

This was the moment, on a sunny morning in our courtyard, when three-year-old Lincoln suddenly crouched, his eyes wide with curiosity.

A praying mantis!

It was spontaneous, joyful learning — sparked by nature and unstructured.

But right now, outdoor learning moments like these are too fleeting. Our children — smart, imaginative, and full of questions — deserve more than patches of pavement.

They deserve a green, outdoor learning space designed for exploration in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). A space — on par with their suburban counterparts — that reflects their potential for careers in these fields.

Hartford's youngest children deserve the STEAM Explorers Park at the Women's League.

Will you help create it for them?





Together, we can create a STEAM Explorers Park on the grounds of the Women's League, so children can get the transformative benefits of nature-based learning right in Hartford.

Donors like you helped create our innovative, indoor STEAM Learning Lab. The Park will extend that STEAM focus *outdoors*, using carefully selected, age-appropriate materials and equipment, including a large greenhouse.

The new Park will replace, beautify and update the patches of pavement and underused areas that surround our building. And new pergolas (already built!) will shade child-sized tables and chairs for open-air "classrooms" — an imperative learned from the pandemic.



Our STEAM Explorers Park Can Look Like This:



Farm to Classroom

- A large greenhouse, pollinator and vegetable gardens, and a butterfly garden for caring for living things, watching growth and harvesting vegetables
- Mud kitchens with water features and sensory tables for messy, immersive exploring



Discovery Zones

- · Themed areas for exploring water, light, and sound in hands-on ways
- Loose components for building ramps, digging for insects, and sensory play



Greenery

New plantings for natural beauty, shade, privacy, and discovery



Art "Studios"

- · Outdoor, weatherproof easels and paints for artistic expression in any season
- Musical instruments and storytelling spaces for nurturing creativity



🚺 Inspiring Community Art

A vibrant, colorful wall mural created by one of Greater Hartford's celebrated muralists (with some help from our young artists!) will greet children and visitors.



Engineering Corners

Materials for constructing ramps, bridges, and towers for developing fine motor skills

The Park will be a Community Hub, too!

We will:

- · Host STEAM nights and weekend workshops for our families
- Co-host educational events with local preschools, libraries, and museums
- Offer professional development for local early childhood educators

It's More Than a Park. *It's a Promise.*

A promise that *every* child, regardless of their family's zip code or background, will have access to the countless, lasting benefits of an outstanding early education.

A promise that *every* child will be given the opportunity to reach their full potential, starting with readiness for kindergarten.



CONTACT US for a conversation about Leadership Giving or a tour!

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Womensleaguecdc.org/Park

Will You Partner With Us to Deliver on that Promise?

Founded in 1917 by African American ministers' wives, Women's League has always been ahead of its time, innovating to meet the evolving needs of Hartford's children and families.

Every step of the way, people like you have lifted us up.

Now, we're the largest early education center in Greater Hartford— and nationally accredited! More than 200 infants, toddlers and preschoolers— primarily from working families in communities of color— count on us every day for quality education. Our collegeeducated, highly trained teachers and state-of-the-art classrooms are sources of tremendous pride.

Did you know: Our STEAM Learning Lab earned us a STEM Achievement Award from the Connecticut Science Center. A cover story followed in "Teaching Young Children," a national magazine for early educators.

We're not done.

Because wealth and racial disparities persist. And Black and Latino people will continue to be under-represented in science, technology, engineering and math fields unless we act— and build foundational STEM skills *early*.

With your support, we can raise \$200,000 to create a STEAM Explorers Park on our grounds, and build the next generation of scientists, data whizzes, creators, and engineers.

Will You Lead the Way to a STEAM Explorers Park at the Women's League?

Trailblazers \$20,000+ Engineers \$10,000 MY GIFT S Gifts of all amounts are appreciated! We are proud to acknowledge Leadership Circle donors publicly and on our website, with our deepest gratitude to the visionaries whose generosity moves us forward.

Name(s)		
(As it should appear on publicity materials)		☐ I'd like my gift to be anonymous
Email		Phone
Street Address		
City	State	Zip Code
(optional) My gift is ☐ in Honor of (Please include address or email if you wou	•	
Enclosed is my check made payaMy employer will match my gift	ble to: Women's Leag	ue Child Development Center

Kindly return this form with your check to:

Women's League Child Development Center 1695 Main St., Hartford, CT 06120

OR please give online at womensleaguecdc.org/donate (Check the box for the STEAM Park!)

Women's League Child Development Center is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Federal Tax ID: 06-0646969

We gratefully welcome gifts from donor-advised funds.





