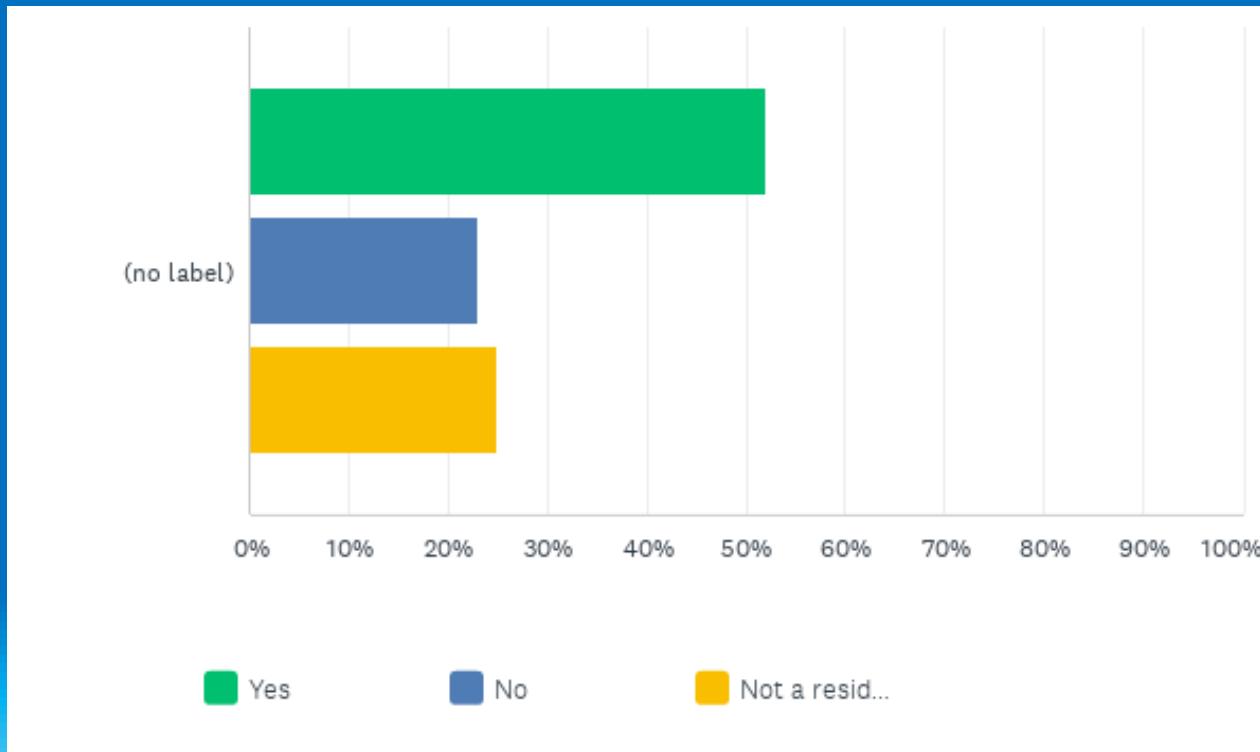


Answered: 165 Skipped: 0

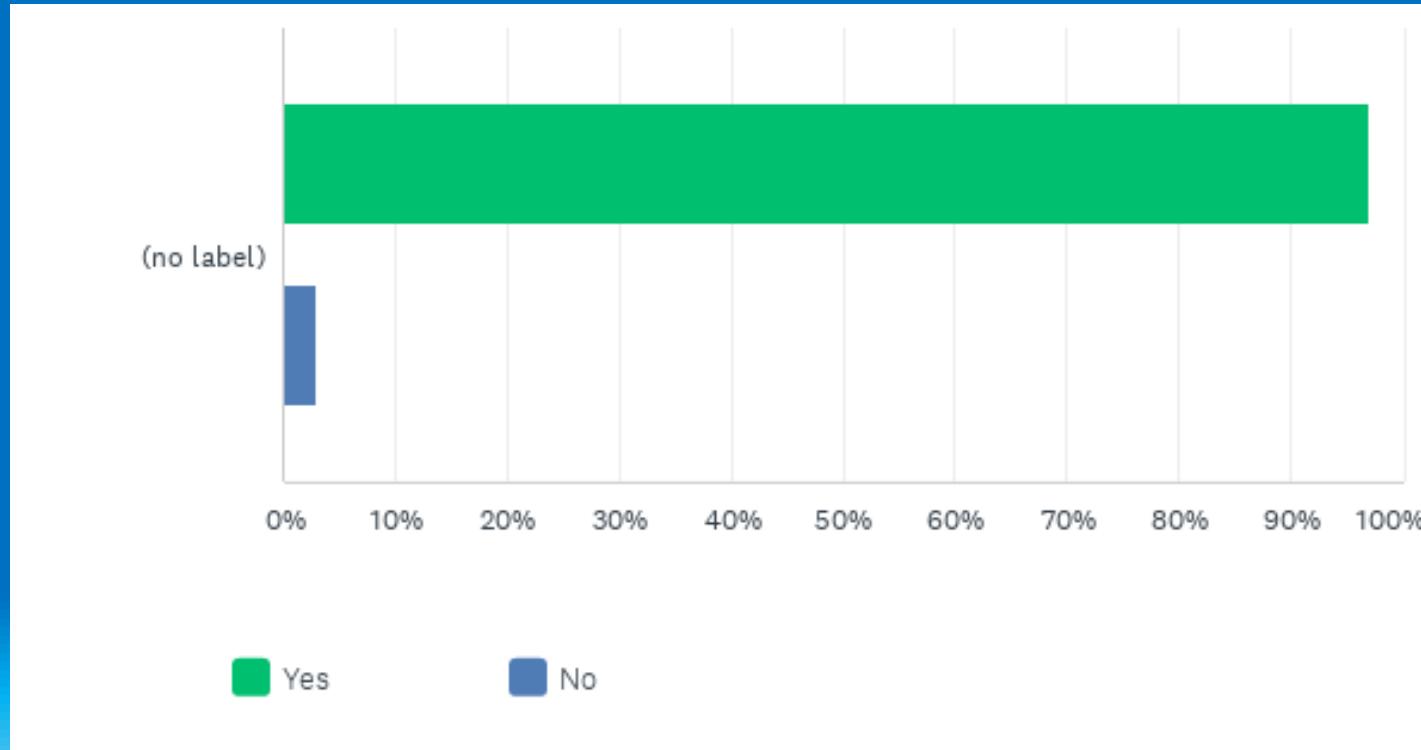
## Q2: How long have you been a resident