

What CCNY Needs:

A “Real” Student Center



Figure 1: The City College of New York

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Introduction:

Imagine yourself as a student at the City College of New York who walks into your local student center. Neutral green colors the walls and soft, cozy lounge seats fill the room. In every corner, you see one activity after another, and your heart does not know which it is more inclined to.

An overwhelming feeling of excitement oozes all around you as you see a large ping pong table that seems to be calling your name. There are vending machines with a variety of beverages and pick-me-up snacks to keep you awake for your night class. Additionally, you can find a beautiful outdoor area where you and your friends can wind down with a game of volleyball. Sounds quite appealing, doesn't it?

A student center can be defined as a place in which students are able to come together for leisure or other recreational purposes. One's college experience is more than just academic prosperity, but also the enjoyment experienced during that time. The combination of these two formulates a compelling student body to attend campuses like the City College of New York. For this reason, it is vital for the City College of New York to have an abundance of activities for students to ensure more people are attending.

The Issue With The Student Center At City College

At this moment, the student center at the City College of New York does not have enough recognition from students. When interviewing two undergraduate students who are currently attending the City College of New York, they mentioned how they were not aware of where this student center was located, or what activities existed in such a space. One student named Zoha Butt stated, "I'm not sure where it is or how to get there," which is quite unfortunate to hear. This

leads my group and I to conduct this proposal to emphasize the need for the City College of New York to have a progressing student center to increase the retention and growth of their students.

The purpose of creating a larger student center at the City College of New York with more activities known to students will enhance this campus in unimaginable ways. Students from all over the country would be amazed with this new student center adjacent to academic buildings dedicated to their academic growth. A survey was conducted amongst 100 City College students, including both undergraduate and graduate students to determine what City College students want to see at the student center. Results for that survey are displayed below in figure 2.

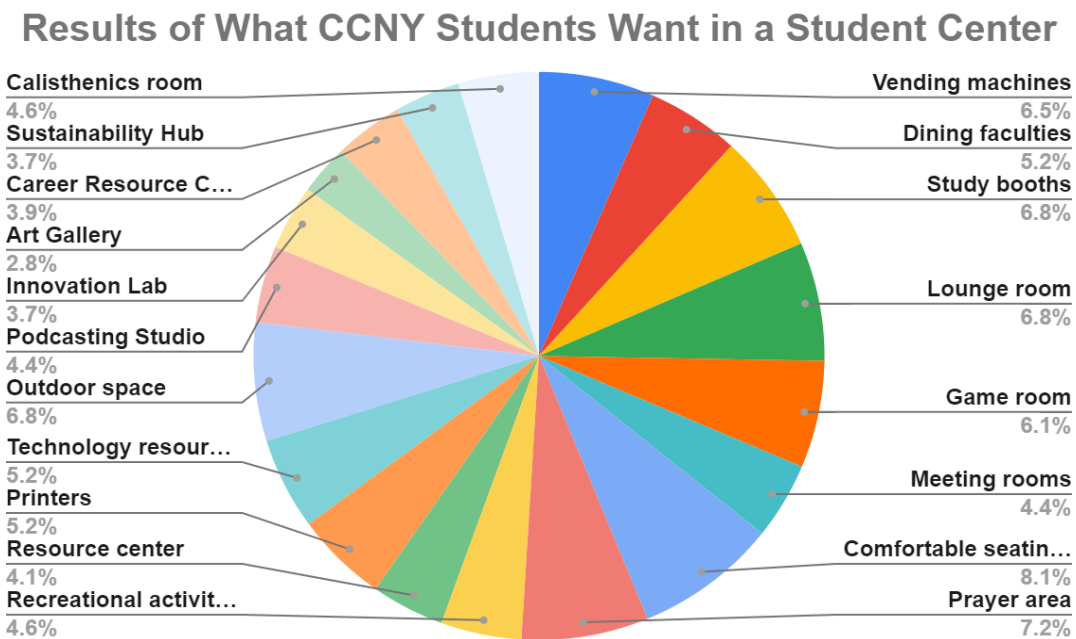


Figure 2: Graph of survey conducted by City College students on what they would want in their student center. Students were allowed to choose as many choices as they wanted. Out of 100 students we received 374 choices.

