

**Community Focus Statement F:** Increase community involvement in community beautification and social cohesion.

**Action Statement F.5: Establish a multifunctional space to be used by the youth and the community.**

**F5**

**Benchmark:** Construct and operate a multifunctional space in an accessible location for the community that holds regular youth and community events.

**Champion:** Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District

**Estimated Cost:** approximately \$3,000,000



*Example of a multi-use youth center and community facility in Milwaukee, WI. Photo source: Sulfur*

To increase community involvement, the Phelan Piñon Hills community could develop a multifunctional space to be used as a gathering place for youth and community organizations. Building a multifunctional space to be used as a cultural or arts center can have a dramatic impact on the economic and cultural viability of a community, particularly when the center reflects the community’s ethnic and cultural heritage.

The multifunctional space could be developed from a community historical asset (as identified in Action Statement C.1), converted through the process of adaptive reuse. Alternatively, the community could acquire a vacant or abandoned structure and renovate it to best serve community needs. A successful renovation project could be the first building block for renewal in the residential,

economic, and cultural life of Phelan Piñon Hills.

Phelan Piñon Hills needs a gathering space for youth of all ages to partake in recreational, educational, or other cultural activities (see Action Statement F.4). A community pool could also be developed at this location. The multifunctional space can serve as the foundation for productive relationships between local youth and the rest of the community, as well as being a permanent investment in community beautification.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a community committee to oversee this action plan.	Phelan and Piñon Hills Community Services District	Month 1	Building Communities from the Inside Out, Kretzman and McKnight  Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District
2. Identify either an existing structure for adaptive reuse, an abandoned structure for renovation, or vacant land for new development.	Community Committee, with support from Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District	Years 1 – 3	<a href="https://www.pphcsd.org/">https://www.pphcsd.org/</a>  USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
3. Create a proposal for the community center, the space required, programs and services to be offered, responsible entity, and budgeting for construction and operation. Incorporate and advise youth or cultural organization (if such a partnership is developed per Action Statement F.4). With the understanding that the space will take a number of years to build and complete, plan uses and activities for a market 5–10 years into the future.	Community Committee, with support from Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District	Years 1 – 3	<a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program</a>  USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grants <a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program</a>
4. Identify and apply for grant funding (national, regional, and county opportunities). Track any other sponsorship opportunities, community donors, etc. File for nonprofit status.	Community Committee and responsible entity	Years 1 – 3	Let's Play Initiative How to Start a Community Center <a href="http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/start-community-center-5093.html">http://peopleof.oureverydaylife.com/start-community-center-5093.html</a>
5. After funding is secured, begin process of hiring architects, designers, and contractors to build the community center.	Responsible Entity with support from Community Committee	Years 3 – 6	
6. During community center construction, develop plans, policies, and regulations for the operation of the space. Develop fundraising events.	Community Committee with support from responsible entity	Years 3 – 6	