



Sanaa Center

Community
Engagement
Report

2023

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3-4
Community Engagement	5-10
• Sanaa Center Community Engagement Process	
• Community Engagement Snapshots	
01 History, Culture, Legacy	11-26
• Summary	
• Themes and Insights	
• Community Voices	
02 People, Programs and Activities	27-44
• Summary	
• Themes and Insights	
• Community Voices	
03 Building Design	45-59
• Summary	
• Community Ranking	
• Themes and Insights	
• Design Principles	
• Community Voices	
Conclusion	60-62

Executive Summary

The Black Arts District and Intersection of Change have partnered to create a new multi-million dollar arts, culture and community campus known as the Sanaa Center, a two-part development project which includes the expansion of the Harris-Marcus Center and the ground up development of a new art center.

The Sanaa Center, will create a block of arts and cultural institutions in the 1900 block of Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore, MD. The Sanaa Center will attract more people and investment to the area, serve as a local economic and cultural engine that will empower Black creatives, strengthen the Historic Pennsylvania Avenue business corridor, and bolster the arts ecosystem both in Baltimore and the surrounding region.

In order to design the Sanaa Center the Black Arts District and Intersection of Change have enlisted the support of several development partners including the Civic Group, Drummond Projects and Joltage.



Executive Summary

The Civic Group is a public-minded development firm that creates best-in-class spaces that strengthen communities, drive economic value, and beautify the built environment. Drummond Projects is a civic-minded architectural studio interested in reinforcing the relationship between people and place. Joltage is a social change design firm that champions innovative solutions to social challenges. These partners are working to gather feedback from community members and stakeholders to guide the design of the Sanaa Center.

This report outlines the community engagement process and findings related to History, Culture and Legacy; People, Program and Activities and Building Designs for the Sanaa Center. The themes and insights shared in this report are intended to guide the physical design, community programming and partnerships of the Sanaa Center. The creation of the Sanaa Center is an ongoing process and the Black Arts District and Intersection of Change will continue to engage and gather additional feedback from community members and stakeholders.



DRUMMOND PROJECTS





Community Engagement

Sanaa Center Community Engagement

The Sanaa Center community engagement process allows development partners, community members, stakeholders and users to guide the design and development of the Sanaa Center. The process seeks to bring all stakeholders into the decision making process by incorporating their knowledge, experiences and desires into the decision making related to the project. Below is an overview and snapshot of the community engagement goals, objectives, phases, strategies and engagement methods.

Goal

- Create and implement a robust, inclusive public outreach and engagement campaign that supports a collaborative, hands-on planning and design process for the development of the Sanaa Center.

Objectives

- Design a specialized, community engagement process that matches the project goals and objectives as well as community needs and desires
- Gather feedback and input from community stakeholders and constituents to inform the overall design and development of the project

Sanaa Center Community Engagement

Phases

The community engagement process is divided into four phases that will take place throughout 2023 and beyond. While each phase is distinct, the community engagement activities and deliverables overlap and extend across phases. Each phase is designed to share information and gather feedback from community members that will guide the design and development of the Sanaa Center.

- Phase 1: Stakeholder Conversations & Relationship Building (May -June 2023)
- Phase 2: Community Forums & Focus Groups (July -September 2023)
- Phase 3: Design Presentations and Feedback Sessions (September 2023 - December 2023)
- Phase 4: Relationship and Partnership Development (Ongoing)

Sanaa Center Community Engagement

Strategies

- Gather feedback from project owners, community based organizations, funders, potential users and community residents to guide the design and development of the Sanaa Center
- Build relationship with key community stakeholders in order to support the design and development process
- Guide the Sanaa Center through the successful completion of the Upton Community Development Approval Process

Engagement Methods & Activities

- *Observations*: Observe artists & users in their environment to understand their needs and desires
- *One-on-One Conversations*: Conversations with stakeholders to develop and fine tune themes, insights and design principles
- *Design Activities*: Hands on, interactive activities that allows stakeholders to identify and prioritize design elements and features.
- *Survey*: Online survey to gather feedback from stakeholders through Baltimore and DMV

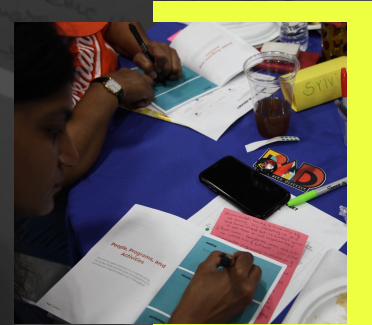
Community Engagement Snapshot

3 Community Forums

9 Community Events, Meetings & Festivals

200+ Conversations with Diverse Community Members

1200+ Data Points, Comments and Ideas



**A place for all people
in our community
and a place for
tourists and visitors.**

Community Voices



History, Culture and Legacy

The major themes that emerge from the desired history individuals would like to be recognized at the Sanaa Center illustrate a profound commitment to preserving and celebrating the rich cultural tapestry and historical significance of the community.

