

## **Cultivating Excellence: The Blueprint for an Amazing Student Center.**



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### **Apex Tech Solutions**

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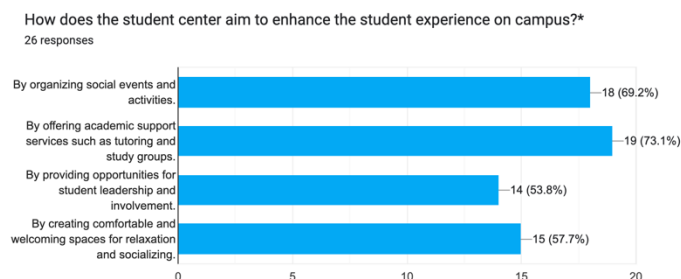
Franklin Gordillo

Andy Chicaiza

Chukwuemeka Okwuka

### ***The Introduction:***

“Many educators strive to cultivate students' ownership of their learning” mainly clubs and social gatherings. However, with no place especially in CCNY it makes it difficult for educators to see this vision come to pass. Student centers are integral to the college experience because they provide a central hub for students to study, socialize, and engage in various activities. These centers offer many amenities, including comfortable and quiet study areas, equipped with the latest technology, and group meeting rooms, ideal for collaboration and discussion. Recreational spaces, such as game rooms, fitness facilities, and outdoor areas, provide students with opportunities to unwind, stay active, and connect with others who share similar interests. With a range of food options, including cafes, restaurants, and vending machines, student centers offer a variety of choices to satisfy any craving. They serve as a welcoming and inclusive space, where students can find a sense of community and belonging, participate in extracurricular activities, and attend events that celebrate diversity and promote cultural awareness. Overall, student centers play an essential role in shaping the overall campus culture and enhancing the quality of student life.



Our team conducted extensive research on the importance of constructing a student center at CCNY (City College of New York), tailored to meet the diverse needs of college students.

Through a thorough examination of various scenarios and surveys among CCNY students, we gleaned insights into their preferences. Our analysis revealed a significant consensus, with 73.1% of students advocating for academic support within student centers, while 69.2% underscored their necessity for organizing social events and extracurricular activities. Our primary goal throughout this process was to underscore the paramount importance of establishing a student center at CCNY. By prioritizing student input and democratic principles, we concluded that any such facility must align closely with student preferences, serving as both a conducive space for academic pursuits and a hub for social gatherings.

Our research group has concluded that constructing a student center should be the main priority for improving student life at CCNY. This center would be a central location for various activities, including studying, social events, student leadership, participation, relaxation, and socialization. By implementing such a center, CCNY students would benefit from a wide range of opportunities that would help them succeed during and after their college years, significantly improving their overall experience.

***Action Plan:***

With a commitment to exceeding student needs, our action plan outlines the key steps to develop this student center tailored to meet the needs of our campus. The student center would be at the campus entrance, but we would have to remove the High School and relocate it. The building itself would be about 34,000 square feet (about the area of a large mansion), featuring three floors and a basement level, allowing it to enhance the student experience within the campus community.

For the basement, it will be known as a study haven. A floor where students can come into small rooms and study or work on any type of material. The floor will feature 25 small

rooms ranging from 50 to 75 square feet (about twice the area of a queen-sized bed) each, designed to accommodate an individual or a pair, and equipped with a desk and chair. In addition, there will be five larger cubbies that range from 75 to 150 square feet (about half the area of a parking space) each. These spaces may accommodate one to three individuals and provide space for additional furniture such as a table, chairs, and a small whiteboard. These cubbies will be glass and soundproof walls making it more suitable for students to enjoy their study sessions without any disruptions.



Fig. 2: Floor Plan for basement

Our first floor is designated as the main center, intended for students to relax, and eat meals in a comfortable environment. This would include a lunchroom ranging from 500 to 800 square feet, inside which would be about 25 circular tables. While outside the lunchroom, you will find two vending machines including drinks and snacks. In addition, students will have the

opportunity to buy from a coffee shop, offering delightful beverages and snacks to fuel study sessions and relaxation. Plus, students can browse and shop from our campus's very own merch store, offering a range of apparel, and accessories to show off your school spirit in style.

