
2003
RUDY BRUNER AWARD
PROJECT DATA



**Red Hook Community Justice Center
Relevant Dates**

Planning process begins	1994
Red Hook Public Safety Corps begins	June 1995
Red Hook Youth Court begins	April 1998
Groundbreaking	June 24, 1999
Building restoration complete	March 2000
Criminal Court opens	April 5, 2000
Family Court opens	April 2001
Housing Court opens	April 2002
Domestic Violence Petitions accepted	Projected February 2003

2003
RUDY BRUNER AWARD
ABSTRACT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

1. How has the project impacted the local community?

The Justice Center has re-engineered the response to low-level crime in the neighborhood. Residents in Red Hook have long complained about their quality of life being degraded by vandalism, prostitution, and drugs. Instead of ignoring these supposedly "victimless" crimes, the Justice Center seeks to combine punishment and help. Low-level offenders are sentenced to paint-over graffiti, clean parks and maintain public housing. They are also linked to on-site services like drug treatment, health care, and job training in an effort to prevent them from returning to court again and again. The community benefits from this new approach to quality of life offenses in several ways: 1) the conditions of disorder in the community are actually remediated by supervised offenders performing community service, 2) a number of offenders are provided with the help they need to avoid criminal behavior and thus become neighborhood assets instead of liabilities, 3) by making justice visible in Red Hook, the Justice Center helps to restore public confidence in government and creates an atmosphere where economic development efforts can flourish.

Addressing low-level crime is just one of the ways in which the Justice Center has had a tangible impact on Red Hook. It has brought a similar spirit of reinvention to landlord-tenant disputes and Family Court cases as well.

2. Describe the underlying values of the project. What, if any, significant trade-offs were required to implement the project?

At its core, the Justice Center has a two-pronged approach, focusing on problem-solving and prevention. The problem-solving aspects include the multi-jurisdictional courtroom where the Red Hook judge has unprecedented access to both information and sanctioning options. It also includes a building that is easy for litigants to navigate and includes space to house a range of services to address the needs of Red Hook families. From the beginning, the community wanted the Justice Center to go beyond just responding after the fact to court cases and move towards addressing the roots of these issues through prevention. The Justice Center's prevention work includes community mediation, mentoring and internship programs for local teens, and community volunteer projects. Beyond these services, the Center has sponsored a baseball league, hosted an annual day-long celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and held an overwhelmingly popular Halloween celebration. These are not activities traditionally hosted by a local court, but have proven vital to the success and acceptance of the Justice Center, with each event building another link between the community and the Justice Center.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONT'D)

3. Describe the key elements of the development process, including community participation where appropriate.

The Red Hook Community Justice Center grew out of the seeds of tragedy. In 1992, Patrick Daly, a beloved principal of a local elementary school, was out looking for a truant student and was murdered in a cross fire between rival drug gangs. The Brooklyn DA, Charles Hynes, responded to this tragedy by calling for the creation of a community court. From that point on, the neighborhood was intimately involved. Planners set up focus groups, individual interviews, and town hall meetings with local residents. The local community board created a special committee dedicated to the Justice Center. Even before the building opened, the Justice Center's AmeriCorps program recruited local residents to gather community input through an annual community-wide survey, asking over 1,000 residents basic questions about safety, quality of life, and service needs. At the same time, Justice Center planners convened agencies scheduled to be on-site, including the NYPD, the District Attorney's Office, Legal Aid Society and others to ensure adequate and appropriate space. After each round of revisions and re-designs, the Justice Center planners presented their proposals to an array of residents, agencies, unions and providers for further refinements. The final product, while tight on space, has managed to accommodate a remarkable set of needs and activities. Most important, the project managed to pass New York City's Uniform Land Use Review Process (including formal review by the local community board, the Brooklyn Borough President, the City Planning Commission and the City Council) without objection.

4. Describe the financing of the project. Please include all funding sources and square foot costs where applicable.

The Justice Center has three floors with 26,000 sq. feet of space. It is sited on a ½ acre lot with a rear and side parking lot. The renovation of the Justice Center cost \$5.5 million and was funded by the City of New York (using revenues from a New York State Dormitory Authority bond issue) – at an average square foot cost of \$211. The building is rented by the City from the Catholic Church, which owns the property, for a nominal amount. The planning and development was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. Ongoing Justice Center operations are supported by the New York State Office of Court Administration, the City of New York, and private foundations.

5. Is the project unique and/or does it address significant urban issues? Is the model adaptable to other urban settings?