These themes encompass the celebration of Black history and heritage, paying tribute to icons and activists, and remembering the contributions of past performers. Recognizing cultural icons like Tupac, Billie Holiday, and Thurgood Marshall is paramount, as is fostering education and artistry while supporting emerging artists.

Cultural exchange, diversity, and inclusion are integral, with a strong focus on community engagement, archives, and storytelling. The center should seek to explore the vibrant history of Pennsylvania Avenue, from its role as a hub of Black entertainment to its musical and cultural legacy. Musical history, particularly jazz and Baltimore club music, should be celebrated alongside the significant influence of music on political activism.

The center should aim to document and showcase the artistic and cultural movements that have left their mark, including street art and the Black Arts Movement. The Center can also delve into the history of specific communities and neighborhoods, emphasizing the coexistence of diverse communities. These themes underscore the Sanaa Center's dedication to preserving and celebrating cultural, historical, and artistic diversity while promoting education, inclusivity, and community engagement.

“What historical events or facts would you like to be acknowledged in the Sanaa Center?”

Community and Neighborhood History

- Exploring the history of specific communities and neighborhoods.
- Understanding the historical significance of street names.
- Celebrating diversity and coexistence of different communities.

Cultural Icons and Celebrities

- Highlighting the contributions of well-known figures like Tupac, Billie Holiday, and Thurgood Marshall.
- Recognizing the achievements of local celebrities and artists.

Education and Artistry

- Emphasizing the importance of education and artistry in the community.
- Fostering creativity and artistic expression.
- Recognizing emerging artists and supporting their careers.

Cultural Exchange and Diversity

- Promoting cultural exchange and diversity through events like cultural movie nights.
- Celebrating the intersection of different cultures.

“What historical events or facts would you like to be acknowledged in the Sanaa Center?”

Black History and Heritage

- Celebrating and preserving the rich history and heritage of Black communities.
- Recognizing the contributions of Black musicians, activists, and cultural icons.
- Remembering past performers and paying tribute to their legacies.
- Highlighting the significance of Black Arts Movement and Juneteenth.

Pennsylvania Avenue History

- Exploring the historical significance of Pennsylvania Avenue as a hub of Black entertainment.
- Documenting the cultural and musical history of Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Showcasing landmarks and displays that represent the Avenue's history.

Musical History

- Celebrating the musical heritage of the community, including jazz and Baltimore Club Music.
- Honoring legendary musicians who performed on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Recognizing the impact of music on political activism.

Themes and Insights

HISTORY

“What historical events or facts would you like to be acknowledged in the Sanaa Center?”

Legacy and Longevity

- Honoring the legacies of longstanding cultural institutions.
- Recognizing the impact of nonviolent action during the Civil Rights era.
- Reflecting on the legacy of artists and community members.

Community Engagement and Inclusion

- Engaging the community through archives and story collection.
- Inclusion and representation of community members in the Sanaa Center narrative
- Educating newcomers about the community's context, history, and culture.
- Celebrating diversity and inviting other cultural centers to participate.

Art and Cultural Movements

- Documenting the history of graffiti/murals and street art.
- Recognizing cultural movements like the Black Arts Movement and Chitlin circuit.
- Celebrating cultural icons, such as Billie Holiday and Cab Calloway.

“



Thurgood
Marshall
was from
this
community.”

Community Voices

The cultural themes for the Sanaa Center encompass a vibrant tapestry of traditions and expressions. They emphasize the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage, both traditional African practices and evolving contemporary traditions.

Artistic expression in various forms is encouraged, alongside wellness and healing practices. Education and legacy are honored, with a focus on preserving the cultural and educational heritage of the community. Spoken word and poetry find a platform, and community engagement is promoted through events and celebrations. Fashion and style are celebrated, reflecting the community's unique creativity. Music and performance play a central role, with a wide array of genres and daily live performances. Dance culture is celebrated, recognizing its significance in the community.