Take Action

The campus size of The City College of New York is 37 acres which contains 15,031 undergraduate and graduate students, as of fall 2021-2022. Comparing this to Rutgers University with only 2,685 acres, the student size as of fall 2022 was 67,620 undergraduate and graduate students. How is it that a smaller campus attracts more students? After researching the student center at Rutgers University, you will find that there are *six* different student centers that cater to different needs of the students. This ranges from different recreational activities like air hockey, mediation rooms, and much more.

If we do not make an effort to upgrade the student center at the City College of New York, the amount of people applying to such a campus will severely decline within the next decade. We must utilize the 37 acres of land that this college has been privileged to have. The purpose of this proposal is to outline a compelling student center with a variety of activities for students to choose from, which is thoroughly outlined in the following section of this proposal.

Action Plan:

The Beaver Lodge, the student center we aim to build, will be adjacent to The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture building. This building will be surrounded with greenery, as shown in figure 3 in the appendix. The size of the entire land is 58,802 square feet, and the size of The Beaver Lodge would approximately be 21,318 square feet. This student center will consist of three floors, each having an area of 7,106 square feet. The floor area ratio is known as the total area a building can attain in respect to the area of its surrounding land. This was determined by dividing the gross floor area (sum of the areas of all three floors, which was

21,318 square feet), by the total square footage of the building (21,318 square feet). After dividing these two values, the floor area ratio was one. This indicates that the entire area of the building can be utilized for this structure.

Figure 4 in the appendix lays out the floor plan of the first floor of the Beaver Lodge. The first floor of this building will have a length and width of 3,553 feet. This entire floor will be designed to catch every student's eye, as the entire student center is painted with neutral, green paint. As soon as the student walks in, there will be a beautiful café built in with all kinds of desserts ranging from cake to pastries with vibrant flavors. Surrounding this café will be comfortable seating areas with built-in tables where students can have a sip of coffee before class. All the way on the left will be a game room with ping pong tables, pool tables, and a variety of arcade games such as Pacman, Metal Slug, Street Fighter, and many more arcade games. This room will also have a television screen for those interested in watching sports for leisure purposes. Right outside of the game room will have a vending machine with wholesome snacks and goodies to munch on while playing in the game room. This floor will also have a wholesome lounge area with gray carpeting and beige couches. At the back of this floor, there will be a large room dedicated for those who want to pray. This room will have a salah carpet (prayer carpet) for any Muslim student who wants to come in to pray, as well as a wudu area (purity section) right next to it for those who want to perform ablution. Next to this prayer room will have an elevator that students can use to go to the other two floors.

Figure 5 in the appendix details the floor plan of the second floor of the Beaver Lodge. The second floor will be designed for students who either want to study or simply wind down from a long day. This floor will also have a length and width of 3,553 feet. After stepping out of the elevator you enter a section with seating area where you can watch a show or catch up with a

friend. Next to this will be a meditation room with soft carpeting and a window with beautiful scenery to look at when reflecting. Surrounding this little section contains built-in study booths in the form of private rooms for those who have to get assignments done or are cramming for a last-minute exam. Two bathrooms will also be built on this floor. Towards the back of the floor, there will be a meeting room where groups of students can work on a project together, or club members can meet to talk about future events. This room must be booked 24 hours in advance to avoid crowding. Next to this will be a technology center with computers and printers for students who want to use such technology. There is also a career resource center outside of this for students who want to learn more about certain fields and majors.

Figure 6 in the appendix displays the floor plan of the third floor of the Beaver Lodge. Like the first and second floor, the third floor will have a length and width of 3,553 feet. This floor is all about revealing the creativity that lies within many students, who may have not found that spark within themselves. The walls will be surrounded with vibrant paintings that are appealing to the human eye. When coming out of the elevator you will be surrounded with another seating area to ensure students have enough space to get a breather. Towards the right there will be a podcasting studio for students to get the chance to explore any topic they feel interested in. This room contains microphones, headphones, boom stands, and more. Outside of this will be another bathroom. On the right will have a sustainability hub, which is a designated area to help inform students on the importance of engaging with other students and staff on sustainability related work, as well as the benefit of intertwining different cultures on campus. There will also be an innovation lab on this floor with another vending machine with drinks and snacks. The greatest part about this floor is that it will have a large calisthenics room with a built

in mirror wall, yoga mats, and resistance bands. There would be no heavy weights in this room, as this can disturb students who are studying on the second floor.

