



# THE YMCA'S LEADERSHIP & LEARNING CENTER

A Center that Encompasses and Embodies the Y's Mission and Vision



**LOCATION:** 569 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive – Vine City, Atlanta

**SIZE:** +/- 55,000-sqft.

**TOTAL COSTS:** \$20.75 million

## COMPONENTS:

- Association headquarters for the YMCA of Metro Atlanta and the Y's Early Childhood Development Company;
- Six model Head Start classrooms, serving neighborhood children in APS's Washington High cluster;
- A regional training center for YMCA employees;
- An early learning readiness program;
- Community event and meeting space;
- Playground and outdoor space; and
- Room to expand for future needs, including the possibility of a neighborhood fresh produce market.

**For more information about the center or to share your comments, please contact Russ Davis at 404-267-5321 or [russd@ymcaatlanta.org](mailto:russd@ymcaatlanta.org)**

"...The YMCA has a tremendous legacy of investing in community building, and with its new Leadership and Learning Center, the organization is demonstrating its commitment to our city's most challenged neighborhoods. I applaud the Y leadership for choosing to build on the grounds of the Morris Brown College campus, and for engaging deeply with the community to support lasting, positive change for its current and future residents."

**MAYOR KASIM REED**

Leveraging a unique opportunity to relocate its headquarters, the YMCA of Metro Atlanta is creating a one-of-a-kind Leadership and Learning Center on the westside of Atlanta. This new long-term home will allow staff to work among its mission and will serve as a catalyst for community reinvestment on the Westside.

## More than a Headquarters:

The Leadership and Learning Center will embody the YMCA's goal and objectives around youth, education, and community.

The center will house a new, state-of-the-art model early learning center, which will include Head Start, state-funded Pre-K and traditional fee-for-service preschool all in one building. The Y will bring the nation's leading research in language and literacy for Birth to Pre-K to practice through a partnership with the Rollins Center for Language & Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School. In addition, the design will be influenced by input from national early education thought-leaders at Yale and Harvard.

The Center will also include a regional program training center serving more than 1,500 Y staff from throughout the Southeast annually. The Y will relocate 135 jobs to the new location and add 25 new jobs with the new early learning center.

## Honoring our Heritage:

After identifying the ideal location for this facility at the site of Frederick D. Jordan Hall, the Y conducted extensive due diligence and analysis to determine the scope, size and unique needs of the proposed Leadership and Learning Center in order to best serve the children and community of the Westside and Atlanta. This study showed that, due to structural issues, health and safety concerns, long-term vacancy, and the unique creation of a national model for early learning and regional training center, it would be extremely difficult to deliver on our promises in the current structure.

Jordan Hall was built and named to honor two historic leaders in the Atlanta community—Edmund Asa Ware and Bishop Frederick D. Jordan—and we are in conversations with the community regarding appropriate recognition to honor the heritage of these great leaders within the Center. The legacy of these leaders is their love of learning and the impact of education for the children of the neighborhood. We look forward to perpetuating and building upon this legacy through our new facility, which will ensure an environment that is safe and sustainable for children throughout the community.

**More than just a building, the Leadership and Learning Center will demonstrate the YMCA's long-standing pledge to meet the needs of the city, to anchor a community, and to invest in Atlanta's children.** We look forward to partnering with the community to bring this revitalization to life.