

Tab 1

Reviving Campus Life: The Case for a New Student Hub at The City College of New York



Fig. 1: The current Student Center at CCNY

11/10/2025

Group 6-7

Fahad, Tasnim, Yair Jimenez, Michael Duran

Introduction

We are set up for failure. The City College of New York is widely regarded as one of the most affordable yet promising colleges in New York City. Surrounded by other exceptional educational institutions such as NYU, Columbia, and other great colleges/universities, it is obvious yet unacceptable that student life here at CCNY is nowhere near as superb as at other institutions. Regardless of the educational institution, every student deserves the opportunity to be part of a community and to have amenities that make their academic journey memorable. The current student center is simply not capable of providing such an experience; thus, we propose a new student center that not only makes student life exceptional but also allows us to compete with other institutions.

After hours of rigorous academic activities, every student deserves a break, a place to just relax, or an environment that provides a break from schoolwork. The primary justification is the current state of student life: a recent survey found zero students satisfied with the existing facility, and 15 respondents have never even visited Wingate (the current student union), as shown in Figure 2, indicating a critical failure in current campus engagement. This project directly addresses this failure by providing the infrastructure demanded by students (e.g., 63 want bigger spaces, and 55 want a better gym). By giving the students what they desire, it will significantly boost student morale and academic performance.

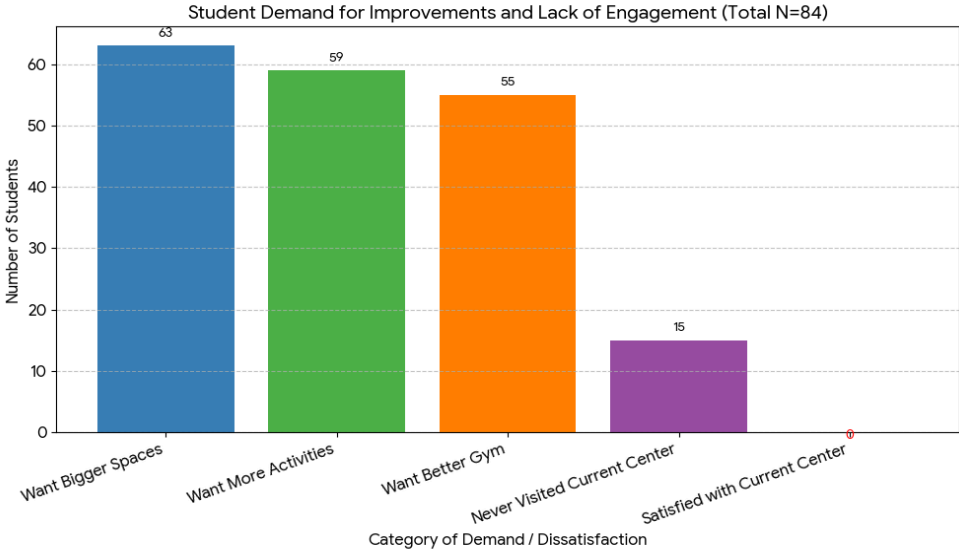


Figure 2. Survey results

According to studies done by Ohio State University and St. John's University, there is a direct relationship between academic performance and student involvement on campus outside of class. The results portray an obvious conclusion that involvement in co-curricular activities (e.g., student organizations, community service, employment) is positively related to academic performance, cognitive development, well-being, leadership, and multicultural awareness. In other words, students who engage more in campus life beyond just classes tend to have better outcomes academically and personally. How can we, the student body of CCNY, expect to outperform other colleges if we simply do not have the facilities required to boost morale, increase involvement, and build a community? For these reasons, our proposed student center must come to fruition as soon as possible in order to make sure we do not get left behind.