The Red Hook Community Justice Center is the first of its kind – a multi-jurisdictional community court designed to address the disconnect between citizens of economically-depressed neighborhoods and government, high rates of crime and substance abuse, as well as the need for revitalizing a waterfront neighborhood that suffers from industrial disinvestment. Yet the Justice Center was built with an eye toward replication and adaptation by other jurisdictions. One common issue with model projects is that they are typically boutique models, designed to serve a tiny population. This is not the case in Red Hook. While it is true that the Justice Center serves only a small part of New York City, the Justice Center's catchment area is hardly tiny – it includes over 200,000 residents. This is a larger population than many American cities. The message this sends is clear: if it can be done in Red Hook, it can be done in Indianapolis, Hartford, or Minneapolis. And indeed, there are signs that the community court model is starting to develop a good deal of traction nationally. Based on Red Hook (and an earlier prototype, the Midtown Community Court), the community court model is being replicated in 30 jurisdictions across the country (see attached December 2002 article from Washington Post). Red Hook and its parent organization, the Center for Court Innovation, have played an active role in promoting this expansion through publications, websites (www.communityjustice.org), workshops, and site visits.

PUBLIC AGENCY PERSPECTIVE

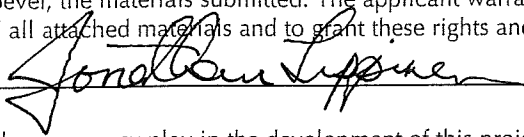
Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by staff representative(s) of public agency(ies) who were directly involved in the financing, design review, or public approvals that affected this project.

Name	Hon. Jonathan Lippman	Title	Chief Administrative Judge
Organization	NYS Unified Court System	Telephone	(212) 428-2100
Address	25 Beaver Street, 11th Floor	City/State/ZIP	NY, NY 10004
Fax	(212) 428-2188	E-mail	mmagnani@courts.state.ny.us

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature



1. What role did your agency play in the development of this project? Describe any requirements made of this project by your agency (e.g., zoning, public participation, public benefits, impact statements).

The Red Hook Community Justice Center is an official branch of the New York State Unified Court System and was designed, planned and implemented by our Center for Court Innovation, which was charged with the task of ensuring that the project design reflected the needs of the criminal justice system as well as of the community. This meant allowing adequate space for the courtroom, holding cells, clerks' office, court officers' lockers, prosecutors and defenders' offices and judge's chambers. All of these design elements were created with the input of the relevant stakeholders and were formally approved by the New York State Unified Court System.

In addition to this process, the Justice Center went through New York City's standard land use review process, which provides numerous opportunities for community input and approval. The Justice Center's design and program was reviewed and approved – without objection – by community residents (at several town hall-style meetings), the local community board, the New York City Planning Commission and the New York City Council.

2. How was this project intended to benefit your city? What trade-offs and compromises were required to implement the project? How did your agency participate in making them?

The Red Hook Community Justice Center has two primary goals: (1) to improve the justice system's response to neighborhood problems and (2) to improve public confidence in the justice system. The Justice Center achieves the first goal through its unique, multi-jurisdictional courtroom in which a single judge handles housing, criminal and family court cases from the surrounding community. The Justice Center offers the judge a wide variety of programming in an effort to solve the problems that bring people to court. Drug treatment, child care, job training, victim assistance, mediation, adult education classes and other programs are located on-site to ensure most efficient service delivery. Open, flexible workspace (with few private offices) maximize the number of agencies that can be located on-site and promote information-sharing and collaborative problem-solving. To improve public confidence in justice, the Justice Center has created an open, welcoming space that draws in court users and neighborhood residents. Red Hook's design eschews formal and foreboding material commonly found in courts, such as mahogany, marble and brass, relying more on light wood and colored tile. Space is reserved for public functions, such as the meeting area and the childcare room, at the front of the building. A project like Red Hook inevitably requires trade-offs – limited space means making tough choices. It was the role of the New York State Unified Court System both to encourage the Center for Court Innovation to push the envelope in design and program and to ensure that traditional court players – such as the judge, court officers and prosecutors – could accept new methods of operating. At the same time, the New York State Unified Court System worked to preserve the courthouse's necessary dignity, functionality and security. Red Hook's success from a design perspective is that it has managed to achieve a healthy balance among these competing needs.

PUBLIC AGENCY PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Describe the project's impact on your community. Please be as specific as possible.

The Justice Center has had an impact locally, nationally and internationally. In Red Hook, according to an annual door-to-door survey of residents, the Justice Center has dramatically reduced fear of crime and improved perceptions of neighborhood safety and of courts. In fact, the Justice Center now has an approval rating exceeding 70% (compared with ratings in the low teens for courts in surveys taken before the Justice Center opened for business). Its unique approach had a direct impact on hundreds of individuals, as well; more than 1,000 people (in less than three years of operations) have been mandated to services like drug treatment, counseling and job training rather than short-term jail stays. As a demonstration project, the Justice Center's focus on improving local quality-of-life and engaging the community is intended to spark new ideas for court systems everywhere. Red Hook has served as a model for jurisdictions throughout the state and country. Currently, twenty community courts have sprung up nationally, with at least ten more in planning stages. There has been world-wide interest in Red Hook's approach, as well; the British government is exploring the feasibility of creating justice centers throughout England and Wales.

4. Did this project result in new models of public/private partnerships? Are there aspects of this project that would be instructive to agencies like yours in other cities?