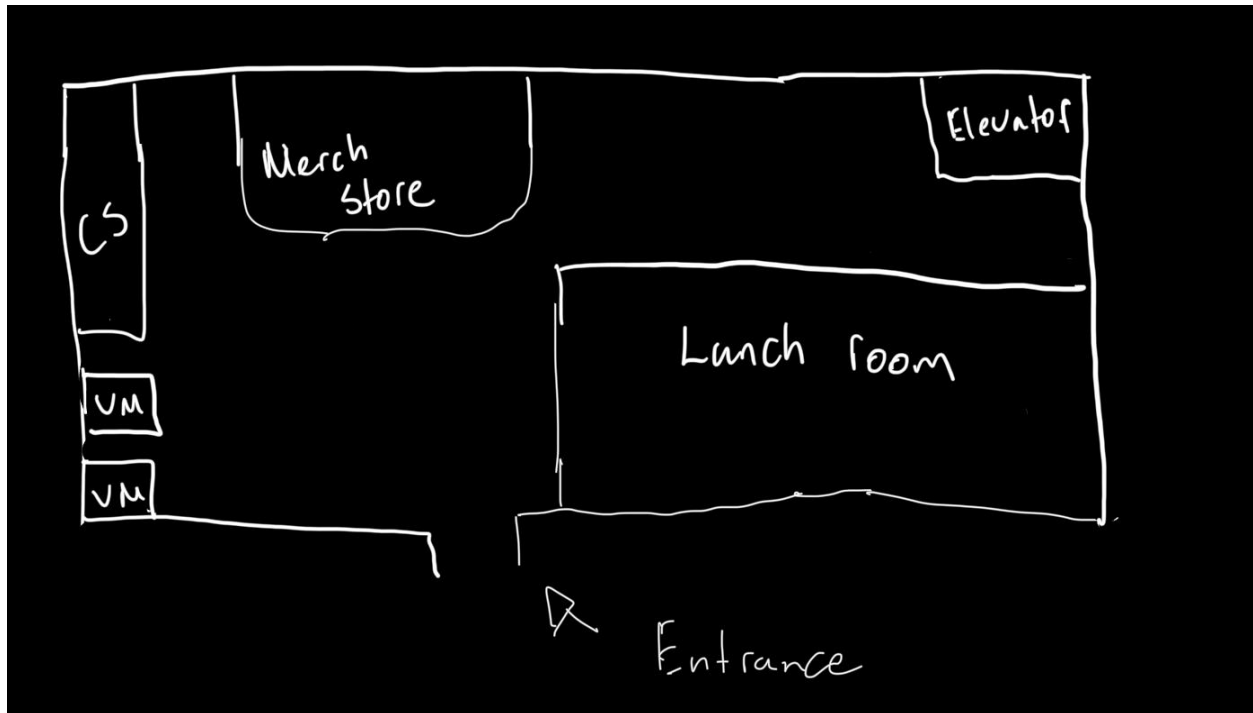


Fig. 3: Floor Plan for First Floor

On our second floor, we are excited to introduce a vibrant gaming environment. Thus, the floor includes 25 top-notch gaming computers, offering students the chance to enjoy their free time with the best technology at their fingertips. Adding to the excitement, our floor will feature two pool tables and an air hockey table, offering students even more opportunities for friendly competition and enjoyable leisure time.