Action Plan

In this section, we will break down how we will achieve our goal of the new student center, City Link. City Link will be built in place of the current student center, known as Wingate Hall. Our new student union will be approximately 6000 sq ft and 4 floors with an open roof. We will feature a state-of-the-art facility that will provide students with academic, recreational, and social spaces, reflecting the college's commitment to community, innovation, and sustainability. We will separate each distinct area based on its purpose by placing them on different floors. The student center will be the main place where students gather and connect, solving a long-time issue of not having a single spot to engage with campus life. The new building will combine areas for health and wellness, studying, eating, and creative activities all in one location. It will also meet strict guidelines for saving energy and being easy for everyone to use.

Floor 1

The first floor will consist of a gym, which will cover the entire 1st floor, designed to promote student health, wellness, and community engagement. Upon entering through the main lobby, visitors are welcomed by a reception and check-in area leading into the open-concept gym space. The layout features durable synthetic flooring for safety and shock absorption, while strategically separated zones accommodate both cardio and strength training activities. Modern locker rooms provide secure storage and showers for convenience, and the building's HVAC system ensures proper ventilation and temperature regulation for large groups during peak hours. This floor's design reflects CCNY's commitment to physical well-being and inclusivity, offering an inviting and accessible fitness environment that encourages students to prioritize health alongside academics.

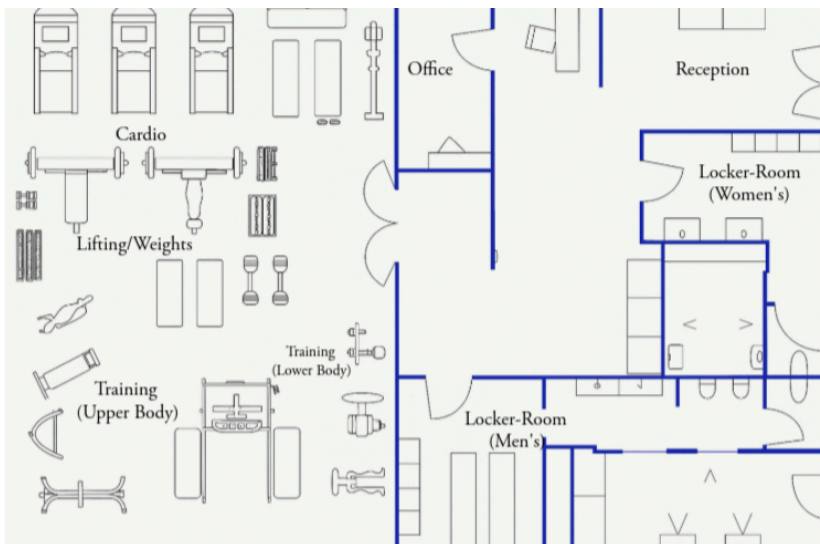


Fig. 3, Floor plan for 1st floor

Floor 2

The second floor will be a vibrant and immersive place for social gatherings and networking. The space will have a campus café like Starbucks or Dunkin' with seating and areas to charge your devices, all around a recreation area with pool tables, ping-pong tables, and a

gaming zone with big screens and cozy seating. There's also a comfortable lounge area where students can relax or chat with friends. A vending machine corner and a small computer area will be available for studying, browsing the internet, or playing games. This floor is designed to be flexible and comfortable, making it a friendly spot that brings students together for fun, relaxation, and socializing.