Courts are collaborative enterprises involving literally dozens of partners – such as police, probation, prosecutors, defense lawyers. All of those agencies are involved in a community court like Red Hook plus others, as well – tenant associations, private foundations, community-based social service providers, etc. So the Red Hook Community Justice Center is, at its core, a public/private partnership. To manage this complicated array of partners, the New York State Unified Court System selected the Center for Court Innovation, its independent research and development arm. The Center is a unique organization – it is an on-going, dedicated resource for the New York State Unified Court System, but it is not part of the New York State Unified Court System. Rather, it is operated as a project of the Fund for the City of New York, a non-profit agency. One of the lessons of Red Hook is the value of the Center – essentially an intermediary entity – in coordinating the work of both public and private partners. Because the Center has one foot in each world, it has great flexibility to navigate bureaucracy and to speak in a language understood by both public agencies and private groups. For example, the Center's participation enabled Red Hook to raise private dollars that would never have been donated directly to the Court system. It enabled Red Hook to engage in community organizing work that the court system is ill-equipped to perform. And it enabled the Justice Center to collaborate with local non-governmental agencies – like an economic development corporation or housing advocacy agency – that would not typically partner with the court system.

5. What do you consider to be the most and least successful aspects of this project?

The Justice Center has shown that courts can solve problems, and can have tangible and meaningful impact on communities, victims and defendants. The Justice Center has demonstrated that it is possible to halt the "revolving doors" of drugs-crime-jail. Engaging the community has created a sense of investment by Red Hook's residents in its Justice Center, leading to greater confidence in the justice system and a greater sense of safety for residents in their own homes and on their streets. Of course a project like Red Hook has significant challenges to overcome. Perhaps most daunting is the difficulty in applying the lessons learned in Red Hook system-wide. The Red Hook model rethinks the roles and functions of traditional court players. In a small demonstration project setting, such a change can be accomplished with limited objection; but the question remains unanswered as to how easy it will be to "go to scale" with some of these improvements.

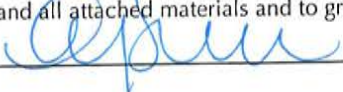
PUBLIC AGENCY PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by staff representative(s) of public agency(ies) who were directly involved in the financing, design review, or public approvals that affected this project.

Name Charles J. Hynes Title Kings County District Attorney
Organization Kings County DA's Office Telephone (718)250-2202
Address 350 Jay Street City/State/ZIP Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax (718)250-2314 E-mail hynes@brooklynda.org

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature  Counsel to DA Charles Hynes

1. What role did your agency play in the development of this project? Describe any requirements made of this project by your agency (e.g., zoning, public participation, public benefits, impact statements).

The Kings County District Attorney's Office {KCDA} was a partner in the Red Hook Community Justice Center {RHCJC} from the onset. Ten years ago, District Attorney Charles J. Hynes prosecuted the killers of beloved Red Hook principal, Patrick Daly. At that time, the District Attorney voiced his desire to do something special for the Red Hook community. It was apparent to the District Attorney that Red Hook was a community suffering from geographic isolation (being surrounded by water on three sides and a highway on the fourth) and a community that could benefit from the creative prosecution that could inevitably flow from a community justice center.

To that end, when the subject of a location for this innovative justice center arose, DA Hynes was firm in his resolve that Red Hook be the chosen site. The KCDA attended planning meetings with myriad agencies, actively participated in all decision making, and used various in-house resources and crime statistics to aid in the planning on all matters relating to criminal justice. In sum, there was no need for us to be convinced of the need or the value of the project. We were always convinced that the need existed and that the value would be immeasurable.

2. How was this project intended to benefit your city? What trade-offs and compromises were required to implement the project? How did your agency participate in making them?

From the beginning, the RHCJC was designed to bring justice and services to the Red Hook, an isolated section of Brooklyn that often felt forgotten by downtown. The project was intended to directly and creatively confront low-level crimes in a low-income area, ultimately improving resident's safety and quality of life. In program design, the KCDA had to work with the Court System, the Police Department, the Legal Aid Society, residents and planners from the Center for Court Innovation to come to an agreement about appropriate cases – severity, catchment area, hours of operations. Each of these took some balancing and agreement. Likewise, the KCDA had to develop creative sentences that balanced public safety, individual client service needs and the "going rates" of cases downtown.

To make the building work, the KCDA understood that every agency would have to compromise a little on space. For example, the staff has a dedicated suite of offices, but the attorneys use shared group rooms to interview a witness or debrief a police officer. Because KCDA was in the project from the beginning, the agency was central to the planning process, and helped work out building design, arrest-to-arraignment protocol and agreements with other agencies.

PUBLIC AGENCY PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Describe the project's impact on your community. Please be as specific as possible.