The Sanaa Center should aim to be a catalyst for social justice and community development, fostering a strong sense of community and civic engagement. It proudly highlights African and Black culture's rich history and diversity, while also acknowledging and supporting LGBTQ+ and queer culture. The importance of historical and community markers is evident, with a commitment to creating new traditions and annual festivals.

Ultimately, these themes collectively weave a cultural tapestry that mirrors the heritage, traditions, and creativity of the community served by the Sanaa Center.

Themes and Insights

CULTURE

“What traditions would you like to be represented in the Sanaa Center?”

Cultural Heritage and Traditions

- Preserving and celebrating traditional cultural practices, including African traditions.
- Embracing new cultural traditions as they evolve over time.

Music and Performance

- Showcasing a wide range of musical genres, from jazz and blues to hip-hop and house music.
- Live musical performances as a daily tradition.

Dance Culture

- Celebrating Baltimore's dance culture, including dance competitions, African dance, and house music.
- Recognizing the importance of dance as an integral part of the community.

Community and Social Justice

- Using the arts and music as tools for social justice, civic engagement, and community development.
- Fostering a sense of community and civic duty.

African and Black Culture

- Emphasizing the rich cultural history of the Black and African-American population in Baltimore.
- Celebrating the diversity of Black culture.

Themes and Insights

CULTURE

“What traditions would you like to be represented in the Sanaa Center?”

LGBTQ+ and Queer Culture

- Acknowledging and supporting LGBTQ+ and queer culture in the community.
- Hosting drag shows and events celebrating Black queer culture.

Historical and Community Markers

- Recognizing historical and cultural markers in Baltimore and the Upton neighborhood.
- Creating new neighborhood traditions and annual festivals.

Artistic Expression

- Providing a space for artists, both local and international, to showcase their work.
- Encouraging artistic expression in various forms.

Wellness and Healing Traditions

- Incorporating wellness and healing practices into the cultural center's offerings.
- Promoting holistic well-being.

Education and Legacy

- Honoring the legacy of civil rights activism and the importance of education.
- Preserving the cultural and educational legacy of the community.

Themes and Insights

CULTURE

“What traditions would you like to be represented in the Sanaa Center?”

Spoken Word and Poetry:

- Supporting spoken word poetry and poetry as a form of artistic expression.
- Providing a platform for poets and storytellers.

Community Engagement:

- Encouraging community engagement through events, parades, and festivals.
- Highlighting the importance of connection and community in the center's culture.

Fashion and Style:

- Showcasing the fashion and style of Baltimore, including its unique fashion traditions.
- Celebrating the creativity and fashion of the community.

Kwanzaa and Celebratory Events:

- Recognizing cultural celebrations like Kwanzaa.
- Hosting events for celebrations such as baby showers, birthdays, weddings, repasses, retirements, graduations, and reunions.

“

James Brown, Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and so many other greats performed on The Avenue.

”

Community Voices



The aspirations for Sanaa Center are rich and diverse, reflecting a multifaceted vision that encompasses nurturing emerging artists, fostering community and neighborhood revitalization, and leaving a significant cultural and artistic legacy.

People envision the Sanaa Center as a safe and supportive space for artists to flourish, launching careers and providing therapeutic support through art. They expect the Sanaa Center to play a pivotal role in revitalizing and healing the community, building leadership, addressing mental health, and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Black art.

The Sanaa Center is envisioned as seeking international recognition and influence, representing and uniting diverse communities while inspiring positive transformation. Its legacy spans generations, as it strives to become a historical monument, archive, and hub for innovative thinking and creative expression, contributing to the greater good of its community and the world at large.

Nurturing Emerging Artists and Talent

- Providing a safe and supportive space for artists to develop and showcase their work.
- Launching and promoting the careers of artists.
- Fostering creativity and artistic growth.

Community and Neighborhood Revitalization

- Playing a pivotal role in revitalizing the community and its cultural identity.
- Building leadership within the community for future success.
- Addressing mental health and well-being in the community.

Cultural and Artistic Impact

- Creating a legendary space for cultural exchange and programming.
- Leaving a lasting legacy of cultural and artistic significance.
- Serving as a hub for artistic expression, creativity, and hope.
- Reviving and preserving Black art and cultural heritage.