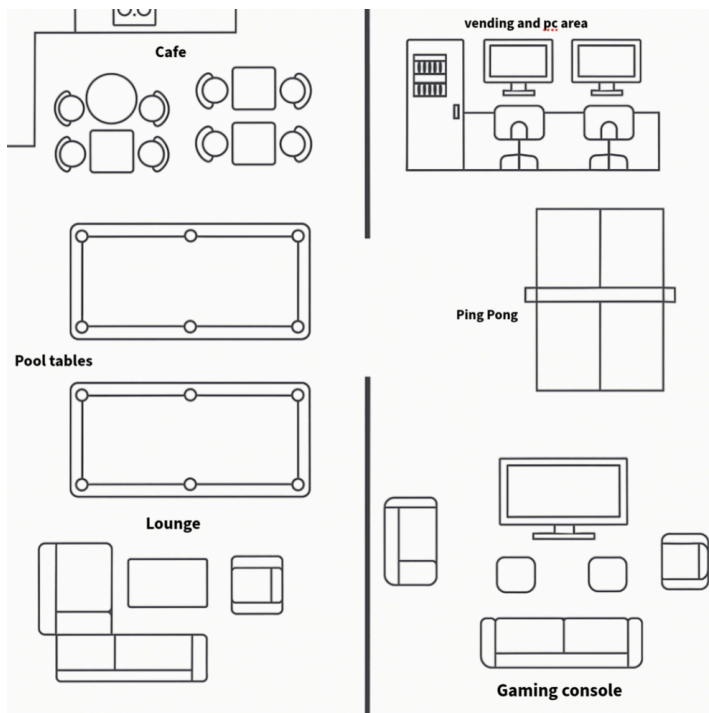
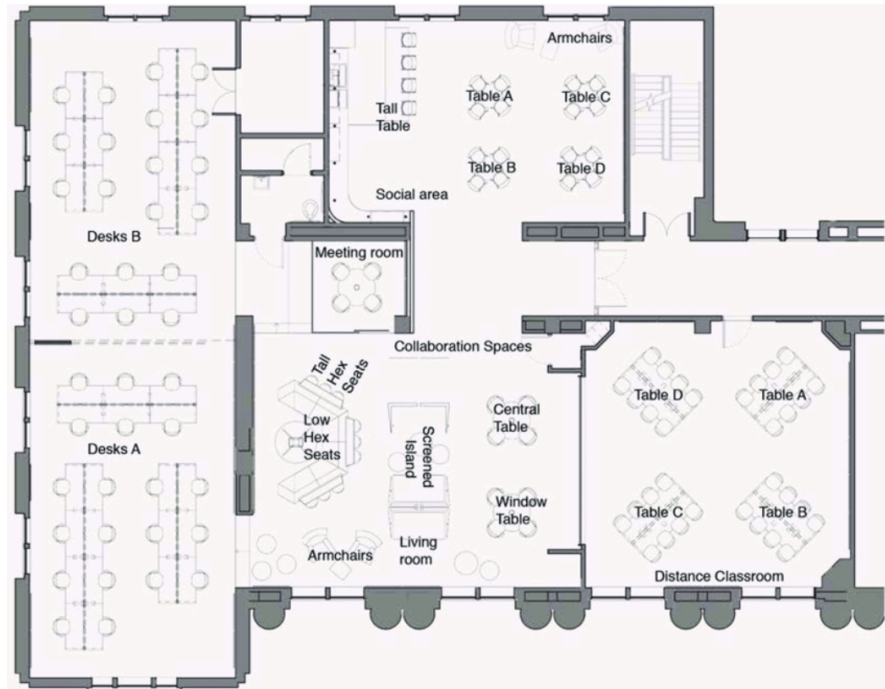


Fig. 4, Floor plan for 2nd floor

Floor 3

The third floor is designed for studying and getting things done. It has quiet areas for individual study, spaces for group work, and soundproof rooms to help students focus. There are also online learning rooms with computers, fast internet, and tools for video calls and teaching. The space has comfortable chairs, gentle lighting, and easy-to-reach power outlets to

create a peaceful and productive setting where students can learn, work together, and do well in school.



*Fig. 5, Floor plan for
3rd floor*

Floor 4

The fourth floor is designed to blend creativity with relaxation, offering both arts-and-crafts studios and an open rooftop terrace. The arts space includes worktables, washbasins, and storage cabinets for tools and materials, allowing students to paint, design, or create different projects. Next to this area, the rooftop terrace is an open space perfect for student events, performances, and social meetings, equipped with strong flooring, secure railings, and materials that can handle the weather. With city views surrounding it, this floor provides a mix of inspiration and relaxation, giving students a place to express themselves, hold activities, or take a break in a peaceful setting above the campus.



