

## VCS Plans for a New Addition



VCS is excited to be in the process of planning and designing a new three-story addition, with a rooftop play yard above, on the site of our current play yard. This addition will provide much needed space - and will include a youth regulation-sized gymnasium, dedicated classrooms for each discipline, larger modern labs for science, technology, engineering, art and math [STEAM] courses and more - allowing VCS to accommodate its expanding, innovative curriculum. As Eve Kleger, VCS's Head of School put it, "while we never run out of new, inspired ideas at VCS, we have run out of room to implement them. Experiential and collaborative learning needs space. This addition will ensure that VCS can continue to offer the best educational opportunities for our students now and well into the future."

This addition also represents an important safety enhancement for the school. Outdoor physical education and recreation activities will be moved away from the street level to the safety of the new enclosed sky yard, and with the new gymnasium there will be a significantly reduced need for students to use Pier 40's athletic facilities, which are located several blocks away and across the busy West Side Highway.

VCS selected Manhattan-based Marvel Architects for the project, a firm with noted experience designing contextual projects in neighborhoods across New York City. As demonstrated by Marvel's renderings, the school set an imperative to preserve and complement the character of its original 130-year-old building, ensuring that the addition is architecturally appropriate for its historic Greenwich Village surroundings. Marvel's goal for the interior was to provide bright and dynamic spaces that meet the needs of the program, that foster creativity and that allow the students to engage with their subject matter and with each other. The exterior of the addition has been designed to feel like it has always belonged in the Village, blending seamlessly with the existing buildings and the neighborhood.

Though VCS has no plans to expand its student enrollment beyond its current annual -enrollment of approximately 350 students, this project is necessary in order for the school to meet the programmatic needs of 21st-century learners.

Village Community School has been a part of the neighborhood since its founding nearly 50 years ago, and wants to continue to serve it well. Increasing the size of the facilities will allow the school to expand its practice of offering pro bono space to community nonprofit groups such as Community Board 2 and the Hudson River Park Trust. VCS will also continue to provide its spaces at discounted rates to local co-op boards and other organizations.

#### Project Highlights:

- **New Innovators Lab & Expanded Science Labs** – State-of-the art STEAM labs provide new and larger spaces to enable collaborative problem-solving projects across multiple disciplines.
- **Designated Math and Language Labs** – Tech-equipped world language and math classrooms provide optimal learning and individualized practice.
- **New Gymnasium** – Youth regulation-sized gym increases time for physical education classes and sports; enhances safety by relocating Upper School physical education to the new gym from Pier 40 across the West Side Highway.
- **Library and Media Center** – A light-filled, central hub where students may delight in reading, research, study and community.
- **Additional Art Studio** – A bright workspace for all ages to create art across multiple media.
- **Sky Yard Play Space** – A safe recess, physical education and recreation area delivers sunshine and fresh air atop the new building.
- **Dynamic Breakout Collaborative Spaces** – Flex meeting spaces adapt to myriad uses for student-to-student engagement.
- **Learning Centers/Resource Rooms** – Spaces to attend to individual student needs for help and/or more advanced coursework; also useful for breakout reading and work groups.

VCS is currently in the process of seeking approvals from local city agencies and anticipates groundbreaking in late spring of 2019, with completion in early 2021.