COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS

Broadening Perspectives & Increasing Off-Campus Connectivity
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Principal, Project Director
01 Strong University, Strong Community
02 The Homewood Community
03 Bridging Communities with a Physical Building
04 What We Have Learned
Summarize the goals and guiding principles of community engagement center initiatives & describe how these initiatives benefit the student, the institution, and the community.

Describe the challenges of working with the community in an off-campus student location.

Develop a building program that supports the university’s vision while also designing for community ownership, resources, and participation.

Engage stakeholders in the planning and design process to determine the right location, design flexibility, and technology integration for the building.
Strong University, Strong Communities
Strong University
Strong Communities
Strong Communities, A Stronger University

Long-Term Commitment to Neighborhoods

Shaped and led by a network of collaborators

Grounded by a front door to Pitt
Putting our Teaching, Research, & Capacity-Building Programs at the Service of our Community
Outcomes

- Build Capacity
- Improve Quality of Life
- Relevant Research
- Better Partner
02
Homewood
Homewood Stats

- Median Household income: $21,593
- Residents under the age of 18: 29%
- Residents under the age of 18 living in poverty: 66%
Homewood Stats

Home to three Pittsburgh Public Schools:
- Pittsburgh Faison (K-5)
- Pittsburgh Lincoln (PreK-5)
- Westinghouse Academy (6-12)

Homewood Children’s Village
18.6% Unemployment rate, which is double that of the city of Pittsburgh

73% Number of Occupied Housing Units

27% Number of Vacant Housing Units

45% Number of Owner-Occupied

55% Number of Renter-Occupied
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Family Income in Below Poverty Level</th>
<th>Family Income in at or above poverty level</th>
<th>Population under 18 living in poverty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homewood</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
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03
BRIDGING
Communities with a Physical Building
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wellness Tutoring</th>
<th>Two Dental Bays</th>
<th>Two classrooms</th>
<th>Open Collaboration space</th>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Physical Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Physical Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Coffee Shop</td>
<td>Food Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vital Statistics kiosks</td>
<td>Youth Services</td>
<td>Business Institute of Entrepreneurial Excellence</td>
<td>Legal Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert Space</td>
<td>Family Services</td>
<td>Energy Management</td>
<td>Dormitory for 20 college intern students</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Art Display</td>
<td>Gross Planning Area SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>34,944</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Vetting the Concept

Program Created by University Planners
Very Specific Needs without Overlap
Shared Internally
Vetting the Concept

Rationalizing the relationship of the program pieces
Vetting the Concept

What types of buildings would be available?
Vetting the Concept

Visualization of space & scale
Challenges with Off-Campus Student Location

- Bus Lines
- Bikes
Existing Building

Vacant Grocery Story

10,000 sq. ft.
Showcase Local Art
Community Space
Open
Welcoming
Friendly

CULTURE
The Experience

PLACE
Community Engagement Center

NATURE
The Context
Bright
Natural Light
Flexible
Open Doors
Visual Connection
Floor to Ceiling Glass

ECONOMY
The Use
Meeting Space
Engage neighborhood
Community Events
Expose kids to S+T
Supports university programs

PlaceMapping
Engaged the stakeholders & community
Established project goals & aspirations
COLOR PALETTE

Architectural Design Inspiration
Contextual Design Inspiration

Local Artist
Culturally Significant
Accessible
EXTERIOR PALETTE
Brick, Stone, Glass, Wood, Metal, Art, Color

PROPOSED FRONT FACADE

EXISTING FRONT FACADE

Elevation Design Inspiration
Connection to Neighborhood
Creating a Front Door
Incorporating Art
Proposed Elevation
Designing for Flexibility

1. Cafe Workspace
2. Multi-purpose classrooms
3. Fly-in Offices/Hoteling
4. Medium Sized Conference Rooms
5. Art Gallery
Designing for Flexibility

1. Lab/Makerspace
2. Messy Classroom
3. Computer Lab
4. Art Gallery
Fly-in Offices/Hoteling
Phase Two Proposed Exterior
What We Have Learned
122
Faculty & Staff inquiring about engaging their work in Homewood or the Hill

125
Community stakeholders inquiring about collaborating with Pitt

107
Planning and Collaboration meetings facilitated by CEC staff

19
Community Presentations

51
Department & Units doing work through the CECs

CEC Stats
July - February
What we have learned in the first 5 months of operation

1. Creating reasons for people to come to the space is important.
2. Pitt isn’t the answer for everything.
3. Being knowledgeable of existing community assets is key.
4. Until you’re known and/or have a regular participant base, co-sponsoring events with community groups is really important!