

NYCHA Jacob Riis Houses: Summary of Resident Feedback – Winter 2024

May 22, 2024 and June 6, 2024

The following is the Riis Community Vision and a list of guiding principles and priorities under the PACT Program as expressed by Riis Residents thus far in the Jacob Riis Houses Community Planning Process. Information was gathered at the following outreach events:

Resident Meeting 1.....	(January 25 – Thursday)
Resident Meeting 2.....	(February 1 – Thursday)
Resident Meeting 3.....	(February 7 – Wednesday)
Resident Meeting 4.....	(February 15 – Thursday)
PACT Site Visit (Independence Towers)	(February 28 – Wednesday)
PACT Site Visit (Williamsburg Houses).....	(March 2 – Saturday)
Monthly Riis Tenant Association Meeting.....	(March 12 – Tuesday)
Youth Workshop.....	(March 14 - Thursday)
On-Site Riis Office Hours.....	(March 21 - Thursday)
Seniors Workshop.....	(March 22 - Friday)

Riis Community Vision

Maintain what we cherish about Riis Houses

Protect what residents cherish about Riis Houses, such as the sense of community, family ties, access to transportation & schools, and beautiful waterfront and city views.

List of Guiding Principles and Priorities



1. Apartment Improvements

- Increase average bedroom size.
- Install more durable and attractive flooring.
- Use more appropriate materials for interior walls.
- Allow space for washer and dryer hook-ups in every apartment.
- Install thermostat/HVAC system that can be controlled within each unit.
- Provide Wi-Fi and internet access for all residents.
- Improve functionality, layout, and design of kitchens.
- Create fully accessible units for disabled and senior residents.
- Use high quality paint for interior walls.
- Install new highly functional windows.
- Apply a permanent solution for leaks.

2. Building Improvements

- Increase size and functionality of elevators.
- Install auto-open doors in lobbies which unlock with key fobs.
- Build secure mail/package rooms in ground floors of all buildings.
- Incorporate more storage space within apartments implement on-site tenant storage rooms.
- Build housing and facilities reserved only for seniors.

3. Grounds & Environmental Improvements

- Increase navigability of grounds through better pathways and enhanced lighting.
- Keep pathways clear of obstructions & safety hazards.
- Create fully accessible outdoor spaces for disabled and senior residents.
- Install secure on-site bicycle storage.
- Install well-placed benches made of durable materials.
- Continue and complete soil remediation efforts.
- Replace all plumbing.
- Maintain (and provide more) parking spaces for residents.

Recreational Areas (Outdoor)

- Construct fully accessible, engaging, state-of-the-art playgrounds for young residents, including disabled and neurodiverse youth.
- Plant a community garden & urban farm.
- Plant flower beds alongside pathways.
- Create outdoor art installations which honor the original Jacob Riis Playground.

Recreational Areas (Indoor)

- Build a fully accessible community center which meets the needs of all Riis Residents.
- Provide indoor recreational spaces for gatherings and meetings.
- Incorporate after-school programming and daycare services into community spaces.
- Construct an onsite indoor water recreational amenity.
- Provide safe recreational spaces for youth, such as a game room, computer room, or event room.

4. Operational Improvements

- Clean common spaces (elevators, hallways, stairwells, etc.) on a daily basis.
- Enforce house rules and penalize violators.
- Improve efficacy of repair ticket tracking system.
- Increase the standards for repairs.
- Initiate routine replacement of appliances and bathroom & kitchen fixtures.
- Perform and follow up on routine inspection of buildings, apartments, and grounds.
- Implement a new tenant neighborhood watch program.
- Create fully accessible common areas for disabled and senior residents.
- Introduce flexible repair/maintenance appointments to better accommodate working families.

5. Safety & Security Improvements

- Upgrade to a key fob system for unlocking lobby doors and common areas.
- Identify and penalize individuals who prop open or break doors.
- Implement a video or voice intercom system for all buildings.
- Provide appropriate care for individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders and severe mental health disorders.
- Maintain a high level of safety and security into late evening hours.
- Increase levels of safety and security within buildings.
- Implement and monitor a fully functional camera system.
- Hire on-site security personnel to increase levels of safety at Riis.

6. Ideas for Renovation Process

- Minimize the impact of PACT renovation process on all residents.
- Ensure that any future PACT partner works with households at Riis on an individual basis to accommodate their needs throughout all phases of the construction process.
- Ensure seniors only move once during PACT renovation.