of the City of Albany?



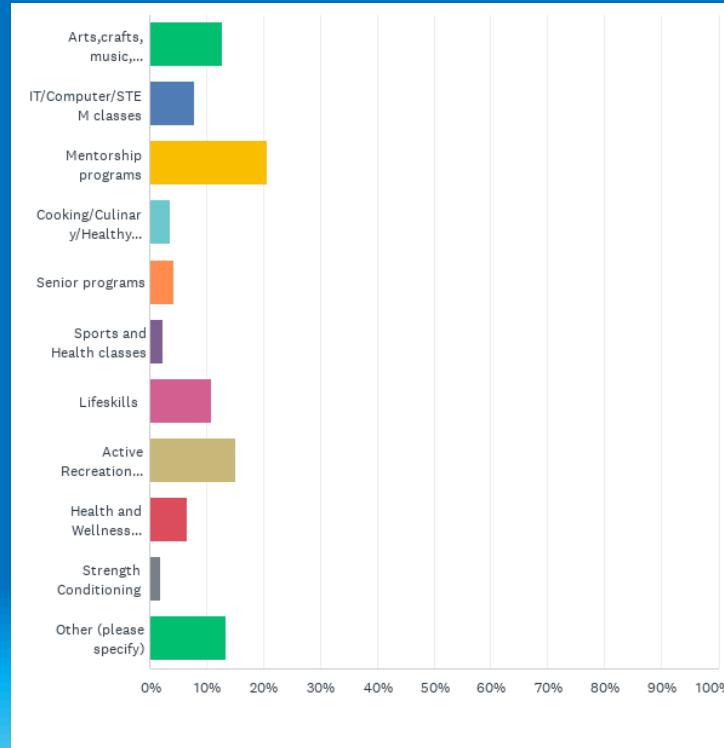
### Q3: Do you live within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany?