Community Safety and Well-Being

- Offering a safe haven and therapeutic support through art.

Historical Significance and Memory Preservation

- Becoming a historical monument and archive.
- Collecting and preserving oral histories, stories, and memories.

International and Diverse Impact

- Representing and uniting diverse communities.
- Achieving international recognition and reach.

Innovation and Creativity

- Pioneering new approaches to community development and self-sufficiency.
- Encouraging innovative thinking and artistic expression.

Themes and Insights

LEGACY

“How would you like for the Sanaa Center to be remembered?”

Multi-Generational Legacy

- Building a legacy that spans generations.
- Leaving a lasting impact on future leaders and artists.

Positive Community Transformation

- Contributing to the transformation and healing of the community.
- Inspiring positive change and interaction within the neighborhood.

Global Recognition and Influence

- Gaining recognition as a global center for the arts.
- Influencing and shaping the cultural landscape beyond the local community.

“



A community space that fortified the community and left a legacy of building leaders for future success

”

Community Voices

People, Programs and Activities

The diversity of ages, backgrounds, and interests community members identified when asked what types of people would use the Sanaa Center highlights the Sanaa Center's commitment to inclusivity, welcoming individuals from all walks of life. Strong community engagement is evident, with many attendees being local residents, emphasizing the center's role in connecting with the community.

A prominent focus on artistic and creative expression is reflected through artists and creatives in the mix, suggesting the center's dedication to nurturing and showcasing artistic talents. Additionally, the presence of students and learners indicates an educational component to the center's offerings, while the inclusion of professionals from various fields suggests opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking.

The emphasis on intergenerational activities underscores the importance of bridging generational gaps, and references to cultural preservation and promotion reflect the commitment to celebrating heritage and diversity. The inclusion of marginalized populations, aspiring artists, and a focus on inclusivity and accessibility further highlight the center's dedication to community empowerment and well-being.

The Sanaa Center aims to be a dynamic hub for creativity, education, and community building, with a wide-reaching and diverse audience.

Themes and Insights

PEOPLE

“Who are the types of people you imagine using the Sanda Center?”

- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** The list reflects a diverse range of ages, backgrounds, and interests, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and welcoming people from various walks of life.
- **Community Engagement:** Many attendees are community members or residents, highlighting the center's role in engaging and connecting with the local community.
- **Artistic and Creative Expression:** Artists, creatives, and those interested in various forms of artistic expression are prevalent, indicating a strong focus on nurturing and showcasing artistic talent.
- **Education and Learning:** There's a significant presence of students, learners, and those seeking to develop their skills, suggesting an educational aspect to the cultural arts center's offerings.

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** The list includes professionals from different fields, from artists to businesspeople, indicating potential opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking.
- **Intergenerational Interaction:** The presence of people of all ages and the emphasis on intergenerational activities and learning underscores the importance of bridging generational gaps.
- **Cultural Preservation and Promotion:** The reference to Black artists, local creatives, and historians suggests a focus on preserving and promoting cultural heritage and diversity.
- **Community Empowerment:** The inclusion of returning citizens, community health workers, and underprivileged populations among potential attendees highlights a commitment to empowering marginalized communities.

- **Artistic Exploration:** The presence of aspiring fashion designers, storytellers, and future theater arts performances suggests a focus on nurturing and exploring emerging artistic talents.
- **Tourism and Outreach:** The acknowledgment of visitors and newcomers to the area indicates a desire to attract a broader audience and promote cultural tourism.
- **Wellness and Inclusivity:** The center may have programs catering to the well-being of attendees, including those with disabilities and LGBTQ individuals, promoting inclusivity and accessibility.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** The presence of business professionals, activists, speakers, and volunteers suggests opportunities for networking, collaboration, and community engagement beyond the arts.

“

Intergenerational- community elders teaching young people and young parents practical skills in a safe, clean, collective and empowerment space

Community Voices

”



The program themes envisioned for the Sanaa Center encompass a diverse and multifaceted approach, reflecting its ambition to serve as a dynamic hub for creativity, education, community engagement, and cultural enrichment.

These themes range from artistic expression and exploration, including visual arts, dance, and music, to educational and skill development initiatives such as workshops, professional development, and entrepreneurship support.

