

# OUR STEPS

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Our first steps towards action consisted of forming conversations with community organizations and influential stakeholders for the 48214 area. So far we have had discussions with MACC Development, Eastside Community Network, Detroit Prep Academy, the Mikki Godfrey from the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, as well as District 5 Managers Melia Howard and Zavia Ferguson. These conversations led to our series of 2021 events where we engaged local Detroiters, 48214 neighbors, and community members to contribute feedback on the development of a new early childhood center on the eastside of the city. Zina Davis, Executive Director of Children of the Rising Sun, was also present throughout these events to engage with parents of young children and neighbors.

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	
Saturday, 3/20/21	IFF-MACC Free Laundry Day + Community Engagement	
Monday, 7/19/21	IFF Walk-up Community Engagement: Series #1	
Monday 7/26/21	IFF Walk-up Community Engagement: Series #2	
Monday, 8/2/21	IFF Walk-up Community Engagement: Series #3	

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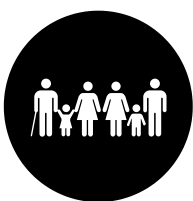
# WHAT WE'VE HEARD

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In efforts to facilitate meaningful engagement, we asked two specific questions.

1. What elements are important to you in a high quality early learning center?
2. What other types of amenities could be potentially incorporated into the site that would benefit the neighborhood?

Below are feedback items shared and contributed from a diverse group of neighbors and community stakeholders on the eastside of Detroit. To honor their individual feedback, all responses were recorded in this summary report along with our plan to action.



## 01 — Safety and Extended Access

Stakeholders have suggested that we have a secured site followed with ample parking and 24 hour surveillance, as it allows providing services (child care) at much later times throughout the day and weekends due to the variety in parent's schedules.

*With childcare, safety is always a top priority and the center will take all steps to create a secure facility.*



## 02 — Space for Extra-Curricular Activities

Due to the variance in the age demographic, stakeholders suggested that we have space that other younger and older residents could both use.

*A community garden will be used to allow both the students as well as surrounding community residents access to fresh food.*



## 03 — Quality Employment/Volunteer Programs

Members of the community would like to ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to be involved in the success of the childcare center and that kids are receiving quality care.

*Children of the Rising Sun prides itself on having high quality staff and will implement a senior educator program.*



## 04 — Connecting Arts with Nature

Stakeholders would like to see the formerly blighted area be enriched with examples of biodiversity, art murals and structures. This aesthetic shift will also improve the physical connection that residents have with the surrounding space.

*A key element of the program and building design is connecting with nature and bringing the outdoors in.*



## 05 — Extension of Social Services

To fully utilize the space provided on the site, stakeholders would like to see on-site social/health services provided to residents.

*The building design incorporates a large multi-purpose room that can be utilized for public events. Giving the neighborhood a community hub.*



**+200**

**Flyers Distributed**

**+90**

**Sandwiches Distributed**

**+110**

**Handshakes with our  
Neighbors**

**4**

**Events**

