



# nyrej

## Shawmut Design and Construction reimages 6,464 s/f Alumni Auditorium at Columbia University Irving Medical Center

January 22, 2019 - Design / Build



New York, NY Shawmut Design and Construction has completed the Alumni Auditorium renovation at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). Shawmut, along with design-partner MdeAS Architects, reimagined the auditorium to deliver a bright, welcoming, and modern learning environment and assembly space where employees, students, and visitors can gather, share ideas, and innovate. Other project team members included: MEP engineer - WSP Group; structural engineer - Leslie E. Robertson Associates, RLLP; and LEED consultant - Vidaris, Inc.

“We’re so honored to be a part of this extensive renovation that dramatically enhances one of the most prominent areas of CUIMC. The new, contemporary, light-filled Alumni Auditorium befits the groundbreaking achievements occurring on campus,” said Steven Giordano, vice president at Shawmut. “Our expertise in working in bustling, urban institutional environments gave us the certainty that no disruptions to the neighboring institutions would occur during construction.”

Alumni Auditorium, Columbia University Irving Medical Center -  
New York, NY

The first phase of the renovation, completed in September 2017, centered on updating the 6,464 s/f auditorium with 648 new seats that feature table arms, charging stations, and USB ports. Phase two, completed this fall, further enhanced the auditorium with a soaring new ceiling, LED lights, upgraded fire alarm and sprinkler systems, high-end acoustic integrated walls, and a new

audiovisual system.

The second phase of the project also unveiled the newly erected, three-story glass façade and the reconfigured 3,000 s/f lobby, now known as the Schaefer Awards Gallery. The façade's high-performance, laminated glass panels allow for an abundance of light to fill the gallery, illuminating the sculptural ash millwork that curves impressively overhead. Motorized bottom-up shades create privacy for the glass-enclosed space, when needed. The gallery offers direct passages to adjacent buildings and student amenities, including the William Black Building and Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. The auditorium's presence along Upper Manhattan's busy West 168th Street now offers a strong, visual connection to its urban environment, further establishing it as the main artery to the CUIMC campus.

Since the Alumni Auditorium building is shared with another medical facility, Shawmut ensured that the installation and demolition of combustion air ducts and enclosures would not impact the fresh air intake for the adjacent hospital's basement-level mechanical system. The Shawmut team was also responsible for the installation of the new ADA lift from the lobby to the auditorium, new HVAC, electrical, and mechanical infrastructure, and upgraded lighting and interior finishes throughout.

Alumni Auditorium at CUIMC represents the latest in a series of high-profile projects for Shawmut's Tri-State division, including NYU Langone Medical Center, New York-Presbyterian, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Pratt Institute.

New York Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540