The center also places a strong emphasis on community engagement and inclusivity, offering multi-generational programs, mentorship opportunities, and collaborations with community organizations. These include youth and family programs, health and wellness activities, cultural and global awareness events, culinary arts, technology and media-focused programs, community building and social initiatives, youth and education support, artistic collaborations, inclusivity, and accessibility programs, as well as interventions and exchanges.

The desire to offer diverse programming choices further exemplifies the center's commitment to serving individuals of all backgrounds and fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich community space.

Themes and Insights

PROGRAMS

What are the types of programs you imagine happening in the *Sanaa Center*?"

- **Artistic Expression and Exploration**
 - Visual arts, crafts, and exhibitions
 - Dance and movement classes
 - Music appreciation, concerts, and live shows
 - Literary and performing arts workshops
 - Opportunities for creative writing and poetry
- **Education and Skill Development**
 - Workshops, seminars, and speaker series
 - Educational programs in various disciplines
 - Skill-building classes, including arts and technology
 - Professional development and entrepreneurship support
- **Youth and Family Programs**
 - Youth programs and summer activities
 - Afterschool programming
 - S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)
 - Family creative development

Themes and Insights

PROGRAMS

What are the types of programs you imagine happening in the *Sanaa Center*?"

- **Community Engagement and Inclusivity**
 - Multi-generational programs
 - Family-oriented activities
 - Mentorship components
 - Forums and discussions
 - Cultural and historic tours
 - Collaborations with community organizations
 - Grassroots activities and reconciliation initiatives
 - Curatorial training and exhibitions
 - Inclusivity programs for diverse communities
- **Cultural and Global Awareness**
 - Celebrations of various cultures and traditions
 - Indigenous peoples' events
 - Global engagement and exchange programs
- **Food and Culinary Arts**
 - Cooking classes and culinary arts
 - Demonstrations and health-focused food classes

Themes and Insights

PROGRAMS

What are the types of programs you imagine happening in the *Sanaa Center*?"

- **Technology and Media**
 - VR art study
 - Arts and technology classes
 - Media production, film, and audio engineering
 - Content creation and technology-focused events
- **Community Building and Social Programs**
 - Social gatherings, parties, and block parties
 - Networking events
 - Initiatives to bring communities together
 - Reconciliation and community service programs
- **Youth and Education Initiatives**
 - College prep programs for students
 - Programs to inspire learning and dreams
 - Educational support for students of all ages
 - Pathways to success and workforce development

Themes and Insights

PROGRAMS

What are the types of programs you imagine happening in the *Sanaa Center*?"

- **Artistic and Creative Collaboration**
 - Artist residencies
 - Collaborations with local artists and organizations
 - Workshops and demonstrations
 - Highlighting and showcasing artists
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility**
 - Programs welcoming individuals with disabilities
 - Child-friendly facilities and activities
 - Initiatives promoting inclusivity and accessibility
- **Additional Programs**
 - Positive entertainment and inspiration
 - Programs encouraging creativity and exploration
 - Non-profit initiatives
 - Spaces for practice and individual artistic development
 - Programs promoting Black culture and heritage
 - Arts and technology-focused events
 - Intervention and exchange programs



“

Programs that inspire people to dream and learn new information about art

”

Community Voices

The list of activities people desire to see at the Sanaa Center reveals a holistic and inclusive approach to the cultural arts center. Major themes encompass a diverse range of experiences, including cultural and artistic performances that celebrate creativity and talent.

The center also aims to foster community and family engagement through events that promote a sense of belonging and togetherness. Learning and workshops are emphasized, offering educational programs and skill development opportunities. Social and networking activities provide spaces for building connections and socializing. The center should aim to bridge generational gaps with multigenerational and intergenerational programs.

Additionally, there's a strong focus on creative expression and arts creation, education and training, health and wellness, special events and celebrations, child and youth-focused programs, and unstructured exploration and creativity.

These themes collectively underscore the center's commitment to serving a diverse community with a wide array of enriching experiences.

Themes and Insights

ACTIVITIES

“What are the types of activities you imagine happening in the Sanaa Center?”

Cultural and Artistic Performances

- Celebratory and artistic events featuring music, theater, comedy, and poetry.
- Talent showcases and performances by both local and national artists.
- Opportunities for creative expression and artistic displays.

Community and Family Engagement

- Events and activities that bring the community and families together.
- Celebrations, festivals, and parades to foster a sense of belonging.
- Family-oriented events like dances and graduations.

