



## Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll visits the Boys & Girls Club

Middlesex Street was abuzz with activity on Friday, May 17th as Club staff, community members and elected officials anxiously awaited the arrival of Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. This was an opportunity to share with the Lt. Governor the impact of the [Club](#) in the community, and to see progress on the [Believe & Become expansion](#) and renovation of the Boys & Girls Club facility.

Upon arriving, and after introductions, the Lt. Governor took a look at the foundation for the Club's new addition, a Teen Center that will serve up to 250 teens per day.

From there, a peek into the new Teen classroom spaces where teens will have access to Workforce Development, STEM and Leadership programs (this will reside in the space that was formerly the administration wing of the building).



Several current and former Club teens spoke to the Lieutenant Governor on the importance of their Boys & Girls Club in their own lives and in the community. Former Club member and Youth of the Year Yvonne Welsh shared her gratitude for the Boys & Girls Club and the importance of giving members a new, renovated space.

"I am so excited about the new space at the Boys & Girls Club because it opens up so much more opportunity for youth in Lowell to grow and learn and develop," said Yvonne, who is graduating from Curry College as a commencement speaker, and is heading to Boston College to study for her master's degree.

Next up was a visit with the Club's [Sports & Fitness Manager Devonna "D" Williams](#), who connected with Lt. Governor Driscoll when they discovered that they more than likely played against one another in college - each woman is in their respective college's Basketball Hall of Fame. D shared a bit about how basketball is often how young people learn about the Club, and the importance of offering options such as an in-house league, a travel team and the summer peace League (supported by [Shannon Community Safety Initiative](#) and [DCR funding](#)). These programs are a gateway to developing relationships with caring staff, and an introduction to programs designed to help players envision their future after high school.



In the current Teen Center, two Club teens and two young alumnae shared how the Club has impacted their journey, citing mentors who believed in their success, encouraged them to step into leadership roles, and offered opportunities they might not have elsewhere.

The final stop on the tour was the Club's new kitchen, still in progress but easily identifiable as a much larger space than the kitchen that meals are currently served from. With this new kitchen, which is adjacent to the Community Center & Cafe, up to 350 meals will be served each day.

After the tour, a brief roundtable discussion was held in the [Community Center & Cafe](#). More than 60 representatives from various organizations along with elected officials joined the roundtable. Various members of the community shared why they believe the Boys & Girls Club is an integral part of the community, and how the expansion of the Club will benefit not just more young people, but the neighborhood and the entire city of Lowell.



## Program Highlights

Students from [GLTHS](#) build stage at the Club

Performing arts are an integral part of Club



programming, allowing members to express themselves, get creative and build confidence performing in front of others. Until now, however, there has not been a space in the Club for the entire membership to gather for performances. The Community Center & Cafe was designed not just to be the space where members would gather to eat each day, but a space large enough to accommodate events, programs and community gatherings. A stage was an element of the design to support performing in the space.

The Club was fortunate to collaborate with the [Greater Lowell Technical High School](#) on this project. Students from the Carpentry shop, under the guidance of their instructors, built a new stage in the Community Center & Cafe.

Read more about the project in [this article from the Lowell Sun](#).

## **Believe & Become Construction Update**

It is hard to see with the green construction fence surrounding the facility, but the Teen Center addition is coming along nicely. The picture on the top shows the excavation of the site from November- you may remember the paved driveway that led to the back of the building that existed there previously.

The picture on the bottom shows the foundation of the Teen Center going up from today. Even in this photo it is hard to visualize the scale of the addition. The Teen Center will consist of two levels, the top being the entrance to the Teen Center that will be visible from the street, and include a Teen lounge and classroom space. The lower level will house the Music Clubhouse and Makerspace for all Club members.

We welcome anyone who would like to come by for a tour of the renovation and expansion project. Just [click here](#) to schedule a time with one of our staff members.





Schedule a Tour of the Club





Please share this information about the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell's upcoming [Summer Program Open House](#). This is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn more about the program, get help with registration forms, see the Club and speak with staff. There will also be fun activities and snacks.

The [Boys & Girls Club's Summer Program](#) is open to all youth **ages 8 - 18**, and runs Monday - Friday from July 1st - August 16th. The program includes breakfast and lunch each day, a wide variety of age-appropriate activities, field trips, weekly bar-b-ques and more. All of this is included in the **weekly program fee of \$30**. Evening programs for teens run from 6 - 8 PM Tuesday - Thursday.

On Friday May 24th, from 5:30-7:30pm, the Club will be hosting our [Summer Program Open House](#). This is a great opportunity for families to stop by and register your children for Summer programming, take a tour, get support with the parent portal and make payments. Stop by the resource corner for hygiene products and other items as well as meet community partners and learn about their organizations. The evening will end with bingo, raffles and prizes!

For more information contact Shirley at

[shirley.pimentel@lbgc.org](mailto:shirley.pimentel@lbgc.org)

Click here to share the invite to the Summer Program Open House



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