Construction Timetable:

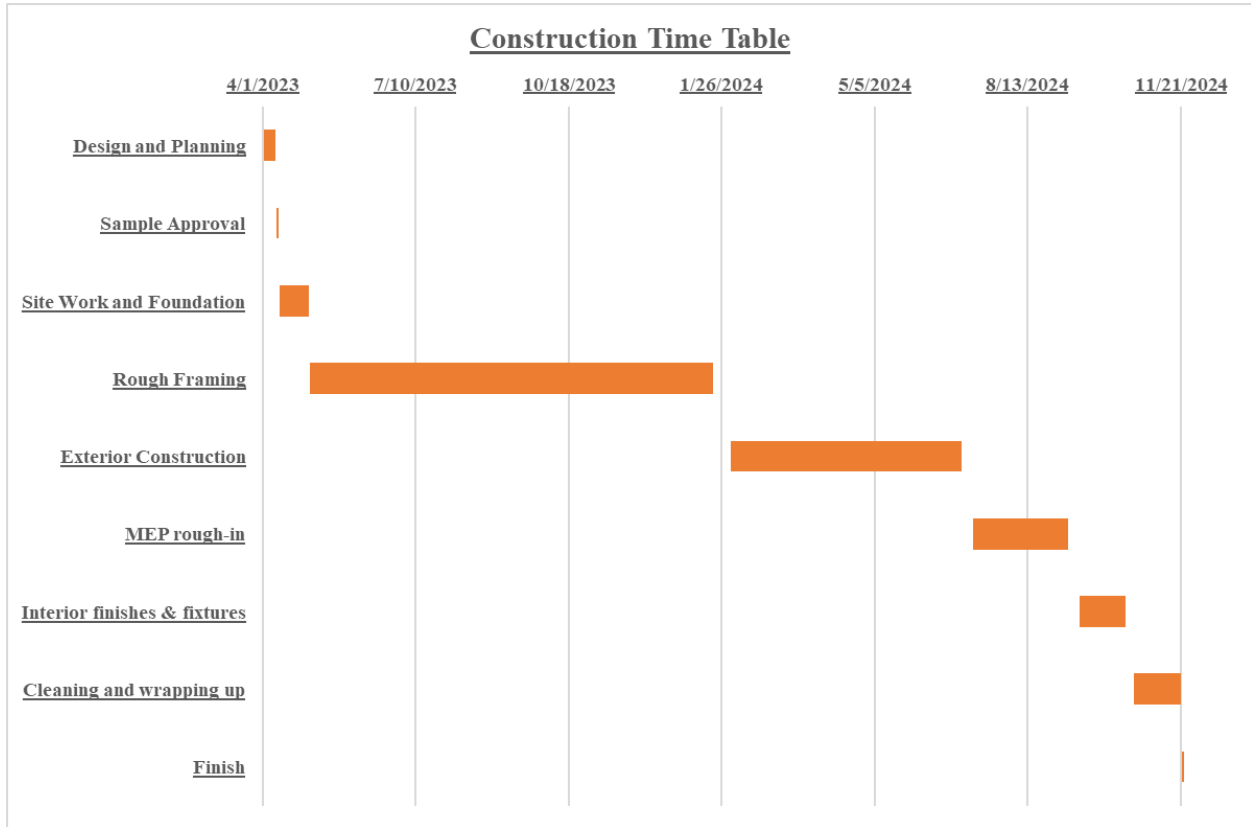


Figure 7: Gantt chart of the time it will take to build the Beaver Lodge

Cost and Benefits:

Items	Cost (U.S. Dollars)
120 Gallons of Paint (interior & exterior)	6,000
1800 sq ft of gray carpet	7,200
12 beige couches	2,000
2000 sq ft salah carpets	30,000
28 high quality study rooms	40,000
6 vending machines	24,000

4 Bathrooms	30,000
2 Ping Pong table	1,500
3 pool tables	3,000
Arcade room with games(Pacman, Metal Slug, Street Fighter, and many more arcade games)	50,000
120 inch tv	15,000
Cafe	80,000
Wudu center	70,000
Meeting area	60,000
Technology center	100,000
Elevator	50,000
Career resource center	50,000
Recording studio	100,000
Sustainability hub	30,000
Innovation lab	70,000
Calisthenics area	80,000
Tables and chairs	50,000
Construction & Labor	30,000,000
Total	\$30.95 Million