From a criminal justice standpoint, the RHCJC has had an extremely positive impact on the community. The KCDA seeks not only to achieve justice but also to reduce and prevent crime and to increase the public safety. The RHCJC has provided a way for us to achieve those goals. In the Courtroom, we are able to facilitate fair and creative dispositions because of all the services at our fingertips at the RHCJC. We use all of the Center's programs in our plea offers including the marijuana group, the rhythm and life mapping groups (for teens), the quality of life group, drama therapy, mediation, and anger management. A large percentage of our plea offers include a mandate to a Batterer's Intervention Group or a drug or alcohol treatment program. These programs are all effective in combating recidivism and increasing public safety. Moreover, the RHCJC has worked with the KCDA staff to reach out to the community. We held a joint workshop for parents/guardians of teens that provided an evening of education on drug awareness, truancy issues, gang involvement and domestic violence as they relate to teens. Many other community efforts are facilitated through the Red Hook Public Safety Corps which is another example of the combined efforts of the Center for Court Innovation and the KCDA. The nearly 50-member corps has been an invaluable resource. They serve as a conduit from the justice center to the community in that they get our message out with their fingers always on the pulse of the community, get their message back to us. Finally, the project has enabled the KCDA to rise to new levels in our community prosecution efforts. We have established strong relationships with all of our partner police precincts and the increased level of communication between our agencies is incomparable.

4. Did this project result in new models of public/private partnerships? Are there aspects of this project that would be instructive to agencies like yours in other cities?

The RHCJC relies on a vast array of private/public partnerships. The planning was done in conjunction with the Center for Court Innovation, itself a unique private/public partnership between the NYS Court System and the Fund for the City of New York. The CCI staff in the building are private employees who are responsible for coordinating operations and planning, providing clinical services, monitoring compliance and all community programs. These private employees work hand-in-hand with public agencies, such as KCDA, the Courts and NYPD. The services are provided by a combination of private and public agencies. In the same day, clients may receive services from the Justice Center's city welfare representative and a social worker from Good Shepherd Services, a neighborhood youth and family service provider. Other private partners in the building include Phoenix House, for drug treatment, Safe Horizon, for victim services and a job developer from the Fifth Avenue Committee, a local Community Development Corporation. The RHCJC was always conceived as a demonstration project and designed to help instruct people in New York and around the country. The KCDA at Red Hook has been honored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance with being named as one of the nine mentor/leadership sites for community prosecution in the country. Because of this designation, we have been visited by several prosecutor's offices across the country who are desirous of replicating our model of community prosecution. In addition, we have hosted a range of international visitors including judges from China, prosecutors from Sweden and Lord Harry Wolfe, England's chief judge, who left very impressed and has since mentioned Red Hook in speeches advocating criminal justice reform in England.

5. What do you consider to be the most and least successful aspects of this project?

One of the most successful aspects of the project is the ever-flourishing relationship between the New York City Police Department {NYPD} and the KCDA. Our strengthened partnership is the result of the project. In large part, because of the project, we work closely with the NYPD on several community-based concerns. We work with NYPD on narcotics eviction issues, quality of life issues and other neighborhood concerns. This has significantly improved the level of communication that, in turn, fosters a better adjudication of our criminal cases. We have, in essence, formed a solid foundation upon which we have built a strong working relationship. Additionally, the prosecutors attend all of the NYPD precinct council meetings and learn about the community concerns first hand.

In all honesty, I cannot think of an aspect of the program that I would consider to not be successful. While there is always room to grow and become even better, one of the most important characteristics about the project is the ever-growing ideas and programs and the ongoing evaluative process that occurs routinely in all aspects of the program. If something goes wrong or has the capacity to improve, we all work together to implement the necessary changes.

DEVELOPER PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by the person who took primary responsibility for project financing or is a representative of the group which did.

Name	Greg Berman	Title	Director
Organization	Center for Court Innovation	Telephone (212)	373-8090
Address	520 Eighth Ave., 18th Floor	City/State/ZIP	New York, NY 10018-6645
Fax (212)	397-0985	E-mail	bermang@courtinnovation.org

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature 

1. What role did you or your organization play in the development of this project? Describe the scope of involvement.

The Center for Court Innovation is a public/private partnership that seeks to help courts aid victims, change the behavior of offenders and improve public safety. The Center functions as the New York State Unified Court System's independent research and development arm, creating demonstration projects that tackle difficult problems and test the viability of new ideas. The Red Hook Community Justice Center is one such demonstration project. On behalf of the New York State Unified Court System, the City of New York and the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the Center for Court Innovation took the lead in planning, design and implementation of the Red Hook Community Justice Center. The Center was responsible for all aspects of the project, including conceptualization and feasibility studies, gathering community input, negotiating the operational needs and space concerns of 12 on-site partner agencies, overall design of the building (both structural and interior scheme), and overseeing construction and roll-out.

2. What trade-offs or compromises were required during the development of the project?

A project as large, innovative, multifaceted and high-profile as the Red Hook Community Justice Center will inevitably require numerous delicate balancing acts. Perhaps the most interesting relates to the inherent tension in the idea of "community justice." To be an effective criminal justice project, Red Hook had to invoke the formality and seriousness of the judiciary. To ensure safety, for example, the Justice Center had to include secure areas, holding cells and gun lockers. On the other hand, the Justice Center could not afford to feel like a downtown court moved to Red Hook. If the Justice Center was serious about engaging community in new ways, it had to send a message that it was not a typical criminal justice institution. In other words, it had to feel like a true community center. The Justice Center has accomplished this partly through programming, and partly through design. By including prominent windows, by choosing a color scheme that is purposefully warm, by investing in attractive signage, the Justice Center welcomes the community into the building for neighborhood meetings and free services, including mediation, GED classes, job training and drug treatment.