Fig. 6, Floor plan for 4th floor

All floors will incorporate energy-efficient windows, LED lighting, and smart environmental controls to minimize operational costs and environmental impact. The building's design will follow LEED Silver Certification standards to demonstrate CCNY's leadership in sustainable infrastructure.

Construction Timeline

The project will follow a five-phase construction plan over an estimated 36-month period, with each stage strategically designed to ensure safety, quality, and compliance with city codes.

Phase	Timeline	Duration	Major Activities and Deliverables
Phase 1 – Planning, Research, and Design	June 2026 – December 2026	6 months	Conduct feasibility studies, develop architectural drawings, secure NYC and CUNY permits, finalize cost estimates, and select contractors.
Phase 2 – Site Preparation and Groundbreaking	January 2027 – April 2027	4 months	Clear and level the site, relocate utilities, install underground infrastructure, and pour the foundation.
Phase 3 – Foundation and Structural Framework	May 2027 – February 2028	10 months	Complete the reinforced concrete foundation, erect the steel framework, construct walls and roof deck, and perform midpoint inspections.
Phase 4 – Exterior Enclosure and Roofing	March 2028–August 2028	6 months	Install exterior walls, glass facades, insulation, and waterproof roofing systems. Begin HVAC and electrical installations.
Phase 5 – Interior Build-Out and Systems Integration	September 2028 – May 2029	9 months	Complete interior framing and finishes, install lighting, furniture, gym and café equipment, and integrate IT systems.

Phase 6 – Final Inspection, Furnishing, and Opening	June 2029 – August 2029	3 months	Perform final safety inspections, obtain occupancy permits, furnish all floors, and host the official grand opening.
---	-------------------------	----------	--

Fig. 7, Construction Timeline

The projected construction schedule extends from summer 2026 to fall 2029, ensuring adequate time for design, construction, testing, and commissioning. The timetable below highlights key stages and deliverables.

Cost and Benefits

Nothing is free, especially a modern student center that aims to satisfy over ten thousand students. While this project represents a significant financial investment, the return on investment far outweighs the cost, making it an essential undertaking for the future of CCNY.

Item	Estimated Cost (USD)
Floor 1 – Gym and Fitness Center	
Structural build-out, reinforced slab, HVAC zoning	2.6 M – 2.8 M
High-end cardio and strength equipment	1.1 M – 1.2 M
Locker rooms (showers, plumbing, tile, drainage)	1.0 M – 1.1 M
Lighting, reception, and security systems	0.5 M – 0.6 M
Subtotal – Floor 1	5.2 M – 5.7 M
Floor 2 – Café and Recreation Lounge	
Café construction (food-service build-out, plumbing, venting)	1.5 M – 1.6 M
Pool/ping-pong tables and gaming equipment	0.3 M – 0.35 M
Lounge furniture and finishes	0.6 M – 0.7 M
Subtotal – Floor 2	2.9 M – 3.2 M

***Fig. 8, Floor 1-2
Cost breakdown***

Item	Cost (USD)
Floor 3 – Study Lounge and Online Learning Rooms	
Partition walls, soundproofing, and acoustics	0,8 M – 0,9 M
Study pods and furniture	0,6 M – 0,7 M
Technology (PCs, Wi-Fi, AV equipment)	0,5 M – 0,5 M
Lighting and HVAC adjustments for quiet zones	0,4 M – 0,4 M
Subtotal – Floor 3	2,3 M – 5,7M
Floor 4 – Arts and Rooftop Terrace	
Structural reinforcement and roof deck construction	3,0 M – 3,1 M
Arts studio fixtures (sinks, tables, storage)	0,7 M – 0,75M
Safety railings, lighting, and outdoor furniture	0,6 M – 0,65M
Landscaping and weatherproof materials	0,5 M – 0,55M
Subtotal – Floor 4	4,8 M – 5,0M
Total Estimated Project Cost (NYC Adjusted)	

Fig. 9, Floor 2-3 Cost breakdown

Benefits

With an estimated total of **\$20-25** million USD, we can finally give our students a reason, more than just classes, to be on campus for a long duration of time. The primary justification for the cost of this project is directly related to the goal of CCNY as an educational institution.

