

Event Summary



West Philly Research Day brought together over 70 guests, including research allies, community-based organizations, community leaders, residents, and local politicians. Held at the ExCite Center, a collaborative research workspace that welcomes community involvement, the event created space for community members and researchers to connect around community-aligned research efforts. Guests had the opportunity to learn about the Community Research Review Board (CRRB), a committee of the Promise Zone Research

Connection (PZRC), and explore ways to get involved. A lively panel discussion energized the crowd, offering practical ways to engage in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and emphasizing collaboration between communities and researchers. West Philly Research Day continues to grow as a vital space for celebrating and strengthening community-academic partnerships in West Philadelphia.

Date, Location, and Time

Date/Time: April 3rd, 2025, from 3:00-6:00 PM

Location: ExCITE Center on Drexel University's University City campus (3401 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104)



Agenda Recap

- **3:00 PM** – Registration, Light Refreshments, Networking, and Resource Tables
- **3:45 PM** – Opening Remarks
- **3:50 PM** – Overview of PZRC's History and Mission
- **4:00 PM** – Presentation: *Community Ethics in Research and Why It Matters*
- **4:15 PM** – Panel Discussion: *Research in West Philadelphia: Perspectives from Community and Research Partners*
- **5:15 PM** – Resource Tables and Networking
- **5:55 PM** – Closing Remarks

Participating Community-Based Organizations

Metropolitan Baptist Church of Philadelphia

Address: 3500 Baring Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone number: 215-459-1380

Website: www.mbcphila.org

Mission Statement: To evangelize, to make disciples, to worship, to promote fellowship, as we grow people through the Word of God.

What do we want to know?

1. What were the impacts of COVID-19 on the sizes, practices, and engagement of the communities of faith?
2. How has service delivery in a community impacted the youth of services?
3. How have institutions responded to these changes?

Bridges of Opportunities

Address: Philadelphia, PA

Phone number: 215-598-2819

Website: <https://bridgesofopportunities.com>

Mission Statement: *Bridges of Opportunities* is committed to empowering poverty-affected youth and men of color by providing transformative experiences that foster leadership, mental health resilience, and citizenship. By introducing participants to new environments and perspectives, we

instill self-confidence and essential life skills, particularly in communities facing high crime, poverty, and social unrest. Through preventative measures, including mental health support and social media detox, our program contributes to reducing violent crime and enhancing public safety, in alignment with national strategies for community well-being.

What do we want to know?

1. How effective are mentorship and community healing initiatives in improving outcomes for youth and young adults?
2. Where are the gaps in services for reentrants ages 16–26, and how can they be addressed?
3. What policy changes could most effectively improve outcomes for justice-impacted youth?

Mount Vernon Manor

Address: 3311 Wallace Street #D Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone number: 215-222-9054

Website: www.mvmcdc.org

Mission Statement: Mt. Vernon Manor's mission is to provide affordable housing, encourage residents to nurture caring families, and champion a robust and sustainable environment and quality of life in West Philadelphia. Mt. Vernon Manor strives to cultivate safe and accessible West Philly neighborhoods for both longtime and newly arrived residents by pursuing strategic projects and partnerships that advance affordable housing opportunities, cultivate green and open space, enhance economic mobility, and improve public health and safety in our communities. We aim to help residents realize a shared vision of equitable development without displacement and ensure that our community remains diverse, inclusive, and welcoming to all.

Mantua Civic Association

Address: P.O. Box 7701 Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone number: 267-227-9045

Website: www.mantuacivic.org

Mission Statement: The Mantua Civic Association (MCA) grew out of the feedback from the community to be engaged in making decisions about the changes going on in our community. MCA has worked to keep the residents of the Mantua community informed and engaged in decision-making regarding development projects in the community.

Mill Creek Advisory Council

Address: 4700 Brown Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

Email address: tfrc@millcreekadvisorycouncil.org

Website: n/a

Mission Statement: The Mill Creek Advisory Council's mission is to foster community engagement, empowerment, and development within the Mill Creek neighborhood. The council serves as a bridge between Mill Creek residents and local resources, working to improve the quality of life for all community members. Through partnerships with local organizations, the council provides wellness programs, educational workshops, and recreational activities, especially supporting the youth and senior community through intergenerational engagement. The council also ensures consistent and meaningful programming at the Tiffany Fletcher Recreation Center and supervises the Mill Creek Residential Community Organization (RCO), ensuring that development and zoning decisions reflect the needs and vision of the Mill Creek community.

AccessMatters

Address: 1700 Market Street, Suite 1540

Phone Number: 215-985-2600

Website: www.accessmatters.org

Mission Statement: AccessMatters' mission is to protect, expand, and enhance access to sexual and reproductive health care and information for all people. AccessMatters, a non-profit, public health organization located in Center City Philadelphia, envisions a future where every person has the health care and information they seek.

Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern PA

Address: 444 N. 3rd Street, Suite 110, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Phone Number: 215-625-0700

Website: www.fairhousingrights.org

Mission Statement: The mission of the Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania (FHRC) is to ensure equal access to housing opportunities for all people. To achieve its mission, FHRC educates the public on fair housing laws, provides assistance to individuals who have experienced housing discrimination, monitors the community for compliance with applicable housing laws, and offers information and counseling on housing related issues.

Parkside Association of Philadelphia

Address: 1719 N. 52nd Street Philadelphia, PA 19131

Phone Number: 215-878-2107

Website: <http://www.parksideassociation.org/>

Philadelphia Youth Network

Address: 400 Market Street #200 Philadelphia, Pa 19106

Phone Number: 267-502-3900

Website: <https://www.pyninc.org/>

Mission Statement: The Philadelphia Youth Network's (PYN) mission is to create coordinated systems that promote academic achievement, economic opportunity, and personal success for youth, ultimately aiming to alleviate poverty and inequity through education and employment.

URBAN NERDS FOUNDATION

Address: 1946 S. 65th Street Philadelphia, PA 19142

Phone Number: 267-624-5238

Email address: urbannerdsfoundation@gmail.com

Website: www.urbannerdsworldwide.com

Mission Statement: The Urban Nerds Foundation is dedicated to bringing broader experience to inner city kids when it comes to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (aka STEM), and other Nerd categories such as video games, comic books, cartooning and more.

What do we want to know?

We are looking for research and evaluation support to measure the impact of our STEM and creative programs on youth learning, engagement, and long-term outcomes.

Philly Truce

Address: 3675 Market Street Philadelphia, PA

Phone Number: 267-458-7823

Website: <https://phillytruce.com/>

Mission Statement: Our mission is to empower African American men with the tools, resources, and support they need to achieve Sustainable Manhood, grounded in clear evidence that they have disproportionately been victims of systemic inequities, marginalization, violence, and incarceration. By addressing these barriers, we help them uplift their communities—from their own house to the White House, improving conditions for everyone and transforming the cost of neglect into an investment in hope, resilience, and lasting change.

We Would Love to Hear from You!

Scan the QR code below to share your



Or click here to take the survey: [WPRD Survey](#)

Contributors

Special thanks to our contributors, the **Barra Foundation**, **Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health**, **Drexel University Office of University and Community Partnerships**, **Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions**.



THE **BARRA** FOUNDATION



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Promise Zone Research Connection (PZRC) Board of Directors

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Contact Us and Support

For questions, please contact **Caleila Burrell, Project Coordinator**, at ceb429@drexel.edu or **(267) 242-2662**. Visit PZRC's Website at www.pzrc.org.

