

Overview

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) will be keeping its BCYF Jackson Mann location open for the foreseeable future, until a move is necessary to allow for demolition/construction. BCYF planned to relocate to Brighton High School however this plan had several drawbacks and community comments made clear a strong preference for keeping BCYF Jackson Mann at its current location. This location will be reevaluated each year to ensure that the building is safe and operational.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why was the community center originally proposed to move from the Jackson Mann building to Brighton High?
 - a. Answer: The building is reaching the end of its usable life. The long-term plan is still to close the building and to build a new community center. However, in the short term, the building is still in usable condition for the community center to continue to operate at the Jackson Mann, and so BCYF and BPS are working together to try to retain it there for as long as possible, to meet community needs. Jackson Mann uses only a portion of the building, which will allow for repairs and maintenance to be focused on those areas.
- 2. What programming at the Jackson Mann is going to stay in its current location instead of going to Brighton High? Will any programming be leaving the site?
 - a. Answer: The intent is for Jackson Mann to retain all typical programming. No BCYF programs are currently planned to leave the site.
- 3. Will the gym still be usable for programming? Will the entire building be accessible?
 - a. Answer: The intent is that the gym will be usable for programming. BCYF will focus on using the space on the first floor of the rear building, including the dance room, classrooms,



and gym, accessed via the Armington street entrance under the walkway. The front building will not be used and upper levels of the building where classrooms are located are intended to be closed.

- 4. Will entry to the building be different?
 - a. The Armington Street entrance will be the main entrance for both staff and the community. The entrance facing Cambridge Street will not be open.
- 5. What will the hours of operation be?
 - a. Answer: Interim schedule will be Monday-Friday 1pm-9pm as we work to expand site level staff.
- 6. Is the structure safe?
 - a. Answer: The structure is safe and will be regularly evaluated.
- 7. Why was the building described as unsafe in the past?
 - a. Answer: The building is reaching the end of its usable life the roof, plumbing systems, windows, etc. would all need to be replaced in the near term if the plan was for the existing building to continue to be used the next 40-50 years. However, the building is still able to be used in the short term in areas that the Jackson Mann has historically used, such as the gym, where the building is in better condition.
- 8. What financial investments into space will there be?
 - a. Answer: There are ARPA funds allocated to BCYF, previously planned to help fund the move to Brighton High. The intention now is for those funds to go towards any needed maintenance, repairs, and staffing needed to keep the community center at the Jackson Mann.



- 9. Will the facility be used as a cooling center?
 - a. Answer: BCYF Jackson Mann has not technically been a cooling center listed by the City for several years. The gym does not currently have air conditioning. Its status as a cooling center may continue to be evaluated.
- 10. Will the facility be used as an emergency shelter?
 - a. Answer: Many BCYF facilities across the City do have the potential to be activated to serve as emergency shelters in the event of a crisis, but those decisions are made as emergencies arise.
- 11. Will the facility be used as a polling station?
 - a. Answer: Yes. The intent is to keep the polling station in the building at least through the elections this fall.
- 12. Does this mean that plans for a new community center in Allston are canceled or delayed?
 - a. Answer: Keeping the center at the Jackson Mann in the near term is not impacting the planning for a new community center in Allston/Brighton. There is \$4M in the 5-year FY25-29 Capital Budget for the planning and design part of the project.
- 13. What is the timeline for design or construction of a new community center?
 - a. Answer: There is not yet a set timeline. There is \$4M in the 5-year FY25-29 Capital Budget for the planning and design part of the project.
- 14. How many staff will be on-site? Will gaining access be any different?
 - a. Answer: BYCF intends to have their Center Director, Program Supervisor, and Staff Assistant on site for the initial re-opening. Hiring for additional staff will take place over the course of the next few weeks. BPS intends to have 2 custodians available once the building is staffed.



- 15. Does this impact any BPS schools?
 - a. Answer: This does not impact any schools. It is still the best decision for school communities to not be in the building when the existing building cannot support them long-term. The Horace Mann school has a newly renovated facility that the community moved into in Fall of 2024.