CCNY states that it is dedicated to advancing knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and cultivating creativity across disciplines. The City Link building will provide all those needs and more simply by existing. Students desire a place such as City Link, but its nonexistence affects

all students in such a negative way that it brings down overall student academic performance for CCNY as a whole.

The proposed CCNY Student Center will offer the physical and social spaces needed to support student engagement. It will include study lounges, online learning areas, recreational spaces, and creative studios, creating a well-rounded environment that promotes productivity, teamwork, and personal development. By providing these facilities, CCNY can offer a similar level of support and student experience as other top universities like NYU, Columbia, and St. John's, making the college more appealing to future students and strengthening its position in New York City's higher education scene.

While the project represents a major financial investment, the long-term return is substantial. Improved academic performance, higher retention, and increased enrollment will strengthen CCNY's reputation and standing within the CUNY system and beyond. In short, the new student center is not just an addition to the campus—it is an essential step toward elevating CCNY's academic excellence and competitiveness within New York City's higher education community.

Our Team—Team 6-7

Yair Jimenez

He brings a decade and a half of experience in education from his time as a student to the table. In middle and high school, he attended a private school. And for college, he has decided to go to CCNY, aiming for a degree in electrical engineering. He also has some work experience at a tax firm and a real estate firm. There, he gained skills to work in groups, such as collaborative and communication skills.

Tasnim Fahad

is an aircraft technician who specializes in avionics. He is currently working toward a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at The City College of New York. Fahad has a solid technical foundation, built upon hands-on experiences with the maintenance and troubleshooting of aircraft systems. He possesses all the necessary attributes for an effective problem-solver. Moreover, he functions exceptionally well in the type of fast-paced, high-pressure settings that one often finds in the aircraft industry. Lastly, Tasnim adheres to the strong safety and precision standards upon which the industry lives and dies.

Michael Duran

is a highly driven second-year student at the City College of New York (CCNY), pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering. They are seeking to leverage their technical aptitude and experience in complex, time-sensitive environments. Michael Duran has proven experience collaborating effectively within diverse groups and successfully managing intricate contractor orders under limited time constraints, ensuring critical project milestones are met efficiently.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the need for a new student union is at an all-time high, given the state of the current Wingate building construction, which should begin at the earliest possibility. From the increase in revenue and the student retention percentage to the overall improvement of student life on campus. City Link will bring forward a future in which every student can catch the break they have been deprived of.

References

Center for the Study of Student Life. (2023). *Involvement and belonging: 2023 report*. The Ohio State University.

<https://cssl.osu.edu/documents/sls23-belonging-and-involvement-report-tagged.pdf>

Center for the Study of Student Life. (n.d.). *Involvement in college matters*. The Ohio State University. <https://cssl.osu.edu/research-projects/involvement-study>

Mars, H. (2022). *The impact of participation in co-curricular activities on students' academic performance and retention* [Doctoral dissertation, St. John's University]. St. John's Scholar.

https://scholar.stjohns.edu/theses_dissertations/402/

The City College of New York. (2025). *Educating for democracy: Strategic plan 2025–2030*.

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/academicaffairs/educating-democracy-strategic-plan-2025>

The City College of New York. (n.d.). *Mission statement*.

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/about/mission>

The City College of New York. (n.d.). *Comprehensive strategic planning framework*.

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/ae/upload/CCNY-Strategic-Planning-Framework.pdf>

f