Learning and Workshops

- Educational programs, tours, and workshops that promote learning and creativity.
- Opportunities to explore different topics, art history, and skill development.

Social and Networking Activities

- Spaces and events for socializing, networking, and building community connections.
- Open mic sessions, happy hours, and gatherings for social engagement.

Multigenerational and Intergenerational Programs

- Programs that bridge generational gaps and promote intergenerational interaction.
- Events and activities that appeal to a diverse age range.

Creative Expression and Arts Creation

- Spaces and opportunities for artistic creation and expression.
- Workshops and exhibits that encourage artistic development.

Educational and Training Programs

- Structured educational programs, classes, and workshops across various subjects.
- Seminars and training sessions to enhance knowledge and skills.

Health and Wellness Programs

- Programs that focus on physical and mental well-being through meditation and ancestral medicine.
- Activities that encourage self-reflection and personal growth.

Themes and Insights

ACTIVITIES

“What are the types of activities you imagine happening in the Sanaa Center?”

Special Events and Celebrations

- Milestone events such as weddings, graduations, and ceremonies.
- Celebrations that mark important moments in the community.

Child and Youth-Focused Programs

- Programs and activities tailored to children and youth, including after-school programs and camps.
- Opportunities for young artists to showcase their talents.

Unstructured Exploration and Creativity

- Activities that allow for unstructured exploration and creative freedom.
- Spaces where individuals can imagine and create without limitations.

“
**Activities that
teach people to
learn and have fun
doing it.**
”

Community Voices



PEOPLE, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Community Voices

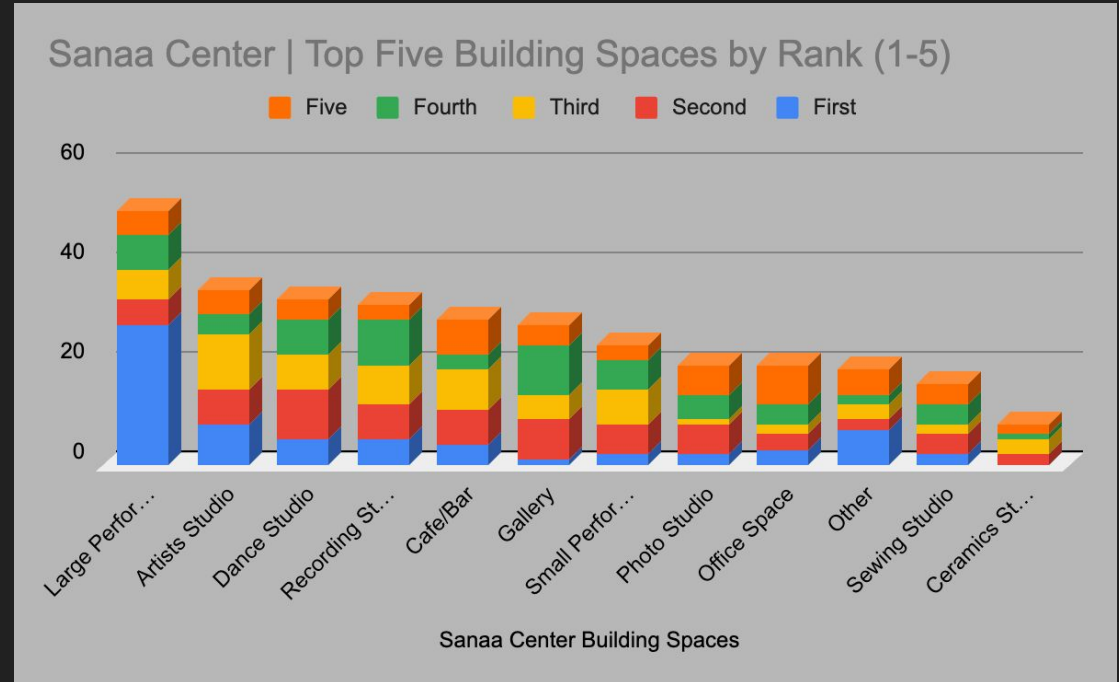
Building Design

Community Ranking

BUILDING DESIGN

TOP FIVE SPACES

- **Community Ranking (1-5)**
 - Large Performance Space
 - Artist Studio
 - Dance Studio
 - Recording Studio
 - Cafe/Bar
- **Themes & Insights**
 - Large Performance space received most first place votes
 - Artist Studio and Other had the second largest distribution of first place votes
 - Ceramics Studio received no first place votes
 - Cafe/Bar ranked in the top five overall with strong second, third and fifth place votes



Community members provided valuable insights into the major themes that should guide the architectural design of the Sanaa Center.