Figure 8: A rough estimate of the cost of the Beaver Lodge

For this one we can probably just read the small lines off of the board

The City College of New York is a significant institution with a long and storied history; however, as with many institutions that have been around for a while, the campus is in need of modernization. In particular, the lack of a dedicated student center has been a long-standing issue for students, faculty, and staff alike. With a \$30,950,000 investment in a new student center, the college would finally have a space that is designed specifically to meet the needs of its diverse

student body. This center would provide a modern, state-of-the-art facility for students to gather, study, socialize, and engage in a wide range of activities, from clubs and organizations to cultural events and performances. Furthermore, it would help to attract top talent, as students would have access to a modern, comfortable space that meets their needs and supports their academic success. Ultimately, the investment in a new student center is not just about improving the physical infrastructure of the campus, but also about creating a more inclusive, welcoming, and supportive environment for all members of the City College community.

Team Bios:

Jason Alvarez is a freshman student at City College of New York and is pursuing a major in EDM (Electronic Design and Multimedia). With experience in customer service and teamwork gained from his last two jobs as a cashier, Jason has an interest in any creative field and wants to create or develop something for the people in this generation and the next to leave a mark. This motivated him to keep going and achieve his goals.

Abdul Ashaif is a freshman at The City College of New York who is majoring in computer science. He has worked various jobs, including being a car wash manager, banquet hall server, busser, dishwasher, and working in a family-owned deli. Through these jobs, Abdul has gained skills in management, customer service, and the ability to work long hours. He has also acquired qualities such as problem-solving, reliability, and efficiency. Abdul has an interest in boxing, which he finds helps keep him sharp.

Owaish Khan is an undergraduate student at The City College of New York. Her intended major is Computer Science, as she yearns to dive into the complexities of technology. Owaish has worked in an after school program at P.S. 216, where she worked alongside instructors in assisting first and second graders with homework and other activities. Along with this, Owaish used to clean up the cafeteria, which included sweeping. Owaish continued to work with children, as she spent the following summer working in a summer enrichment program. This program was designed for children from kindergarten to fifth grade who may have failed a class, or just needed additional support in math and science. Within this job, Owaish was able to attain patience, diligence, and humility.

Akeel Butt is a first year undergraduate student at The City College of New York, majoring in Computer Science. Akeel has worked in numerous departments, whether it was being a staff member and chef at a restaurant, tutoring students, and even starting his own business — working an abundant amount of hours to perfect his craft of becoming a resilient and successful worker. This taught Akeel skills such as the ability to handle customers accordingly, communicate with his coworkers, manage his time efficiently, and work towards solving any issues at hand. Not only did he learn new skills, but he also acquired a handful of lifetime qualities, such as resilience, patience, and determination. Akeel is not someone who has the word “failure” in his personal dictionary.

Conclusion:

Just like a beaver resides in its lodge with safety and comfort, a student should reside in their student center with the same level of tranquility. With students dorming on campus, or even

those students who spend most of their week on campus, we yearn to make City College a second home for them through a new student center. Our proposed project has the potential to bring significant benefits to our college and students. We look forward to enhancing the reputation of this college, as well as achieving productivity and efficiency from this new student center. With the commitment and dedication of our team, as well as the approval of your staff, this project will change City College for the better. Thank you for considering our proposal; we look forward to your response.

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Appendix



Figure 3: The area near The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture building designated for The Beaver Lodge.

