



Lendlease and Turner JV finish Javits Center rooftop event space with TVS, Moody Nolan, Stantec and WXY Studio

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Manhattan, NY According to The New York Convention Center Operating Corp., the Javits Center's new rooftop event space as part of its \$1.5 billion expansion project on the West Side has been completed. The 200,000 s/f rooftop includes a glass-enclosed pavilion, outdoor terrace and one-acre working farm, which is expected to generate up to 40,000 pounds of produce each year. The farm, along with several other sustainable upgrades, builds on the convention center's robust sustainability program, which includes an existing 6.75-acre green roof that serves as a habitat for area wildlife. The expansion project, which has added 1.2 million s/f of total event-related space, will draw new events to the city and generate economic activity among the hotel, restaurant, transportation and tourism industries. The SALT Conference, which opened on Sept. 13, is the first event to utilize the expansion and its rooftop.

Led by the New York Convention Center Development Corp., a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, a Lendlease and Turner joint venture and architectural firms TVS, Moody Nolan, Stantec and WXY Studio, the four-year expansion project was completed on budget despite the challenges related to COVID-19. The expanded Javits Center features 50% more front-of-house and back-of-house areas, including new exhibit and meeting room spaces, a separate entrance for special events and a first-in-the-nation truck marshaling facility that will accelerate event operations and reduce area congestion. The design-build project has achieved LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

“The Javits Center has set a new standard in sustainability that aligns with Lendlease’s global commitment to addressing climate change as a 1.5°C-aligned company targeting absolute zero carbon by 2040,” said Steven Sommer, executive general manager and president of New York construction at Lendlease.

“As an iconic New York structure, the expanded Javits Center will inspire all who visit to make their own contributions at both the corporate and individual levels as we work together to realize a greener, more sustainable future for our planet.”

“We are excited for the public to enjoy this pioneering design that exemplifies how the built environment can support the natural environment while prioritizing the health, safety and well-being of building occupants,” said Bill Barton, construction executive at Turner Construction Co. “This intentional approach to sustainability in the design and build across the entire expansion has made the Javits Center one of the most cutting-edge facilities in the world.”

“This new rooftop is one of the most exciting event spaces in New York City in more than a generation,” said Alan Steel, president and CEO of the New York Convention Center Operating Corp., which operates the Javits Center. “With stunning skyline views and state-of-the-art technology, the rooftop creates a unique roof-to-table experience for our guests while enabling our staff to push the boundaries of sustainability and further explore how to improve the quality of life for our neighbors – those with wings and those without.”

“The Javits Center has played a critical role in New York’s fight against COVID-19, and with this new expansion, it will continue to serve as one of the Empire State’s greatest economic assets,” said Kevin Younis, COO and executive deputy commissioner of Empire State Development. “With the construction of a one-of-a-kind rooftop pavilion, along with a one-acre rooftop farm, the Javits Center will continue to attract dynamic events that support New York’s economy while serving as a model of sustainability for other venues and buildings throughout the country.”

The expanded Javits Center features more than 200,000 s/f of new meeting room and pre-function space, including a 54,000 s/f special event space — the largest of its kind in the Northeast. The new exhibition and meeting spaces are equipped with the latest technology in lighting fixtures, heating and cooling systems, and wireless connectivity. The newly expanded Javits Center features 500,000 contiguous s/f of event space, which will help attract international business conferences, as well as a four-level truck marshaling facility that can house up to 200 tractor-trailers at one time. Construction of all of these spaces, which was considered a part of the original design, was completed in May 2021. As a part of the project, 75% or more of all construction waste was diverted from landfills for reuse, and all construction materials were chosen with sustainable characteristics including high recycled content and local sourcing (within 500 miles).

Highlights of the rooftop expansion include:

The Farm. A one-acre rooftop farm that will provide fresh produce for on-site consumption, with

recycled rainwater used for irrigation; includes a greenhouse that can host intimate gatherings such as board meetings or meals for up to 25 people. Brooklyn Grange, a Brooklyn-based urban farming company, will manage the day-to-day operations of the farm and the greenhouse and work closely with members of the facility's new dining and hospitality team, Cultivated, to direct crops to on-site kitchens, where the produce will be incorporated into meals served to clients;

The Pavilion. A 15,000/sq ft, glass-enclosed space that can host events with up to 1,500 individuals throughout the year; adjacent to a massive outdoor terrace, along with a meadow, a shade garden and an orchard with 32 apple trees and six pear trees;

Solar Farm. More than 3,000 solar panels to be installed on the existing and expansion rooftops, making it the largest rooftop solar farm in the borough. It is expected to generate 1.7 megawatts of solar energy with an additional 3.5 megawatts of battery storage, providing the convention center with more than 2 gigawatt hours per year; and

Water Conservation. The installation of two underground retention cisterns helps capture and treat rainwater to be used for irrigation on the roof, reducing the need for potable water for irrigation by at least 50%.

From January to July 2021, the existing Javits Center served as the largest COVID-19 vaccination center in the United States, distributing more than 646,000 vaccines in less than six months. With the support of the New York National Guard and the state Department of Health, the vaccination center served as a model for similar facilities across the nation. The Javits Center has since reopened for events, including The Armory Show, the SALT Conference and the Nest Summit, as a part of Climate Week NYC, scheduled to open this month.

Since 2014, the Javits Center has reduced the building's energy consumption by 26% and created a rooftop wildlife habitat that serves as a home to 35 bird species, five bat species and five beehives. Other recent infrastructure improvements include the creation of a broadcast studio for virtual and hybrid events, the installation of more than 100 stainless steel bollards along the building's perimeter and the construction of a new three-story building that houses transformers, back-up generators and other electrical equipment for the expanded convention center. With the installation of hospital-grade High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to improve air filtration and ventilation throughout the venue, the Javits Center has received Global BioRisk Advisory Council (GBAC) accreditation, implementing the industry's highest standards for cleaning and disinfection.

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