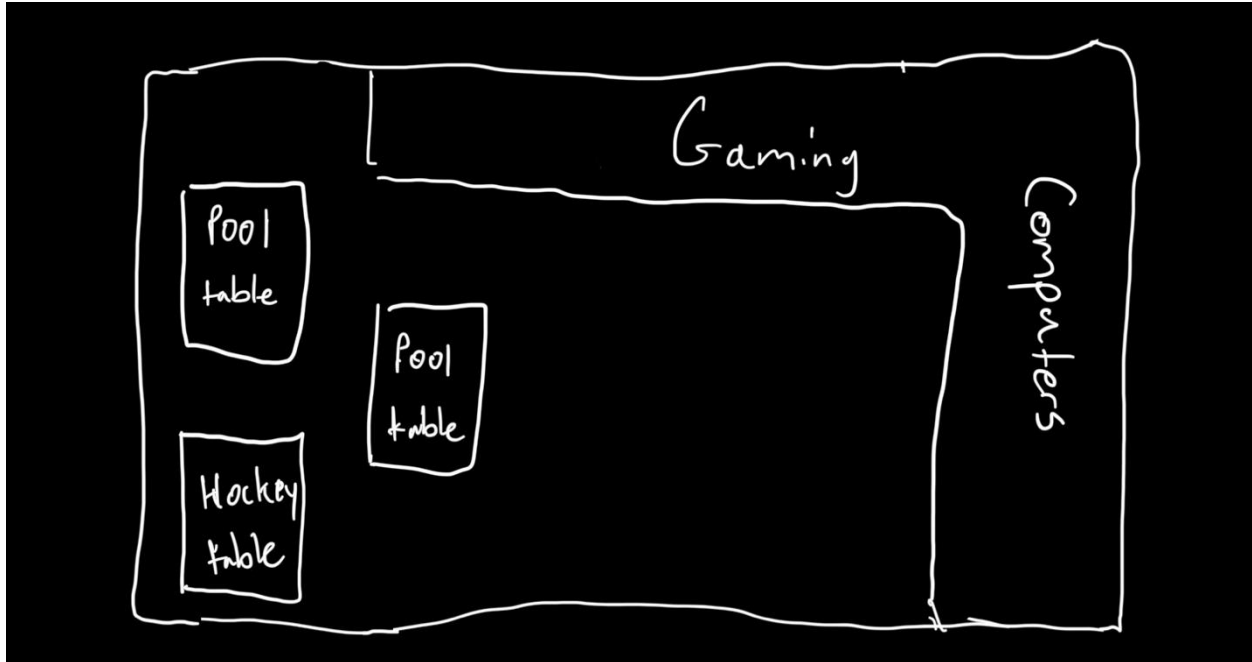


Fig. 4: Floor Plan for Second Floor

Our aim for the final floor is to create a space that will be helpful for students, where they can find all the necessary tools, resources, and storage options for their academic journey. We will have a designated area for students to obtain their ID cards and have their pictures taken. Additionally, we will have 200 laptops available for rent, providing students with access to technology whenever they need it. Furthermore, we are proud to offer 250 lockers, which will give students a secure and convenient place to store their belongings. Our priority is to help anyone who needs it. First come first serve

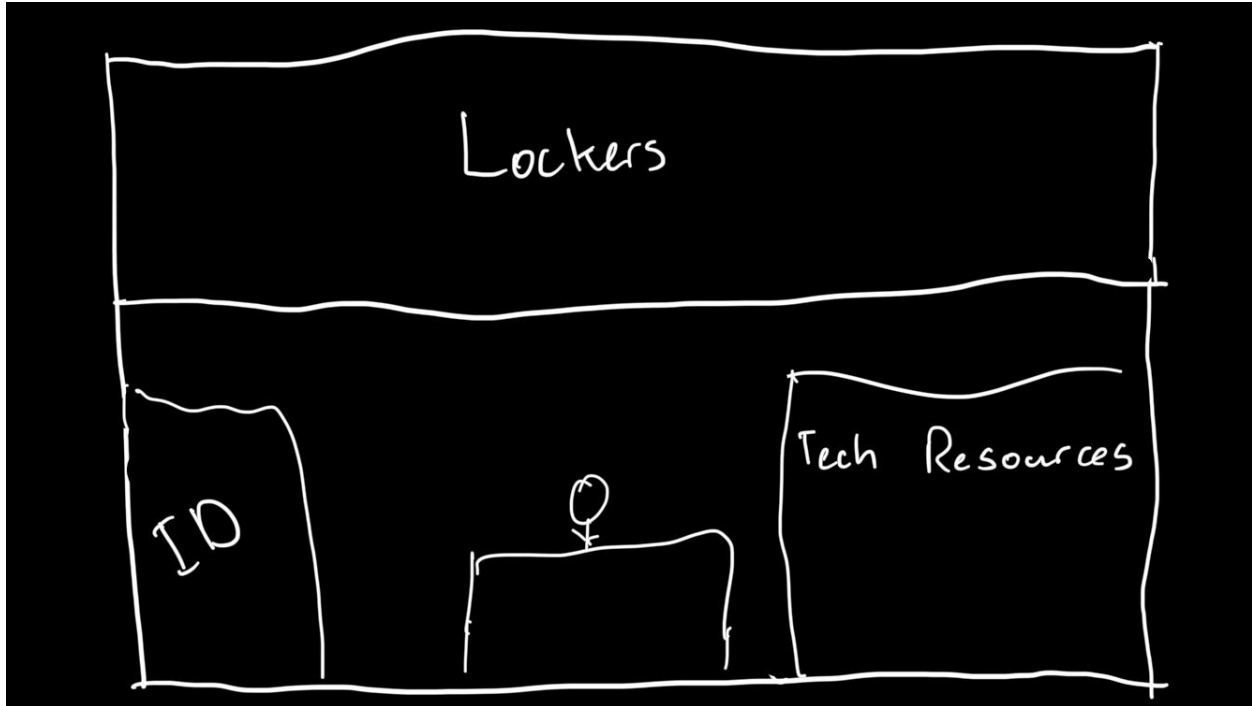


Fig. 5: Floor Plan for Third Floor

#### Construction Timetable

Planning and Design	Month 1 - 2
Site Preparation	Month 2 - 3
Foundation of Building	Month 4 - 6
Structural Work	Month 7 - 12
Enclosure	Month 13 - 16
Interior Work	Month 14 - 20
Finishing touches	Month 17 - 24
Inspections	Month 25 - 26
Finalizing details	Month 26 - 27
Handover	Month 27

