



# Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Darrell Clarke  
City Council President  
City Hall, Room 490  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke,

This letter is in response to questions raised by Councilmembers during the FY23 Council Budget Hearings scheduled for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. At the hearing, the following questions were asked:

- **Council President: What have you done to make the Discovery Center more inclusive to the adjacent neighborhood? Provide the demographics of attendees and of attendees of private events. Is there money generated from these events?**

Following Council President's Discovery Center questions during the FY22 Council Budget Hearing, PPR leadership had several meetings with Discovery Center leadership. Based on those conversations, the Discovery Center outlined and planned for additional steps around programs and engagement efforts - more information can be found in a June 2021 letter the Discovery Center sent to the Council President's office. Additional information on efforts, since then, listed below:

- The Discovery Center extended visitor hours during the May – October season to 10am to 7pm on Tuesday to Saturday and on Sunday from 12pm to 5pm. These extended hours made possible through the allocation of Parks & Recreation seasonal staff.
- They added regular Saturday programming specifically marketed to near neighbors, including canoeing, rock wall, zip line, and bird watching.
- They added signage at the walkway entrance so near neighbors are aware of programs and activities.
- A Community Engagement Committee of approximately 20 near neighbors, including Council President staff member Sharla Russell, has been meeting to help define and oversee community programs; the Committee is responsible for The Discovery Center's financial support of local events (i.e., Strawberry Mansion Day and Recovery Idol).
- The Board of Directors of the East Park Leadership and Conservation Center (EPLACC), The Discovery Center's governing body, expanded in February 2021 to include two more community representatives. The Strawberry Mansion community now has three seats on the Board – alongside three from Outward Bound and three from Audubon.
- More neighborhood specific programs for Strawberry Mansion residents such as Outward Bound created neighborhood canoe programs that ran every other Saturday. As well as "Reunion at the Reservoir" family event attracted 125 Strawberry Mansion residents of all ages, who enjoyed a BBQ dinner, tours of the site and music. Residents created lanterns on which they wrote or drew what the reservoir meant to them. Residents were also asked to give their feedback on the preliminary access and site improvements that designers from Studio Zwede have created based upon community input received. More information on free programming can be found at: <https://www.discoveryphila.org/calendar-of-events>



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- Children from neighborhood day camps--including PAL, Project Home and Mander Rec Center—frequently visited The Discovery Center. Audubon staff provide programming for the children. Mander's camp visits every Friday.
  - Nearby zip codes get a discount on space rentals, ranging from \$20/hr to \$75/hr, or free use of the space and are the majority of the people renting The Discovery Center for private events such as baby showers, birthday parties, family reunions, and other celebrations. More details can be found here: <https://www.discoveryphila.org/neighbor-rentals>. To date over 160 community groups have used meeting rooms free of charge.
  - More information on space use/rentals and public programming can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/12WJMm\\_hnTr4RC8iRyEuoWw5o3fNd0nbJbe9dqi7noFQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12WJMm_hnTr4RC8iRyEuoWw5o3fNd0nbJbe9dqi7noFQ/edit?usp=sharing)
  - To date, Philadelphia Outward Bound School has served 3,160 students – most of them Philadelphia public and charter school students – at The Discovery Center; Outward Bound hired an Associate Director of Community Engagement and a roster of 12+ youth-serving nonprofits in North Philadelphia now comprise a significant portion of the audience. To date, Audubon has engaged 1,790 participants in educational programs at the site, including public programs co-presented with Outward Bound.
  - Two Strawberry Mansion residents are employed at The Discovery Center. In addition, the Discovery Center is a training site for PowerCorps crews, and we sponsor two fellows for on-the-job work experience year-round.
- **CM Gilmore-Richardson: Send us a list of what you need for the urban agriculture and tree plan to implement recommendations.**

Please see below.

