

Bethlehem Space & Exploration Center

Executive summary · planned, proposed independently by David Fischbarg · v0.3, 2026-10-19

PLANNING PHASE

IN SHORT

Bethlehem Space & Exploration Center is an independent plan, in its planning phase, for a space science, engineering and education center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: hands-on student missions, free public programs and shared research space. It would start with programs in existing South Bethlehem venues and grow only as land, partners, permits and funding are secured. Nothing is funded or built yet, and no organization has agreed to anything.

WHAT IT IS

Bethlehem Space & Exploration Center (BSEC) is a planned space science, engineering and education center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: hands-on student missions, public programs and shared research space, built in steps as land, partners, permits and funding are secured.

WHO IT HELPS

Students and school groups, families, and early-career engineers and researchers.

WHAT IT PROTECTS

People, the night sky, water, land and wildlife, and the air. Every site and event has sorting points for recycling, compost and reuse; materials are salvaged when a building is redeveloped or adapted, and food and garden waste is composted where possible.

WHERE

A public front door in South Bethlehem near Third Street (studied, not selected). A research home at Lehigh's Mountaintop Campus only if Lehigh invites it; Lehigh has not been asked. No launch site in Bethlehem: student payloads could fly at licensed launch sites elsewhere.

STATUS

Planning phase. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet. The main location is being finalized, and no organization has agreed to anything in writing.

WHAT IT NEEDS

An independent board and nonprofit registration; a first pilot venue with insurance and a youth-safety policy; a partner school; an expert review of the plan; and, only after charity registration, funding (about \$0.4M–\$2.5M to set up the 2030 target space, a design assumption).

NEXT STEP (A TARGET, NOT A PROMISE)

Gate 1: Name and trademark search; nonprofit incorporated with an independent board.

HOW TO HELP

Tell us about programs that already exist nearby, or send feedback through the contact page. No money is asked for or accepted.

Not an official project of, or endorsed by, Lehigh University or the City of Bethlehem. Facts carry numbered sources in the master plan.