

ISCNY Newsletter

December 2020

ISCNY Community Center Update

12-25-2020

The ISCNY Community Center Planning Had Vision And Purpose

The major step toward our new ISCNY Community Center was taken by highly visionary members of our community about two decades ago. With their far-sighted vision, they took the bold step and invested a considerable number of resources to buy 46 acres of land (equivalent to approximately 23 professional soccer fields!!!). That vision was not just to build another prayer place (*Musella*). You do not need this much space for a *Musella*. That vision was to develop a ISCNY Community Center that provides a multitude of **essential** services to our community. The list of these services is long. But let us go through some of them.

Given the size of our community, we do not have enough burial space. This is a serious problem. Lack of burial space haunts many Muslim communities across the country. Losing a loved one is too hard. But it is unimaginably painful to scramble for a burial place where one's body can be honorably put to rest. We are awfully close to such a situation. Our new ISCNY Community Center aims to address this problem. We will prepare some of the land for a cemetery, ISA. We are going through some legal and administrative processes to get approval from the government. Help us with your *dua*.



Architects' Master Plan drawing shows a visual layout concept of the ISCNY vision.

It is an undeniable fact that many of our facilities are not suitable to help our youth stay close to our *deen*. A fundamental feature of our *deen* is the notion of *jamma* (community). Our youth need to feel that they belong to our community. They should feel that they are the future of this community. This is not going to happen spontaneously. It does not help either to blame them for distancing themselves from the community. They are our products, and we should take full responsibility. We have to act

We will do our best to keep you updated weekly with the progress of the ISCNY Community Center

with intent and strategy to steer our youth. Given the lifestyle in the west where most people live an isolated life, we must create a physical space that provides a conducive environment for our youth to meet community members and stay connected. The Master Plan of the new ISCNy Community Center is developed with this aim in mind. We have various facilities in the plan: classrooms to run education programs, sports facilities to keep our kids close to the masjid even when they are looking for fun, and a community garden where families can enjoy growing food and sharing time. And many more. Do not wrong these facilities as mere luxury items meant to entertain our kids. They are not. They serve the bigger purpose of keeping our youth to stay connected to the community.

There is a desperate need in our community for each and every aspect of the new ISCNy Community Center. Our visionary predecessors, while very few in number, foresaw the days where the community would grow in size and will need such a center. That day has come. The remarkable legacy of our visionary predecessors and our own desperate need weighs heavily on us.

With the grace of Allah and with your generous support, we have made remarkable progress in this calendar year. A massive amount of land preparation work has been successfully completed. Please go and visit the site with your family. What lays ahead is also not beyond our community's capacity. We just need to move forward, ISA. Support in every way you can. Make *dua* so that we can come together. Donate whatever amount you can. We will be there, ISA. ■



The ISCNy logo on the bottom right of each page is interactive and will take you to the ISCNy web page where you can make a secure donation.

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