

NBA Works with Heart of America to Bring STEAM Lab & Technology to New York Middle School

Last week, New York City Public School's Academy for College Preparation and Career Exploration (ACPCE) unveiled an exciting upgrade to its school science lab, made possible through the NBA Cares State Farm Assist Tracker and brought to life by Heart of America (HOA). The event, held on Friday, September 20, featured Brooklyn Nets Shooting Guard, Cam Thomas, who joined students in celebrating the newly enhanced facilities, which now include cutting-edge technology to elevate the school's STEAM curriculum.

This transformation, made possible by partnerships with [State Farm](#), [Heart of America](#), and the [NBA](#), led to the creation of a state-of-the-art STEAM lab. The project involved a complete overhaul of the existing space, including new paint and flooring, new tables and seating, and vibrant, school-themed art. The lab's new technology includes a game table, multi-touch screen, virtual reality headset, 3D printers, green screen, charging cart, mini drones, Makey Makey controllers, Quibits, and LEGO gear bots, all of which aim to provide hands-on learning experiences for students.

"This event marks our 10th project with the NBA/WNBA, and it's been an incredible journey seeing the care and investment poured into local communities," says Jill Hardy Heath, CEO of Heart of America. "We're excited to keep growing this partnership—with a big shoutout to amazing small business contractors like [Turn Key Brooklyn](#), whose expertise was essential to making this event such a success."

On event day, the exciting new gadgets were showcased at student and staff-led stations throughout the renovated STEAM lab, where students were invited to try them out. In addition to hands-on tech experiences, students participated in an NBA basketball clinic, joined by special guest, Cam Thomas.

"I've always been big on giving back to the kids," said Thomas, who happily joined the students as they explored the new tech. "They need somebody to look up to, and I always want to be that guy they can look up to... It's been good, coming out to the STEAM room, seeing the kids really enjoy themselves on the court and in the classroom."

School Principal Joan Mosely emphasized her excitement at the event's success and the kindness of visiting representatives. "Today was EPIC! Our students had the most amazing time with the NBA Clinic, engaging in the STEAM room activities, and meeting Cam Thomas who was so amazing and generous with his time and advice to our students."

While the day was filled with joy and optimism for the community, it was also an opportunity to remember Elyjha Chandler, an ACPCE student who sadly passed away earlier this year. A plaque commemorating the renovations honors Elyjha, dedicating the transformation work to his memory.

To learn more about NBA State Farm Assist Tracker, visit cares.nba.com/programs/state-farm/

To learn more about Heart of America, visit heartofamerica.org