### *Costs and Benefits:*

The total project will cost roughly \$9.2 million in million dollars, which will include mostly all the necessities to create a successful college student center. This is an opinionative possible cost value that will include state-of-the-art technology which will make students want to come to college which will increase revenue.

## Student Center Expenses

### City College Student Center

Materials	Amount	Notes
Vending Machines	\$800.00	Profit Machine
Food Services	\$2,700,000.00	Coffee Shop, little stores
Retail	\$16,000.00	Merch or Book Store
Lunchroom	\$21,000.00	necessities for lunchroom
Library	\$16,000.00	Book Store
Computer Room	\$100,000.00	PC's
General Construction	\$6,300,000.00	Big Money Cost
Lounges	\$15,000.00	Chairs, Desk, etc.
Basement	\$15,000.00	Theater and Study Areas
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9183,800.00</b>	
	<b>Average of around \$9,200,000</b>	



***Benefits:***

A College Student Center will have many benefits for the college and students attending in general. This is because a student center will allow a safe space for people like students, faculty, and leadership to study, interact, and communicate with one another which will diversify the college program. We included a basement to the high school building which will have a theater, study areas, and lounge spaces for people to go and interact with each other.

Meanwhile, this student center will include Food Services like a coffee shop, food court, and grab-to-go options which will increase profits for the college. However, also having a lunchroom where students could foster new friendships is essential for new incoming students to choose The City College of New York as their first-choice school.

***Our team-Apex Tech Solutions:***

**Franklin Gordillo:** a third-year Computer Science major at The City College of New York. He grew up in Corona, Queens where he attended Middle College High School at The LaGuardia Community College, where he got both his high school diploma and his associate degree in humanities. At The City College of New York, he has been learning several types of code to prepare for the upcoming semester. In his spare time, he likes to work out, learn new things, and study.

**Chukwuemeka Okwuka:** a first-year Computer Science major at The City College of New York. He attended The Beacon School in Times Square where he gained his interest in Computer Science. He has come to The City College of New York with a strong ambition of making a

difference in the lives of many by using technology to create a better future for tomorrow with other like-minded peers like him. In his spare time, he likes to go out to the gym, jog, and listen to African music

**Alex Aquino:** another Computer Science student at The City College of New York. He went to World View High School in the Bronx. He was once a shy person who grew out of his shell to pursue Computer Science. In his spare time, he likes to play video games as a hobby and to bike around his neighborhood

**Andy Chicaiza:** a civil engineer major at The City College of New York. With experience in construction internships, he has learned the ins and outs of being a supervisor. He attended The High School of Liberal Arts in Manhattan. The internships he worked in helped him continue pursuing his Civil Engineering degree with the City College of New York because of the opportunities in civil engineering offered to him. In his spare time, he likes to work out and to play soccer.

### ***Conclusion:***

In conclusion, the establishment of a student center at our college campus is not just a proposition but an imperative. At Apex Tech Solutions, we are unwavering in our belief that such a center would revolutionize the student experience, offering a dynamic and inclusive space for academic growth, leadership development, and social engagement. Through our proposed modern and spacious four-story building, we aim to centralize a myriad of student activities, fostering a vibrant community hub. With facilities ranging from study areas to recreational spaces, our vision encompasses not only academic support but also avenues for relaxation and socialization.

Moreover, we envision the student center as a versatile venue, capable of hosting many social events and activities, from concerts to cultural exhibitions. It is a beacon of possibility, a space where students can thrive both academically and personally. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to collaborate with you to transform this vision into reality. Should you have any inquiries or wish to delve deeper into our plans, please feel free to reach out to us at ApexTechSolutions@gmail.com. Together, let us pave the way for an unparalleled student experience.

### ***Reference***

ANDREWS, B. H. (2010). Student Ownership: Learning in a Student-Centered Art Room. *Art Education*, 63(4), 40–46. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20799825>