3. How was the project financed? What, if any, innovative means of financing were used?

Like all Center for Court Innovation projects, Red Hook relied on a complicated array of funding streams. Initial seed money came from the New York City Housing Authority. This planning grant was used to leverage a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to support research and fees for the architect and construction management. With planning and architectural services in place, the City of New York allocated over \$5 million from a Dormitory Authority bond to pay for actual renovation. (In New York, the executive branch is responsible for underwriting court construction.) Knowing that the planning and construction would take some years, the Center raised a combination of Federal, State and private funds to support pilot operations before the building even opened, including the Red Hook Public Safety Corps and the Red Hook Youth Court - essential building blocks to establishing neighborhood credibility. On-going operations are supported by the New York State Unified Court System and the City of New York in combination with private foundations.

DEVELOPER PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

4. How did the economic impacts of this project on the community compare with or differ from other projects you have been? Prior to Red Hook, the Center's only development project had been the Midtown Community Court, located near Times Square in the center of Manhattan. In contrast to Midtown -- which is surrounded by large businesses and theaters and is a major tourist destination -- Red Hook is a poor and geographically isolated neighborhood. In Midtown, our challenge was to support and complement a complicated web of pre-existing economic development initiatives. In Red Hook, this infrastructure simply does not exist. Here the challenge is more basic: to reduce fear and improve public safety in a crime-ridden neighborhood and thus lay the groundwork for economic investment. The Justice Center's potential to set the stage for economic development helped earn the project significant local support. Other factors that mobilized community support (and were different from our experience in Midtown) were that we were refurbishing a valuable neighborhood resource -- Visitation School -- that had been vacant for two decades. Both during the construction phase and operations, the Justice Center would create a number of jobs that could be filled by local residents. The Center partnered with local organizations to train Red Hook residents in building trades -- several residents were hired as laborers during construction. The Justice Center also hired local firms during construction, launched an AmeriCorps program that employs 50 residents a year and hired residents whenever possible (currently eight graduates are on staff). Now that the Justice Center has been in operation for several years, the effects of the project are starting to be felt. They can be seen in the lives of the graduates of the Justice Center's AmeriCorps program, many of whom have moved from welfare to gainful employment (85% program graduates have either gone on to school or employment after the program). There are also tangible signs of economic development in Red Hook -- artists and galleries moving in, new restaurants, plans for a neighborhood trolley in development. The Justice Center cannot take direct credit for this, but it can claim that it is part of a multi-faceted effort to transform one of New York City's most notorious neighborhoods.

5. What about this project would be instructive to other developers?

First, to successfully develop a criminal justice project in a high-crime, poor neighborhood, the developer must engage the community early and often. While initially greeted with a healthy dose of skepticism by locals -- the Justice Center is a criminal justice project sited in a low-income, predominantly minority neighborhood -- the project earned acceptance, respect, and finally endorsement by responding to neighborhood input and consistently delivering on promises. (The Justice Center passed the city's rigorous land use review process without a single community objection.) Second, leverage your resources. The Justice Center would never have been possible if the project had relied on a single funding stream. Third, don't be afraid to rethink the basics. For example, Red Hook's holding cells replace the traditional metal bars, wooden bench and toilet in the middle of the room with naturally lit white-washed holding areas protected by security glass, with individual seats and stainless-steel privacy walls around the toilets. Police were initially skeptical, but they have since reported that defendants respond to the architectural message of respect. This is more than just a nice sentiment -- there have been virtually no fights in the cells, a rarity in a New York City court.

6. What do you consider to be the most and least successful aspects of this project?

Fundamentally, the most successful design element of the Justice Center is the "feel of the place." The building's interior spaces include natural wood floors, large windows, a clean and simple design, clear bilingual signage, and comfortable areas for clients. In contrast to the impersonal, cold feel of many government buildings, the Justice Center sends a message of welcome and respect for the law to staff, clients and the community.

If it were possible to change one aspect of the project, it would be simply to include more space for services and meetings. Both day and evening can find every room of the Justice Center filled with trainings, counseling sessions, and community meetings, which means that staff often have to say no to requests for space.

ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER PERSPECTIVE

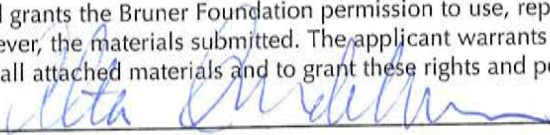
Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by a design professional who worked as a consultant on the project, providing design, planning, or other services. Copies may be given to other design professionals if desired.

