
CIVC 101 – WEEK 5/6





REVIEW:



What is civic engagement?

What are relationship and social change? How are they connected to engagement?

What is identity? Why is it important for engagement?

TODAY WE TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY

Community is...

- A group of people who have shared characteristics related to identity (age, race, ethnicity, etc.), location (neighborhood, city, state, country, etc.), social standing/status (college student, police officers, etc.)
- A sense of belonging with others, which is often a result of sharing the above characteristics

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

In small groups, answer:

- What communities do you identify with right now?
- What makes you feel like part of a community?
- Do you consider yourself part of the West Philadelphia community? Why or why not?
- What responsibilities do you feel come along with being part of a community?

A community center at 35th and Hamilton announced in early 2019 that they were shutting down. This center provided services to the West Philly community such as after-school programs, adult education programs, and more. Drexel plans to buy the building and they are not sure what they are going to do with it. You will be separated into different community groups to discuss how your community would approach this situation.

COMMUNITY SIMULATION ACTIVITY

1. West Philly Residents
2. Drexel Administrators
3. Real Estate Developers
4. Drexel Students

COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. What is your community's relationship to this situation? What is at stake for you? (If you're not sure, what information would you need to answer this question?)
2. Will it be easy or difficult to get what you want? What tools are at your disposal to get what you want?
3. What identities and positionalities of people in your community might affect how they view this situation?
4. Choose another community represented here to approach about this situation - who would it be and what would you say?

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS

CONSIDERATIONS:

- COMMUNITIES ARE NOT MONOLITHS
- COMMUNITIES ARE NOT STAGNANT
- COMMUNITIES ARE NOT EVERYTHING, BUT THEY DO SOMETIMES DETERMINE HOW SOCIETY AND SYSTEMS TREAT YOU

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Drexel Purchases West Philadelphia Community Center to Expand Community Partnerships and Programming



By: Niki Gianakaris

August 1, 2018

Four years after the Dana and David Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships opened its doors to the Powelton and Mantua communities, Drexel University announced plans to expand the programming offered to the community with the purchase in June 2018 of the West Philadelphia Community Center.

The West Philadelphia Community Center (WPCC) is a two-story, 37,000-square-foot facility at 3512 Haverford Avenue. Caring People Alliance (CPA) owned and operated the space but will be relocating to another facility. Recognizing the importance of WPCC's facilities for the community, Drexel purchased the site in June. The current programs by Caring People Alliance will continue at the WPCC for another year, while the University works with local residents to determine how the facility can best address



Dana and David Dornsife, Drexel President John Fry, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, Lucy Kerman, senior vice provost for University and Community Partnerships, members of the Lindy family and the community mark the opening of the Dornsife Center with a ribbon-cutting.

[HTTPS://DREXEL.EDU/NOW/ARCHIVE/2018/AUGUST/DREXEL-PURCHASES-WEST-PHILADEPHIA-COMMUNITY-CENTER/](https://drexel.edu/now/archive/2018/august/drexel-purchases-west-philadelphia-community-center/)

DREXEL'S COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

University Community Partnerships – administrative department:

- Lindy Center (services for student/staff/faculty to be engaged)
- Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships (services for West Philadelphia neighbors to capitalize on Drexel assets)
 - Helms Academy
 - Beachell Open Lab
- Workforce development and local economic initiatives
- Promise Neighborhoods (federal grant to boost assets in a designated Promise Zone)

Anything else you know of?

DREXEL'S COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

“Anchor institution”:


enterprises such as universities and hospitals that are rooted in their local communities by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, and vendors.

as place-based entities that control vast economic, human, intellectual, and institutional resources, anchor institutions have the potential to bring crucial, and measurable, benefits to local children, families, and communities.

(Democracy Collaborative)



Term-Long Project Dates:

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- Social Issue and Proposal (1pg) - 5pts
 - DUE End of Week 4
 - Completion of proximity/engagement action, knowledge activity, and a paragraph summary (1pg) - 10pts
 - DUE End of Week 8
 - Attending Group Meeting - 5pts
 - DURING Week 9
 - Reflection Paper - 10pts
 - DUE End of Finals Week

NEXT MEETING:

Systems – what forces exist that affect how individuals and communities are treated, valued, and served?