## Q4: Do you support the need for a Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany?

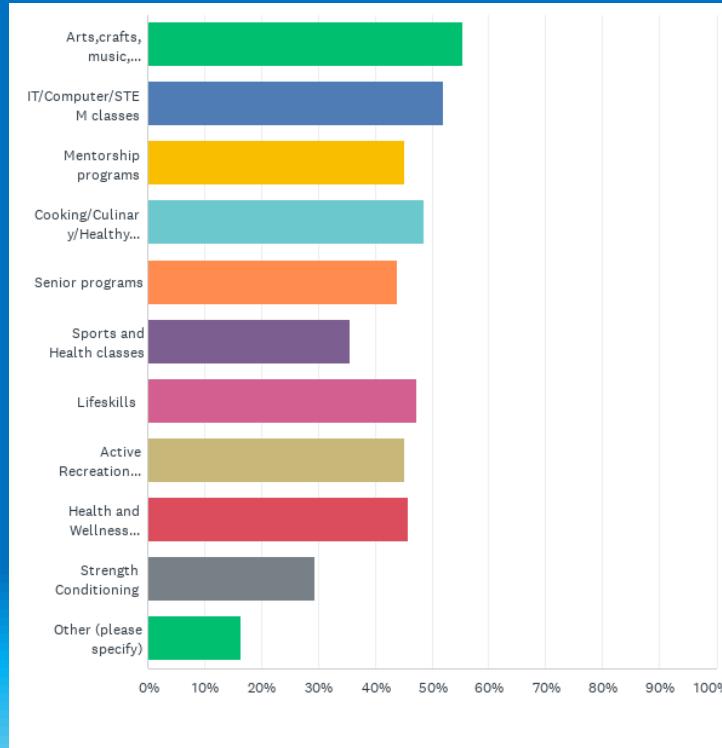


## Q5: What additional activities and programs do you feel is most important to be offered at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany? (Choose one)



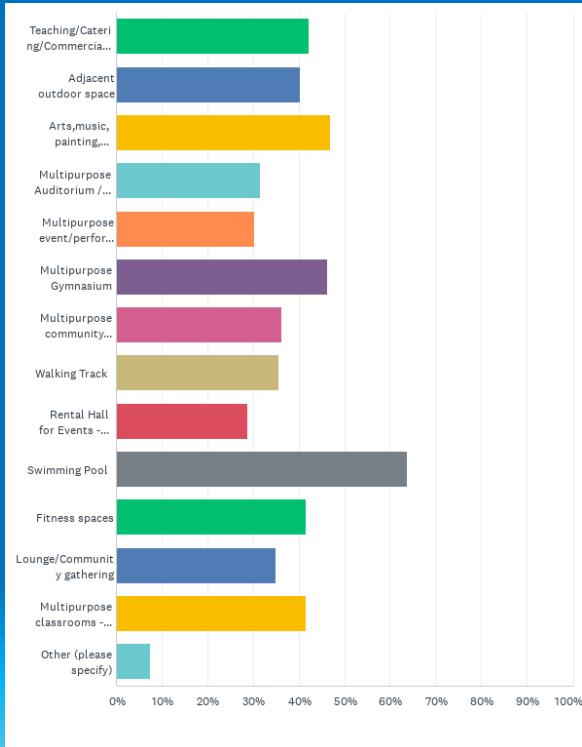
Answered: 164 Skipped: 1

# Q6: What additional activities and programs do you feel should be offered at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany? (Choose all that apply)

