June marked the official public launch of Building Together – ECMC’s initiative to engage the community around future planning for the 17-acre Kensington Heights site. In the first month of the project, the project webpage and online survey were launched, and the community engagement team from the UB Regional Institute met with numerous community groups, tabled at two events, held various in-person survey sessions, and met with residents from the Northland Beltline Taxpayers Association as well as students from nearby Math, Science & Technology Preparatory School PS#197.

Where we were:
Love Your Neighborhood Community Celebration
Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence, 106 Appenheimer St.
June 1, 2019
Participated in “Community Meet and Greet” and connected with existing neighborhood and school organizations.

ECMC Community Market
Delavan Grider Community Center, 877 E. Delavan Ave.
June 8, 2019
Tabled at the community market event where the engagement team connected with 23 community members of various ages, many of whom are nearby residents to the site.

Buffalo Branch of NAACP 53rd Annual Medgar Evers Awards Dinner
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, 153 Franklin St.
June 8, 2019
Distributed flyers announcing the project and the online survey to all attendees.

Northland Beltline Taxpayers Association Focus Group
Northland Training Center, 683 Northland Ave
June 11, 2019
Hosted by President of the Northland Beltline Taxpayers Association and Community Advisory Committee member Beverly Crowell, the community engagement team held a focus group with 19 residents of this nearby neighborhood at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Juneteenth Festival of Buffalo, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
June 15 – 16, 2019
Juneteenth was poised to be one of the biggest engagements of the summer. Despite the weather, the engagement team got feedback from approximately 50 people while tabling at the health pavilion on Saturday and Sunday. With input from people of all ages, respondents offered interesting perspectives on the site’s past and aspirations for what it can become in the future.
Invited by Dr. Eberle, principal of MST High School, the engagement team held a focus group with nine students during the last week of school.

Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) Car Seat Safety Event
Delavan Grider Community Center, 877 Delavan Street
June 22, 2019
As residents received advisement on the safe and proper way to install car seats, seven individuals took the survey and offered their input on the project.

ECMC UNYTS Blood Drive
ECMC, 426 Grider Street
June 26, 2019
While recovering with drinks and snacks, blood donors were invited to take the Building Together survey at the ECMC Blood Drive. The team engaged with 15 individuals, many of whom are ECMC employees.

Food Truck Friday
ECMC, 426 Grider Street
June 28, 2019
Continuing outreach at ECMC, the engagement team tabled at Food Truck Friday on June 28th. The engagement team talked to approximately 50 individuals and collected 34 surveys. Most respondents were ECMC employees or hospital visitors.

Community Reach for the month of June:

- Total count of people engaged to-date: 163
- Total number of surveys completed: 69
- New community contacts made for possible future engagements: 24

Want to get involved?
If you want to make your voice heard, please take a few minutes to fill out the online survey and tell us what you think is important for the site’s future.

The engagement team will continue to seek community input through mid-August. If you are part of a group that would like to host the team for a meeting or tabling at an event, please contact Kelly Wofford at kwofford@ecmc.edu for more information.
The Engagement team talking to community stakeholders at the June 8 ECMC Community Market.

Getting ideas from Math Science & Technology high school students at the June 17th focus group engagement.

ECMC employee taking the Building Together survey after donating blood at the June 26th UNYTS Blood Drive.

A neighborhood resident taking the survey on a tablet during the EPIC Car Safety Event on June 22nd.

ECMC employees filling out surveys at ECMC’s Food Truck Friday on June 28th.