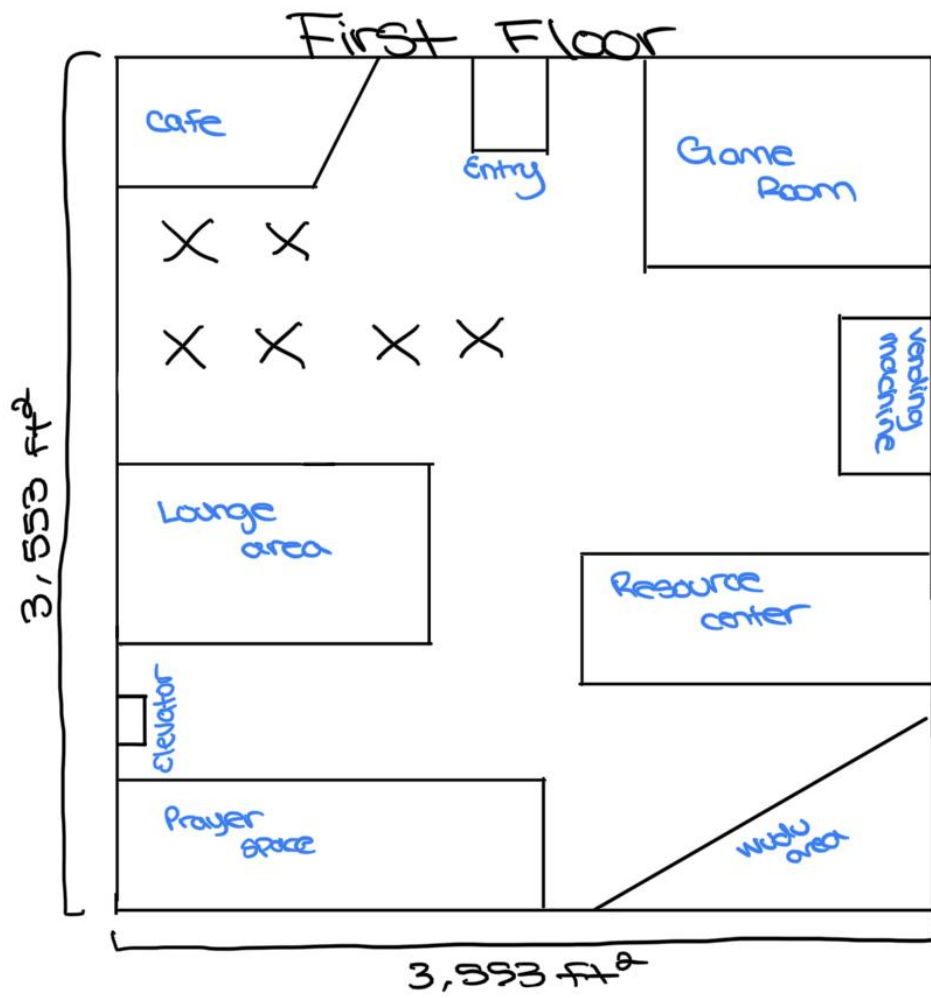


Figure 4: The floor plan of the first floor of the Beaver Lodge.