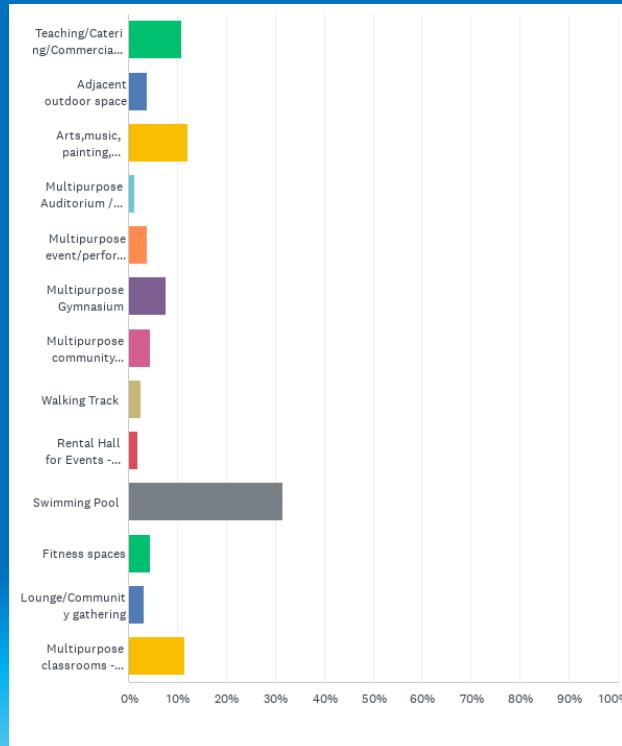


Answered: 146 Skipped: 19

# Q7: What new amenities or spaces are the most important to be provided at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany? (Please select all that apply)



# Q8: What new amenities or spaces would you like to see provided at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany? (Please select top choice)



# Q9: What new amenities or spaces would you like to see provided at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany? (Please select top choice)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Teaching/Catering/Commercial Kitchen	10.97%	17
Adjacent outdoor space	3.87%	6
Arts, music, painting, design, etc. classroom space	12.26%	19
Multipurpose Auditorium / Portable stage	1.29%	2
Multipurpose event/performance space	3.87%	6
Multipurpose Gymnasium	7.74%	12
Multipurpose community meeting rooms	4.52%	7
Walking Track	2.58%	4
Rental Hall for Events - Dividable	1.94%	3
Swimming Pool	31.61%	49
Fitness spaces	4.52%	7
Lounge/Community gathering	3.23%	5
Multipurpose classrooms - IT, etc	11.61%	18
TOTAL		155

# Q9: Do you have any suggestions for locations for a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood of the City of Albany?

## RESPONSES

Bleeker Stadium

Perhaps tear down some blogs on upper Clinton Ave for both center and pool

Yes. An architectural parcel of land located at the Tivoli Lake Preserve, near Livingston Avenue and Judson Street.

Henry Johnson blvd or Clinton ave between quail and North Lake

Bleeker Stadium or Tivoli Lake

lark st by Edmund O'Neil school

Allocate some of Bleeker Park near the skating rink.

No

Walkable for the greatest number of residents.

Walkable for the greatest number of residents.

I just want to emphasize the impact that swimming pools have on decreasing the rate of crime in a neighborhood. While we have Lincoln Park pool, we need as many as possible in order to give people a place to cool down on hot days as well as giving residents a place to enjoy their time without having to leave the city. It may sound oversimplified, but research shows that criminal activity drops drastically with the presence of a pool and/or prayer pole placed in a community.

No

Near a bus stop and on Clinton or Livingston

Community center on lark st Old YMCA Washington Ave Boys and girls club Delaware Ave Old St Vincent's center Madison ave Old family service center Ontario St All Libraries

Livingston Ave between quail and partridge/Ontario. Over where bleeker stadium is.

Make sure there are paid professionals as well as volunteers

Where the park is on Livingston and North lake, or across from Arbor Hill elementary by ballpark. Sunburn Park the side opposite of park

Since the YMCA closed all of the indoor pools, there are none in Albany, the capital of New York. Please consider this option, for swimming is very beneficial for healing many types of illnesses suffered in our community. Thank you.

No fee entry everyone should be able to come

No

I don't believe there should be a community center unless the community and neighborhoods can commit to keeping it up example: cleanliness, behavior, and not somewhere to drop your kids off. So there needs to be security and supervision especially for kids under a certain age.

