

## Conclusions

- There is broad interest in building a community center in Orleans
- This study is a good first step; developing background information, engaging the community and identifying steps to move this effort forward.
- There are significant challenges to moving forward with planning a community center building at this time:
  - High priority town projects competing for funds
  - Other local activities are taking place that may impact community center sizing and design details
    - Library building replacement which will add meeting rooms
    - Old Fire House renovation
    - Uncertainty regarding long term COA flooding risk
    - Recreation and community center efforts in Eastham and Brewster
    - Orleans Recreation Dept Organizational assessment
  - **A suitable building site is currently not available**
    - Building design concepts from this study reflect Orleans' needs and wants but are generic in execution

---

## Conclusions

---

- While not fulfilling all long-term benefits of having a multi-generational community center, Orleans has public facilities suitable for use on an interim basis to expand recreational and cultural programs.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** This study presents a thorough overview of the Orleans recreational landscape, facilities, and community priorities. It provides recommendations that lay the foundation for future community center work.

---

## General Recommendations

---

- In future work, think about community activities as being split between two facilities:
  - Library for intellectual and social “sitting” activities
  - Community Center for physical and social “standing” activities (including “messy art”)

This means that Community Center design decisions will assume that rooms for lectures, books clubs, mentoring, tutoring, counselling . . . etc. will be part of the Library building and not considered in Community Center planning.
- Lay foundation for a future Community Center by expanding recreational and cultural programs in Orleans using existing facilities
  - Would build management and programming infrastructure for eventual Community Center
  - Would enhance the history of program usage to guide Community Center planning and design

---

## General Recommendations

---

- Eventual Community Center design work should consider provisions for adding a COA in the future
  - Long term economic benefit in sharing of spaces, staff and operating expenses
  - Daily hours of COA usage mesh well with other user groups, allowing high utilization rates
  - Long-term viability of the current COA due to flooding from sea level rise should be considered and further studied
    - Would be highly wasteful to later build a separate new COA with redundant facilities and operating expenses
  - A multi-generational facility was strongly favored in community outreach workshop
  - COA would facilitate inter-generational activities including tutoring and mentoring
  - Community Center designs should allow phased construction with COA section to be built later; size any land purchase accordingly

## Recommendations - Near Term Actions

- Hire a Director of Community Life
  - A full-time, long-term position
  - Demonstrate strong administrative, organizational, and communication skills
  - Arrange access to appropriate building spaces for all programs (outside of COA)
  - Integrate programs across all program providers, serving all demographic groups
  - Develop and maintain a master schedule of activities in Orleans; public and quasi-public non-profit
  - Expand and maintain community life social media presence
  - Obtain and tabulate program attendance to build a history which will guide definition and planning of a community center
  - As eventual community center Director, work for community center realization and lead development efforts
- Hire a full-time Recreation Dept. Director
  - Demonstrate strong administrative, organizational, and communication
  - Expand Recreation Dept. responsibilities to include cultural & art programs
  - Build recreational, cultural, and art programs using existing Orleans facilities and working closely with the Director of Community Life on program mix
  - Take a hands-on approach to running programs
  - Be responsive to community inputs including those from the Recreation Advisory Committee

---

## Recommendations – Near Term Actions

---

- Streamline procedures for after-hours access to OES, NRMS, DPW, and Library meeting spaces
  - For both town programs and private events - typical of community centers
  - Create a [budget](#) for the required custodial and security staffing
  - Advertise space availability to community members
- Install Recreation Dept. storage facilities adjacent to OES and NRMS.
- Increase Recreation Dept. staffing to two full time personnel including the Director described above.
  - Consistent with the majority of neighboring towns
- Ask Select Board to direct the Recreation Department Organizational study team to consider this task force's findings and recommendations
- Make Town acquisition of a suitable building site a high priority
  - Sized to allow for an integrated multi-generational facility with COA; target 2-1/2 to 4 acres.