Name	Alta Indelman, Architect	Title	Principal
Organization	Alta Indelman, Architect	Telephone (212)	219-1774
Address	451 Broome Street	City/State/ZIP	New York, NY 10013
Fax (212)	219-0084	E-mail	aindelmania@earthlink.net

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature



1. Describe the design concept of this project, including urban design considerations, choice of materials, scale, etc.

The project involved the gut renovation of a landmark quality abandoned school building. Of great importance to the design team was the idea of an "approachable" court. The finish materials were chosen to reinforce this idea (for example, oak "flooring" strips were used for lobby paneling instead of more formal paneling), and it was a priority to allow as much natural light into the interior as possible. The building's large windows were restored and are a delightful feature in most of the program spaces. Unobtrusive handicapped accessibility was also a priority. The design of the main entrance was a challenge. To make a sidewalk level lobby, a significant portion of the first floor was demolished and re-framed at a lower elevation. The sidewalk was re-graded to meet the new lobby floor.

2. Describe the most important social and programmatic functions of the design.

The Justice Center was designed around an innovative program that melds the demands of an official multi-jurisdictional courthouse with community-oriented programs like child care, education, and job-training. The idea behind the Justice Center is to have the court and community together address tough neighborhood problems like drugs, youth crime, and disorder. To accomplish this, the design of the Justice Center had to accommodate both court needs and community needs.

In an effort to create an open, welcoming feel, many of the spaces necessary for a court were intentionally separated from community uses. For example, it is possible to spend a whole day at the Justice Center without realizing that the building includes holding cells for detained defendants awaiting court appearances. These defendants enter the building from the rear in a separate entrance and use enclosed stairways from the basement to access the courtroom. Additionally, the design put community spaces like the child care center and an office for a community ombudsman, front and center as residents entered the building. Building circulation needs was another critical element. It is possible for a neighborhood resident to drop off her daughter in day care and go upstairs to see a job trainer in the social service clinic, without ever seeing the courtroom. Other important design elements include:

- Flexibility: Many spaces are designed to accommodate multiple uses, like the mock courtroom, which hosts youth court hearings by night and housing court help by day.
- Openness: Most staff sit in cubicles with an open floor plan to encourage cross-pollination.
- Adaptive Re-use: In an effort to preserve a valued community resource, many elements of the former Visitation School were retained, including its handsome limestone façade.

ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Describe the major challenges of designing this project and any design trade-offs or compromises required to complete the project.

The biggest challenge was the design of the main entry to the building. The old entry doors were above the sidewalk, by a sizable step, and opened into narrow stairwells. Even in the face of serious budget constraints, it was a priority to make the main entry to the building fully accessible at sidewalk level. To accomplish this, a 600 sf area of the first floor was re-framed at a lower level. The sidewalk was completely replaced and re-graded to meet the new floor level precisely at the main entry. An elevator was designed to open directly onto the main lobby and to serve the three floors of the building as well. The result is a gracious, welcoming, generously sized entry lobby that is easily accessed by all without the need for ramps or wheelchair lifts.

Using community input to shape the design, while difficult, was an important part of the project's success in obtaining neighborhood support. In addition, the Justice Center accommodates the needs of 14 agencies. Among others, these needs included holding cells, a health clinic, a child care center as well as a courtroom.

Space and budget constraints were constant challenges during the planning of this project. Most spaces, as a result, are either slightly smaller than desired or need to be "multi-purpose."

4. Describe the way in which the project relates to its urban context.

Building the Justice Center involved the adaptive reuse of an abandoned 1908 parochial school building in Red Hook, Brooklyn, an economically depressed urban neighborhood. The building is located in the middle of residential block; as a result, it was crucial that the Justice Center respect the existing footprint of the building. The two story plus basement school building, unused and in disrepair for over twenty years, was completely renovated. The exterior was cleaned and repainted and the windows were replaced. The narrow side yard was re-graded for parking and for correctional vehicle access. The sidewalk was repaved and street trees were planted. The neighborhood scale of the existing building and the openness of the new design integrate it into the community and create an approachable facility.

5. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the project's design and architecture.

The design strengths include the use of natural light throughout and the use of simple and warm finishes. The spaces are elegant while crafted from relatively inexpensive materials and the suites of rooms and multi-purpose spaces are carefully organized. Some spaces are a bit too tight because of the shortage of spaces in the existing building for the ambitious program.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by someone who was involved, or represents an organization that was involved, in helping the project respond to neighborhood issues.

Name	Pauline Blake	Title	Former Chairperson, CB6
Organization	Brooklyn Community Board 6 (CB6)	Telephone (718)	643-3207
Address	250 Baltic Street	City/State/ZIP	Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax (718)	624-8410	E-mail	

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature Pauline E. Blake

1. How did you, or the organization you represent, become involved in this project? What role did you play?

I became involved with this project as Chairperson of Community Board 6. At the time Community Board was looking for ways to implement the 197A plan for Red Hook, Community Board 6 recognized that Red Hook was grappling with several problems, crime and little or no economic development. Community Board 6 was looking for agencies to help with developing the area; we were approached by the District Attorney of Kings County who was seeking a site to create an extension of the court system similar to the Midtown Court. Under the auspices of the Community Board 6, a Sub - committee which included CB6 Board members, members of the District Attorneys staff, members from the Midtown Court and residents in Red Hook was formed to select an appropriate site for this facility. As Chairperson I emphasized the need for neighbors to come together to create a better environment by supporting the Justice Center.