Somewhere where there is a police station or close to supervision

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## City of Albany Community Center Feasibility and Location Study

I'm not sure what spaces are available but incorporating Tivoli Park is a must

No

Underutilized (and often locked to the public ) fields at Swinburne park. If not there, then truly in the center of WEST HILL. Robin and Elk street area have warehouses. That area of robin and elk. Or north lake between Clinton and central. Swinburne is not the "heart" of west hill, but I give it priority only because it would be nice to build upon and enhance the assets there (spray pad, fields, ice skating). Otherwise the robin area between Clinton and central is where it should go.

Unsure

No

Rooms that can be Utilized for our youth to learn new skills, trades or monthly Discussions about life .

THERE SHOULD BE OUTDOOR MEET GREETS, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

Yes nit sure if someone owns the space by HOPE HOUSES on Livingston Ave between Quail and Ontario

A area where uptown and downtown area can go.

It should be located on a bus line so seniors can use it

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# Q10: Who are the key partners and stakeholders in the community with regards to assisting with the plans and programs at a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood

## Refugee Welcome Center

Honest Weight Coop, Maybe Crisafulli Heating and Plumbing, Perhaps Stewart's, Maybe American Glass, since these are all businesses in West Hill.

Those already established partners and stakeholders that actively demonstrate commitment to assessed needs of West Hill residents.

The City of Albany and residents and advocates with experience in west hill

Veterans Administration and Veterans Organizations

518 snug KeyBank city of Albany

Snug and Albany Land Bank

The actual people who live there. The rest of us really don't know what is needed.

The actual people who live there. The rest of us really don't know what is needed.

I run the Albany Art Room and since covid, have discontinued my children's programming. I would be happy to help set up an art space in a new community center and volunteer some time to manage it

School principals, religious leaders

City of Albany

Schools, ward leader, City of Albany rec department, community group organizers

Residents Schools/colleges Law enforcement Banks/financial institutions Religious/places of worship City, State, County

Educators, small business owners,

The community

Tenants and hard working citizens that want better for there community. Not just people who agrees on it.

Stewarts and Price chopper are good community partners

## Our Councilmembers

The residents who live in the area.

Business and financial industry partners to ensure resources for programming, local school leaders, community leaders of diverse backgrounds, mental health professionals, local multi-denominational faith based leaders

Needs to be led by Black people who are connected to youth in the community.

Residents, especially the youth, community orgs that could provide programs like attain lab,

Residents, neighborhood associations, nonprofit leaders

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region would be a great partner; Albany County DCYF; Albany Public Library

Acting with Aaron: performing arts company

The gun violence

Land Trust, Land Bank, SNUG, Churches, Colleges (Internships)

Families, educators, mental health providers

# Q11: What are the key issues and values that the City of Albany needs to consider for a new Community Center within the West Hill neighborhood

Meeting the needs for the majority. Thinking about what would be completed in a suburban area. Top of the line amenities. Physical health opportunities for like time activities such as tennis, pickle ball, badminton and full indoor walking track. Lap pool with classes for learn to swim and exercise pool classes. Fitness center. Most important is opportunities for the pre-teens and teenagers all the way to young adults (25 years old).

Properly staffed with trained professionals. Transportation for those with limitations. Safety/security Plans to generate revenue

Respect

The children are very bored in this community there isn't much for them to do. I feel that this should be a sanctuary for our youth of all ages. Our community has a huge mental health problem nobody is acknowledging an anger management or grief group should also be included.

Daily shootings , safe space for kids rather then streets

No violence intended, having fun & peace. And just being kind to one another.

Kids need to have something to look forward to other than the corner also make more progress with stop the violence

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## City of Albany Community Center Feasibility and Location Study

Instilling neighborhood pride, equity and anti-racism, behavioral health and coaching

Unknown

The events / classes/ trainings have to coincide with provided childcare. Planning should be led by residents and uplift Black and Immigrant voices . The perception on lack of safety is almost more impactful than actual violence. Parents fear letting their kids walk in this neighborhood and police have not been able to change that perception so other strategies need to be employed.

The lack of recreational space. Children are playing in the road.

