

March 2024

Memo from the Board of Directors

To: The Parents and Community of Magic Garden Children's Center

From: The Magic Garden Board of Directors

Subject: Upcoming Lincoln Community Center Vote

Dear Parents and Community Members,

We hope this message finds you well. As you are aware, the Lincoln Community Center Project presents a significant opportunity for the town of Lincoln to enhance its facilities and services. At the [March 23rd Lincoln Annual Town Meeting](#), Lincoln residents will vote to approve funding for the community center project. Then if approved, on Monday, March 25, 2024, a final vote to approve the project, will be completed by ballot.

Over the past year, our administrators, Lori & Sue, plus members of the Magic Garden Board of Directors have had many meetings to ensure we are looking ahead to better understand and influence the future of our campus. Our team has met with:

- Dan Pereira, Lincoln town official leading the building project
- Parry Graham, Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent, and the leadership team
- Members of the Lincoln School Committee
- Brandon Kelly, Director of Facilities and Maintenance
- Kate Hawkins, Director of LEAP
- LEAP Board of Directors
- Jessica Downing, Director Lincoln Park and Rec. Dept.
- Members of the Community Center Building Committee (CCBC)
- Members of the Council on Aging (COA&HS)
- ICON Architecture

Magic Garden's efforts to maintain our tenancy have resulted in reassurance from the groups listed above that Magic Garden will not be displaced and Magic Garden will remain in the Hartwell Building as it currently exists (including during any future construction on the Hartwell Campus). Each party listed above has shared that they highly value Magic Garden's presence in the Lincoln community and on the LPS campus.

The good news is that based upon plans that have been presented at community center planning meetings, and which will be presented at the All Town Meeting in Lincoln on March 23, 2024, Magic Garden will remain in its current location and will have the benefit of using space within the new community center for programming, such as sports and gymnastics. The layout of the proposed Community Center Building maximizes synergy between Magic Garden, Lincoln Park and Recreation, LEAP, and the Council on Aging and Human Services departments.

Throughout every phase of this project ICON Architecture has thoughtfully listened to our concerns and has been vigilant about ensuring the safety of the children on campus. This has been demonstrated

through their commitment to keep parking and traffic separate from pedestrian pathways and areas where children play.

In addition, all parties have been transparent throughout the process that green space on the Hartwell Campus will be adjusted whether due to construction of the new Community Center Building or renovations of the existing Pods. Magic Garden will lose the green space in back of Pod B where the Old Magic Garden Playground is currently located.

Due to the current conditions of the play structure on the Old Magic Garden Playground and knowing that we will not have access to this space in the future, it does not make sense to invest in costly renovations.

Magic Garden would like to help support the rejuvenation of Strats Place and has been working with the Town of Lincoln Administrators towards this initiative. Strats Place was an amazing play structure designed by a local teacher and was built by the Lincoln Community. It was formerly located behind the Hartwell Building in back of the Starburst & Sunshine classrooms.

Here's how you can help:

Support Magic Garden in Improving Outdoor Space: Over the spring, Magic Garden families will be invited to participate in discussions of how we hope to gain access to and improve outdoor space on the Hartwell Campus. We believe that the renovation of the beloved Strats Place Playground will ensure that, regardless of current or future changes to the LPS and town campus, our children will have a safe, beautiful, and exciting place to play.

Need Childcare During the Lincoln All Town Meeting?

For Lincoln families who wish to attend the March 23rd All Town Meeting: Magic Garden will provide childcare for our currently enrolled families for children up to age 5 years old. The cost is \$25.00 per family, by check made payable to Magic Garden. Childcare will be available starting at 9 am and end 15 minutes after the CCBC vote is completed (estimated to be finished between 1 pm to 3 pm). Please RSVP to your classroom teachers or the MG Office in writing.

LEAP is also providing childcare for children ages 4 years old and older.

Thank you for your commitment to our school and your consideration of this important matter. We believe that together, we can continue to secure a bright future for Magic Garden as part of the Lincoln community.

Sincerely,
The Magic Garden Board of Directors

Lori Leo, Executive Director
Magic Garden Infant, Toddler, and Children's Centers