Key considerations include the creation of artist studios to foster freedom of expression and income generation, the establishment of a cafe/bar as a profitable and community-building space, and the provision of dedicated studios for various art forms. Additionally, the inclusion of performance spaces, both large and small, is emphasized to accommodate diverse art forms and community events. Office spaces are essential to support artists and non-profit organizations, while classrooms and educational programs and spaces promote learning and skill development.

Furthermore, spaces for health and wellness, outdoor and green areas, historical markers, and child and youth-focused programs and spaces are highlighted for inclusivity and cultural significance. The center should also prioritize spaces that foster inclusivity and collaboration with community organizations.

These insights collectively offer a comprehensive blueprint for the Sanaa Center that caters to diverse artistic, social, and community needs.

- **Artist Studios:** There is a strong demand for artist studios that provide freedom of expression and serve as income generators. These studios should accommodate various art forms, including digital art, traditional art, and music, and contribute to building a community of artists.
- **Cafe/Bar:** Creating a cafe or bar space is seen as a profitable venture that can foster community engagement, provide a safe space to hang out, and serve as a hub for networking and cultural exchange. It should also offer co-working facilities and healthy food options.
- **Creative Studios:** Spaces dedicated to specific art forms such as ceramics, dance, photography, sewing, and recording are essential. These studios should encourage hands-on creation, skill development, and multi-generational participation.
- **Performance Spaces:** The center should include both large and small performance spaces to accommodate various art forms, including theater, dance, music, and film. These spaces should be flexible, revenue-generating, and capable of hosting community events and performances.

- **Office Spaces:** Office spaces are needed to support artists, non-profit organizations, and individuals working on community initiatives. These spaces should facilitate collaboration and professional development.
- **Community Engagement:** The center should offer spaces for community gatherings, meetings, and casual drop-ins. It should serve as a focal point for the community and create opportunities for people to connect and collaborate.
- **Education and Skill Development:** Classrooms, training workshops, and educational programs should be provided to promote learning and creativity. These spaces should cater to artists, children, and those seeking career development.
- **Health and Wellness:** The inclusion of mental health wellness spaces and mindfulness areas reflects the importance of well-being in the community. These spaces can offer holistic healing modalities and promote mental health.

- **Outdoor and Green Spaces:** Utilizing outdoor areas for concerts, festivals, markets, and art installations is essential for engaging the community and creating an inviting atmosphere. Rooftop gardens and community gardens are also suggested.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** The center should be designed with inclusivity in mind, ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities and providing spaces that cater to diverse communities.
- **Historical and Cultural Significance:** Historical markers and spaces celebrating the heritage of the community, including figures like Billie Holiday, are recommended to honor the area's cultural significance.
- **Interdisciplinary Spaces:** The inclusion of maker spaces, technology labs, and workshops for woodworking, metalworking, and glass blowing can foster creativity and provide skill-building opportunities.

Themes and Insights

BUILDING DESIGN

“What are the spaces you want to see in the Sanaa Center? Why?”

- **Child and Youth-Focused Spaces:** Creating child care centers, youth programs, and spaces for young artists to learn and showcase their talents can engage the younger generation and promote artistic development.
- **Community Collaboration:** The center should collaborate with non-profits and community organizations to expand its reach and impact while ensuring fairness, equity, and accountability in its operations.



“

Baltimore is such a very creative city and I hear often that people wish they had better resources to produce.

”

Community Voices

The design principles for the Sanaa Center are centered on creating a dynamic and inclusive space that reflects the diverse and multifaceted needs of the community it serves.

Emphasizing diversity and inclusivity, the principles advocate for adaptable, multifunctional spaces that promote community engagement, artistic expression, and learning. The design should incorporate various performance spaces, functional workspaces, wellness areas, and dedicated spaces for heritage preservation.

Additionally, the principles prioritize sustainability, technological integration, and cultural sensitivity, ensuring that the center is both environmentally responsible and respectful of diverse traditions. Involving the community in the design process is essential, aligning the center with the aspirations and needs of the people it serves.