- Philly Tree Plan: \$1,809,828
  - Class 100 \$978,778 (including 18 FTEs)
  - Class 200 \$689,450
  - Class 300 \$18,700
  - Class 400 \$122,900
- Urban Agriculture Plan: \$290,980
  - Class 100 \$256,590 (including 3 FTEs)
  - Class 200 \$390
  - Class 300 \$29,500
  - Class 400 \$4,500
- **CM Gauthier: How many rec centers have three full time staff members, how many have two, and how many have just one? How many are filled and vacant? Can you identify what neighborhoods these are in?**
  - 49 rec centers have three full time staff members
  - 10 rec centers have two full-time staff
  - 16 rec centers have two full time staff with the support of one part time staff member
  - 37 rec centers have one full time staff member with the support of a part-time staff members



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- 11 rec centers have only one full time staff member.

Attachment A includes rec centers and their corresponding zip codes.

Please contact my office for further information.

Thank you,

Kathryn Ott Lovell  
Commissioner  
Parks and Recreation

## Appendix A

Zip Code	3 Full Time Staff	Zip Code	2 Full Time Staff	Zip Code	2 Full Time Staff/1 Part Time Staff	Zip Code	1 Full Time Staff/1 Part Time Staff	Zip Code	1 Full Time Staff
19111	Fox Chase	19136	Ramp	19116	Boyle	19154	Fitzpatrick	19114	Mitchell
19152	Pelbano	19124	Mcllvaine	19154	Chalfont	19116	Gifford	19135	Dorsey
19136	Pennypack EEC	19126	Sturgis	19154	Junod	19115	Hayes	19144	Wister
19111	Jardel	19127	Venice Island	19154	Picariello	19114	Jacob	19121	Amos
19136	Mayfair	19121	Mander	19111	Tarken	19115	Lackman	19140	Jerome Brown
19135	Disston	19104	Lee	19144	Happy Hollow	19135	American Legion	19122	8th and Diamond
19135	Vogt	19139	West Mill Creek	19129	McDevitt	19149	Lower Mayfair	19104	Miles Mack
19111	Lawncrest	19131	Conestoga	19138	Awbury	19135	Roosevelt	19130	Clemente
19149	Max Myers	19142	James Finnegan	19144	Mallery	19136	Holmesburg	19142	MCCreesh
19120	Feltonville	19147	Hawthorne	19125	Fishtown	19126	Morris Estate	19139	Sayre
19124	Houseman			19124	Gambrel	19120	Cherashore	19153	Eastwick
19140	Hunting Park			19125	Cione	19124	Piccoli		
19124	Simpson			19130	Lloyd Hall	19120	Zeihler		
19138	Belfield			19147	Capitolo	19124	Ferko		
19150	Emmanuel			19122	Towey	19128	Houston		
19150	Finley			19147	Shot Tower	19119	Mount Airy		
19128	Hillside					19124	Carmella		
19128	Kendrick					19133	12th/Cambria		
19138	Lonnie Young					19140	Schmidt		
19142	Simons					19133	Nelson		
19118	Watertower					19122	Penrose		
19144	Waterview					19130	Francisville		
19118	Wissahickon EEC					19131	Parkside		
19137	Bridesburg					19139	Laura Sims		
19134	Cohox					19143	48th/Woodland		
19134	Samuel					19139	Mill Creek		
19125	Shissler					19151	Papa		
19134	McVeigh					19151	Tustin		
19134	Scanlon					19145	Barry		
19132	CB Moore					19146	Chew		
19121	Gathers					19153	Cibotti		
19121	ML King					19145	Smith		
19129	Gustine					19145	DiSilvestro		
19121	Athletic					19122	Cruz		
19146	Marian Anderson					19122	Hancock		
19104	Wright					19122	Dendy		
19146	Markward					19123	East Poplar		

19143	Christy								
19139	Cobbs								
19139	Cobbs EEC								
19143	Myers								
19131	Shepard								
19145	Guerin								
19148	East Passyunk								
19147	Colombus Square								
19123	Northern Liberties								
19148	Murphy								
19147	Palumbo								
19147	Rizzo								