A safe place for children and seniors to participate in the community.

Presence of safe & secure community spaces. Convenient access to structured activities. Services aimed at engaging the entire family unit. Youth-focused opportunities.

Youth and community

Co-locate the Center with other services; Police, Fire, EMS!

safety, accessible

Safety

A need for STEM scholars coming from our community. Also the kids love music. They need a place to perfect their craft

Decreasing crime and homelessness.

accessibility for disabled people

The importance of more families being proficient to swim. Giving classes to adults and kids alike and targeting populations that have historically been excluded from swimming proficiency.

The voices of the people. See #10.

The voices of the people. See #10.

Access to harm reduction resources and addressing food deserts.

Ask local residents what they want-in a non electronic way and in multiple languages.

A place for Everyone to be part of. Young to old. Diversified

# Q12: Please prioritize your top items the City of Albany should address regarding a Community Center

Sports space  
Pool  
Roller skate at bleeker stadium now please  
New construction of a suitable-size structure/building  
Youth  
Law Enforcement  
safety  
Sports  
Big enough space  
STEM programs  
Safe environment  
Arts and Music  
Swimming pool  
GED and community college on site  
GED and community college on site  
Community space for youth to spend time and possibly attend some groups training or classes  
Local input  
All inclusive  
Youth/values/credit  
Health/wellness/fitness/sports  
Location  
Event and performance space  
Indoor pool  
No gun violence

Physical Health & Nutrition  
Blight  
It serves the community in providing opportunities for self improvement  
West Hill Resident lead  
Safety for neighborhoods  
Youth  
Pool for adult lap swimming times  
Suitable rooms for Teaching life skills  
Large Gymnasium space at least 2 courts  
Safety  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS LIKE, COOKING, SELF CARE, ETC AND FINANCES FOR THE YOUTH 10 YRS-29 YRS  
Gym  
SAFETY  
Safety from gun violence  
Security  
Safe place for the youth to keep them out the streets.  
Health and wellness  
Health and wellness  
Getting teenagers a safe space to hang out

# Q13: Other comments/suggestions/feedback

Also consider the loss of an active West End Little League in the early 80's. Likewise, Closing of Boy's & Girl's Club on Livingston Ave. after swimming pool death of a child.	6
You need to engage community leadership with experience in the Area	6
Will ALL the other "Communities" get their OWN Community Center?	6
We also should consider where we could place public restrooms with staff to have oversight of how long a person is in there to provide a space for people to use the restroom but also to prevent overdoses.	6
A center that is safe for all at all hours of the day and weekends	6
The elderly need to be considered but with the state of violence in Albany, children ages 11-25 need a variety of activities they can find a passion for and a reason to "do the right thing". They have to be shown options. There has to be more than the streets. Right now the streets offer the "Most opportunity" and not a positive one. Help give our children and young adults hope!	6
Get the word out and get all stakeholders involved. Educate the residents in the process to bring this to reality. Don't have the political machine make decisions without the residents. Make sure people of color are at the table and not just there for ribbon cutting. Develop streams of revenue that can be turned over and invested in the community.	6
The kids definately need this to get them off the streets and prevent these kids from joining gangs and live productive lives	6
Nothing else	6
I appreciate the effort and hope there'll be a great outcome from. Because we definitely need change in Albany Uptown, mid-town, and downtown. But it's a start!	6
Would like for the community to have a place and things to do.	6
This is a great idea, the more programs ordered, the better	6

Answered: 38 Skipped: 127

# Break Out Group Assignment

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## *Part I. (20 minutes)*

**Use the programs, activities, spaces, and amenities listed in the needs assessment survey to assign one of the two sticky note colors to the respective item.**

- Blue Sticky Note – if an activity, program, or amenity needs its own/standalone space 100% of the time (ie: a daycare center or health clinic)
- Yellow Sticky Note – if an activity, program, or amenity can share space (ie: multipurpose gym)

# Breakout Group Assignment

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## *Part II. Discussion (30 minutes):*

After completing the sticky note portion of the breakout assignment, one volunteer/designee from each table shall provide a brief overview and description about the services that exist among the representatives at your table