These principles can collectively guide architects to create a Sanaa Center that is a thriving hub for creativity, education, and community-building, welcoming individuals of all backgrounds and abilities.

- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** Create spaces that cater to a diverse range of artistic forms, skill levels, ages, and backgrounds, fostering inclusivity and accessibility for all community members.
- **Multifunctionality:** Design spaces with the flexibility to serve multiple purposes, ensuring that areas can be easily adapted for various activities, such as performances, workshops, and community gatherings.
- **Community Engagement:** Prioritize community-building by providing areas that encourage social interaction, networking, and collaboration among artists, residents, and visitors.
- **Artistic Expression:** Foster artistic expression by offering dedicated studios and workshops for various art forms, including visual arts, music, dance, photography, and more.

- **Learning and Education:** Support lifelong learning and skill development through classrooms, educational programs, and training spaces that empower individuals to explore and nurture their creative talents.
- **Performance Spaces:** Include both large and small performance spaces to accommodate a wide range of artistic events, from large-scale performances to intimate showcases, promoting the vibrant cultural scene of the center.
- **Functional Workspaces:** Provide functional office spaces and co-working areas for artists, non-profit organizations, and entrepreneurs, promoting productivity and collaboration.
- **Wellness and Mindfulness:** Design spaces that promote mental and physical well-being, including mindfulness areas, therapy spaces, and opportunities for holistic healing practices.

- **Heritage and History:** Incorporate historical markers and archive spaces to celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage and artistic legacies of the community.
- **Outdoor and Green Spaces:** Utilize outdoor areas for events, performances, community gardens, and recreational activities, inviting people to connect with nature and art simultaneously.
- **Child and Youth Programs:** Develop spaces and programs specifically catering to children and youth, encouraging creativity and artistic exploration from a young age.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Create areas that facilitate collaboration among artists, professionals, and community members from various fields, promoting interdisciplinary creativity and innovation.

- **Sustainability:** Embrace sustainable design practices, utilizing eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient solutions to minimize the center's environmental impact.
- **Digital and Technological Integration:** Integrate technology into the design, offering spaces for virtual reality, media production, and digital art, keeping the center relevant in the digital age.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Prioritize cultural sensitivity in the design to honor the diverse backgrounds and traditions of the community, making the center a welcoming and respectful space.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure that all spaces are accessible to individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and equal participation for everyone.
- **Community-Driven:** Involve the community in the design process, seeking their input, ideas, and feedback to ensure that the center truly reflects their needs and aspirations.

**I want to see lots of glass
and usable outdoor
space, retractable walls
& roof workspace.**

Community Voices





Conclusion

Conclusion

The **Sanaa Center community engagement process** provides **valuable insights** into what **stakeholders need and want** from the Sanaa Center. In order to fully realize these needs and desires the Sanaa Center should consider the following three frameworks:

- ***Pillars & Principles:*** Use the themes and insights from the community engagement process to identify a set of pillars and principles that can be used as a North Star to guide key decision making in the development of the Sanaa Center.
- ***Programs & Partnerships:*** Producing, developing and integrating the thoughts and ideas that community members and stakeholders shared during the community engagement process will require the Sanaa Center to develop community and organizational partnerships. The Sanaa Center should explore and create partnerships over the course of the project to support the program development of the center.
- ***Phases & Pipelines:*** Artists, creatives, community members and other stakeholders shared so many thoughts and ideas for making the Sanaa Center successful that it would be extremely difficult to develop and incorporate them all into the center at the same time. The Sanaa Center should identify and prioritize the thoughts and ideas shared by community members and stakeholders, develop programs related to them and divide them into phases that allows the center to create pipelines that produce and develop programming over time.

Conclusion

In addition to this report, there are several Sanaa Center resource documents created during the community engagement process. These documents can help to provide additional information and context to the themes and insights listed in this report. A list of these resource documents are listed below.

Sanaa Center Community Engagement Resource Documents

- Sanaa Center Community Forum Presentation
- Sanaa Center User Personas
- Sanaa Center | History, Culture & Legacy (Data -Comments, Ideas and Quotes)
- Sanaa Center | People, Programs & Activities (Data-Comments, Ideas and Quotes)
- Sanaa Center | Building Designs (Data- Comments, Ideas & Quotes)

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