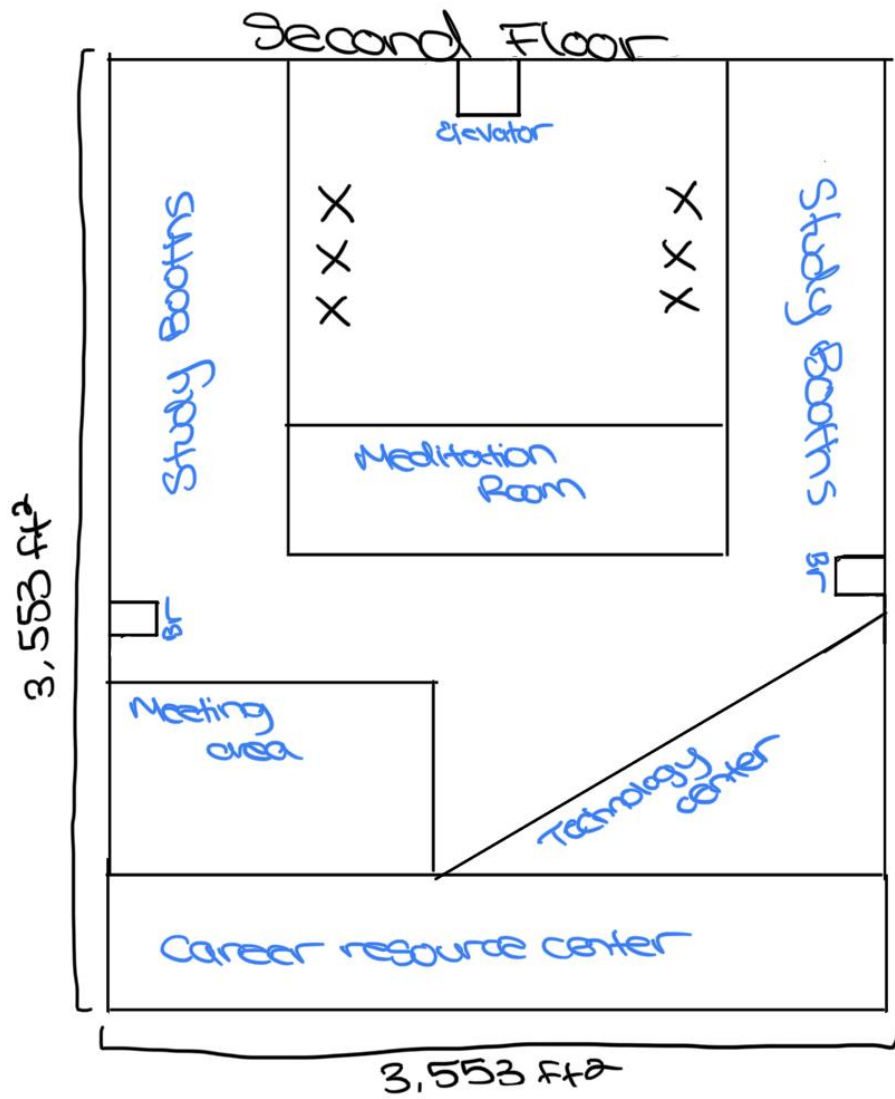


Figure 5: The floor plan of the second floor of the Beaver Lodge.

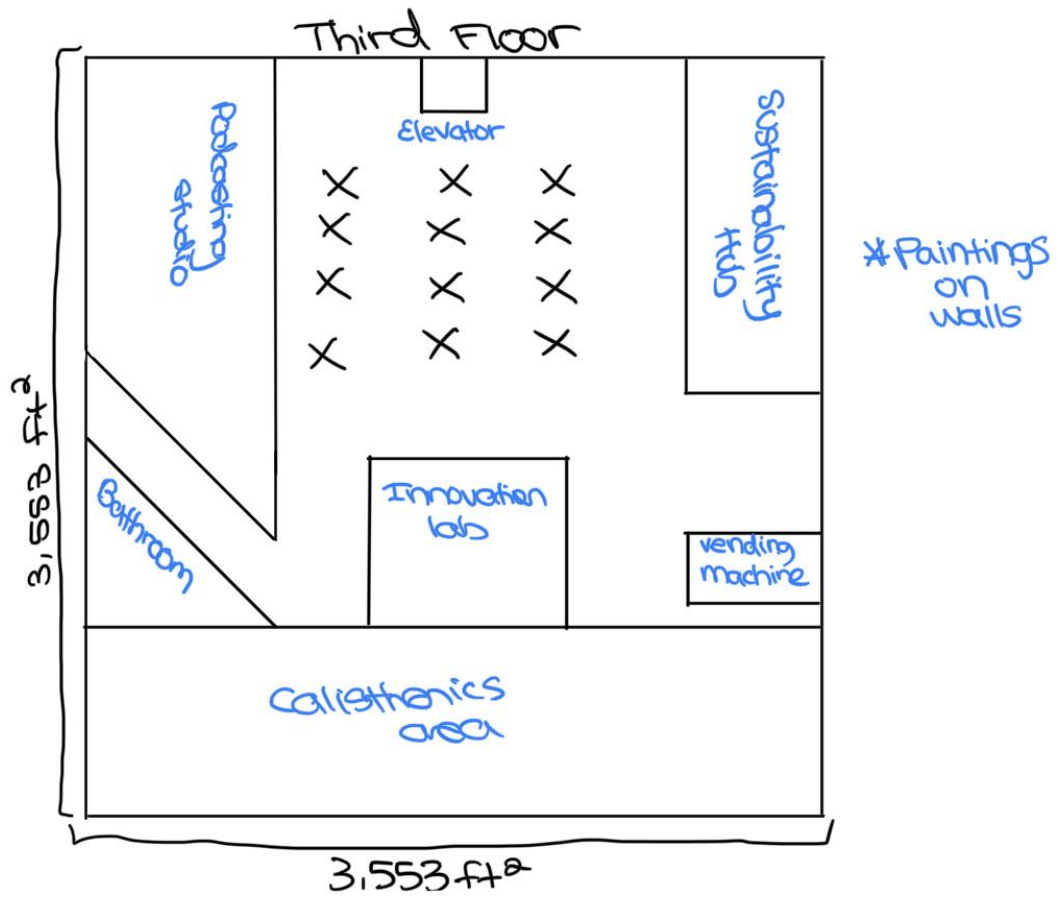


Figure 6: The floor plan of the third floor of the Beaver Lodge.