2. From the community's point of view, what were the major issues concerning this project?

- Impact on Quality of Life for residents close to the sites.
- Increased criminal activity in Red Hook.
- Increased need for parking.
- Adequate staffing.
- Staff interaction with the community.
- Economic impact on the community.
- Commitment to complete the project within a realistic time.

3. What trade-offs and compromises were required during the development of the project? How did your organization participate in making them?

Community Board 6 and the members of the sub-committee developed compromises on issues of concerns. The developers agreed to develop a center that would not only serve as a court but as a vital resource for all members of the community. The expressed need was the creation of sound programs.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

4. Has this project made the community a better place to live or work? If so, how?

The project has been extremely beneficial to Red Hook. New businesses have started in Red Hook, property value is soaring and new housing is booming. The people in this unique community are fighting to prevent any negative intrusion that would interfere with the growth that is underway. The center now provides needed services for the residents such as job training and other self help education programs.

5. Would you change anything about this project or the development process you went through?

No. I would not change anything about the process because it provided an opportunity for residents to work together with Community Board 6 and a city agency to improve the quality of life for residents as well as those served by the center. This center has become a light where there once was darkness and decay. It is now a place of hope and aspiration and perhaps a place where our children will be able to see a brighter tomorrow. To me this experience will be treasured for my lifetime.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by someone who was involved, or represents an organization that was involved, in helping the project respond to neighborhood issues.

Name Jerry Armer Title Chair of the Land Use Committee
Organization Brooklyn Community Board 6 (CB6) Telephone (718) 643-3207
Address 250 Baltic Street City/State/ZIP Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax (718) 624-8410 E-mail _____

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature 

1. How did you, or the organization you represent, become involved in this project? What role did you play?

CB6 created a group of Executive Committee members to work with the Center for Court Innovation when the idea for the Red Hook Community Court was in the talking stage. We developed the broad scope for the Center, worked in developing the programs that would be housed and were involved in evaluating the various sites.

2. From the community's point of view, what were the major issues concerning this project?

There were two levels of community concerns. The first level dealt with why was Red Hook picked for this "experiment"? Is this just another thing that no other community wants and so it's being dumped on Red Hook? And are there that many criminals here that you have to put a Court in Red Hook?

Once the site was chosen, the residents living on the street raised a number of issues. They noted that the idea of having a "Court House" in a residential area would subject pressures, which are the best kept "downtown". They noted that the court houses always bring an added traffic, the loss of local parking spaces, bring in a class of people that are not usually associated with a residential area. There were concerns voiced about the hours that the court would be in operation (fear about night court) and how do you keep people from hanging around after their case has been taken care of by the court.

3. What trade-offs and compromises were required during the development of the project? How did your organization participate in making them?

There were no "trade-offs," however there were compromises. All of the compromises were made by the court. Additional property was acquired to create an area toward the back of the building, where court vehicles are used to transport prisoners and could park. Only the curb in front of the court house received a change to the parking regulations.

By listening to the community, the CB working group was able to communicate the local residents' concerns to the court and was able to make them understand the area's sensitivities. This led to many conversations that established the real needs of the court and how to balance them with the needs of their own neighbors.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

4. Has this project made the community a better place to live or work? If so, how?

The quick answer is "YES." The reason for the yes is: When this project was first proposed it was called the Red Hook Community Court. When it opened it was called the Red Hook Community Justice Center. It is more than a Community Court. The Center has programs for nearly every segment of the community and it tackles community projects that at first glance do not seem to have anything to do with the Justice Center, i.e., interest in the neighborhood Park, helping to create a Friends of Coffey Park. It has grown into (in a very short time) a place that the Red Hook community is proud to call its own. And as someone who worked on the Center from the start I can say that it has to be more of a positive influence than any of us could have hoped for.

5. Would you change anything about this project or the development process you went through?

No. It was the process, as long and hard as it was, that brought the community together. It was the process that made people sit down and talk to each other. That made them see that you can make a change and that you do count.

OTHER PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. Applicants should feel free to use photocopies of the application forms if needed. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

Name Alice Tapia Title Community Outreach Coordinator

Organization Resident/Corps Member/Employee Telephone (718)923-8232

Address 88 Visitation Place City/State/ZIP Brooklyn, NY 11231

Fax (718)923-8248 E-mail atapia@courts.state.ny.us

The undersigned grants the Bruner Foundation permission to use, reproduce, or make available for reproduction or use by others, for any purpose whatsoever, the materials submitted. The applicant warrants that the applicant has full power and authority to submit the application and all attached materials and to grant these rights and permissions.

Signature *Alice Tapia*

1. What role did you play in the development of this project?

I first heard about the Justice Center when I came to some of the focus groups with other community leaders who I respected. Soon after, I joined the first class of the Red Hook Public Safety Corps. I was already doing stuff in the neighborhood -- volunteering with the Tenants Associations, and starting a garden project with local youth from one of the worst drug-infested buildings. I was on public assistance, I was a single mother, and I was looking for work. I figured, I'm volunteering, so I might as well get some money for it. At the time, I didn't even have a phone. The first year of the Corps was some hard work, but I was excited to make a difference. Operation Data [the Corps annual community survey] was a questionnaire that no one wanted to do at first. We got some doors slammed in our face, but we explained to people that the survey was to help make changes. Changes that I see now are really happening. Before the second year, I was hired as a Team Leader and helped organize projects and gather community input for several more years. When the building opened, I was the first "Community Outreach and Information Coordinator" and I wanted to make sure that everyone -- and I mean everyone, even if I had to go door to door -- took advantage of what was happening. To this day, I am still explaining what the Justice Center REALLY is "to the regulars." Serving at the information window, I welcomed people from the neighborhood. When we opened, I think it was important for people to be met by a face they knew. In my life, I've had to go to a lot of courts. Every courthouse should have an information window like the one in the Justice Center and inside should be a person who makes people feel comfortable and can help them.

2. Describe the impact that this project has had on the your community. Please be as specific as possible.

I think that the Justice Center has had a tremendous impact. Not at the beginning, but it's beginning to show. We had to take baby steps. You can see the impact through the quality of life -- people are starting to understand that "we all live here" and we too can live like people in wealthier communities like Carroll Gardens. There, they don't tolerate broken bottles, dealers, and trash in the streets. The classes at the Justice Center get people to think about what kind of neighborhood their mothers would like to live in. Coffey Park is a good example. Coffey Park is a park that for years was abandoned and there was a lot of drug use. I've been trying to clean up Coffey Park forever. A while ago, a few of us decided to try and take care of the park, but people get tired of cleaning it and organizing events. Now, with the Justice Center, we've partnered with businesses and residents to create Friends of Coffey Park. This group has taken responsibility for cleaning the park and bringing back events -- like an Easter egg hunt and puppet shows for kids. The Justice Center has gotten people involved in the community and gotten them to participate and take responsibility.

I also think that the relationship between residents and police is much better. Before the Justice Center, no one would have anything to do with the local precinct, because they didn't look like us and for other reasons. But things have gotten much better because of the work of people at the Justice Center. Before I worked with the Red Hook Public Safety Corps and the Justice Center, I didn't have a relationship with the police and there was little trust or respect. Once I started working for the Corps, respect and trust started to grow. The relationship between the Justice Center and the police has given some residents the opportunity to tell them what's happening and invite them to community events, including tenant meetings, Friends of Coffey Park meetings and National Night Out Against Crime. These community events build contacts, relationships and trust. Before, there was no one to call, no one helped and no one listened. Now, at the Justice Center, I

OTHER PERSPECTIVE (CONTÖD)

3. What trade-offs and compromises were required during the development of the project? Did you participate in making them?

People in the community were upset about a few things during the development of the project. At the beginning, residents had a big problem with the fact that metal detectors and a bunch of court officers with guns were going to be at the entrance of the Justice Center. Residents didn't feel welcome. People said they didn't want to take GED classes or use services at the Justice Center because of it. Now, its not an issue. It takes some time. Once residents got to know the people behind the guns, they felt better. It also helped that they saw these same officers walking around in the projects, out on the baseball field and in the neighborhood. When people came, they actually felt welcomed and respected. Finally, residents realized that this was the cost of having services in a court and it helped make sure that everyone felt safe when using the services.

The community also didn't want holding cells in the Justice Center. They were said "there is a jail coming to Red Hook." People were worried that people would be held at the Justice Center overnight and they didn't want that in their neighborhood. They also thought that defendants who went to jail would have to do their time in the Justice Center, right in their own neighborhood. The community was relieved to learn that the Justice Center planners made sure no one was going to be held overnight and that people were brought from the precincts each morning to see the judge. The Justice Center wasn't going to be a "jail" in Red Hook.

Residents, especially people who lived on the block, didn't want their kids to see people coming in or out of the Justice Center in handcuffs. So, the Justice Center was designed so that all the prisoners come in a back driveway and into a parking lot where they can't be seen.

4. What do you consider to be the the most and least successful aspects of this project?

The Justice Center has been most successful in getting the community to understand that it is a community justice center and not a court. I think that having residents from the neighborhood work at the Justice Center made it easier to explain to people that it is a good place and isn't like the downtown court.

Growing up in Red Hook, I came to the building [which was a Catholic school] on Wednesdays for religious instruction. Now, it's much different from the original schoolhouse, but there are areas that look the same and remind me of when I used to come to school in the building. It has become a beautiful space. When people come in the first time, they're scared because it's a court, but the people who work at the Justice Center and the information window make it comfortable, safe and help tell people where to go.

Sometimes, being in the neighborhood can make it harder. A lady with a domestic violence problem might want to tell me about it, but doesn't want other people who work here and live on her block to know her business. A lot of the time, we help people because of where we are, but sometimes it's a problem. All I can do is try and make a person feel safe and let her know her secrets are safe with me. But it's a small building, so I have to be careful about what staff and residents are around when I'm talking to a resident who needs services.