

# American Museum of Natural History

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## AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY'S NEW RICHARD GILDER CENTER FOR SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND INNOVATION OPENS TODAY



**NEW YORK, NY, May 4** – The American Museum of Natural History’s highly anticipated [Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation](#) opens today, featuring spectacular architecture and housing new exhibition galleries, next-generation classrooms, and world-class scientific research and collections facilities.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Gilder Center brought together Chair of the Museum’s Board of Trustees **Scott Bok**; New York City **Mayor Eric Adams**; Museum President **Sean M. Decatur**; Museum President *Emerita* **Ellen V. Futter**; Comptroller **Brad Lander**, New York State Senator **Brad Hoylman-Sigal**; New York State Senator **José M. Serrano**; Assembly Member **Linda B. Rosenthal**; Manhattan Borough President **Mark Levine**; Majority Leader of the City Council **Keith Powers**; Council Member **Gale Brewer**; Council Member **Chi Ossé**; New York’s Executive Director of Tourism **Ross Levi**; Community Board 7 Chair **Beverly Donohue**; Museum Trustee and Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee **Valerie S. Peltier**; and architect **Jeanne Gang** of Studio Gang. Also joining the celebration were upper elementary classes from the Dual Language School in Manhattan and Jonas Bronck Academy in the Bronx, both schools that participate in the citywide [Urban Advantage](#) program; students from the Museum’s [Early Adventures Program](#); and **Namshik Yoon**, graduate of the Museum’s [Master of Arts in Teaching](#) Earth science residency program and Earth science teacher, representing the breadth of the Museum’s educational offerings that will be supported and advanced through the new Gilder Center.

As the most comprehensive addition and modernization of educational space at the Museum in nearly a century, the Gilder Center project includes 18 newly built, renovated, or repurposed classrooms.

The 230,000-square-foot Gilder Center project (*full details about the Gilder Center are in a news release [here](#), with additional quotes about the new facility [here](#)*) includes six floors above ground, four of which are open to the public, and one below. It creates 33 connections among 10 Museum buildings to link the entire campus and establishes a new entrance on the Museum's west side, at Columbus Avenue and 79th Street, in Theodore Roosevelt Park. The new facility embodies the Museum's mission of science and education in every way—from sparking curiosity and wonder through new exhibits in strikingly designed spaces to providing new facilities where research collections, exhibitions, and learning are situated in close proximity, reinforcing the central role of natural history collections in scientific discovery and providing deeper experiences that connect visitors to the evidence and processes of science through engaging exhibits and programs.

The Gilder Center includes:

- the **Kenneth C. Griffin Exploration Atrium**, a five-story-high civic space that serves as a new gateway into the Museum from Columbus Avenue
- the **Susan and Peter J. Solomon Family Insectarium**, located on the first floor, featuring large-scale models, 18 species of live insects, and digital interactive exhibits
- the five-level **Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. Collections Core**, which offers glimpses into working collections behind engaging displays of floor-to-ceiling exhibits on three levels, including the **Macaulay Family Foundation Collection Galleries** on the first and second floors
- the new, year-round **Davis Family Butterfly Vivarium**, a permanent exhibition on the second floor where visitors can mingle with up to 1,000 free-flying butterflies in a lush, temperature-controlled, habitat
- **Invisible Worlds**, an immersive and interactive 360-degree experience on the third floor that explores networks of life on Earth at all scales, including some too small, too fast, or too slow for the human eye to discern
- an elegant new **Reading Room** on the fourth floor that welcomes visitors to the **David S. and Ruth L. Gottesman Research Library and Learning Center**, a multi-disciplinary convening and learning center that connects visitors to the Library's resources like never before
- **Eighteen state-of-the-art classrooms, learning labs, and educational areas**, which are located throughout the Gilder Center in the **Weston Curiosity Zone** on the second floor, the **Learning Labs** on the third floor, and **The Studio** on the fourth floor, as well as in adjacent areas within the existing Museum complex, including in the **Michael Vlock Family Learning Zone**
- **The Restaurant at Gilder**, located on the second floor, which will offer table-service dining with a view overlooking the Griffin Atrium

Also in attendance at today's ribbon-cutting were Deputy Mayor **Maria Torres Springer**; Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs **Laurie Cumbo**; Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation **Sue Donoghue**; Commissioner of the Department of Transportation **Ydanis Rodriguez**; Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission **Sarah Carroll**; former City Council Member **Jimmy Van Bramer**; former Speaker of the City Council **Corey Johnson**; Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation **Anthony Perez**; and Executive Director of the New York City Public Design Commission **Sreoshy Banerjee**.

## VISITING THE GILDER CENTER

Entry to the Gilder Center is available with any admission to the Museum. Ticketed exhibitions include the *Invisible Worlds* immersive experience and the Davis Family Butterfly Vivarium. Tickets are available now at [tickets.amnh.org](https://tickets.amnh.org). For more information, please visit [amnh.org/GilderCenter](https://amnh.org/GilderCenter).

### **SUPPORT FOR THE GILDER CENTER**

The American Museum of Natural History gratefully acknowledges Richard Gilder and the Gilder Foundation, Inc., whose leadership support made the construction of the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation possible.

The Gilder Center is also made possible thanks to the generous support of the City of New York, the Council of the City of New York, the Manhattan Borough President, the State of New York, the New York State Assembly, and the New York State Senate.

Critical founding support has been provided by David S. and Ruth L. Gottesman; Kenneth C. Griffin; Allison and Roberto Mignone; the Davis Family; the Bezos Family Foundation; Louis V. Gerstner, Jr.; the Susan and Peter J. Solomon Family; Judy and Josh Weston; the Macaulay Family Foundation; Katheryn C. Patterson and Thomas L. Kempner, Jr.; New York Life Foundation; the Seedlings Foundation in honor of Michael Vlock; the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Foundation; Valerie and Jeffrey Peltier; Morgan Stanley; The Marc Haas Foundation in honor of Robert H. Haines; The Hearst Foundations; Joella and John Lykouretzos; the Yurman Family; the Charina Endowment Fund; Nancy Peretsman and Robert Scully; Shaiza Rizavi and Jonathan Friedland; Nancy B. and Hart Fessenden; Keryn and Ted Mathas; Elysa Kleinhans; the Estate of Margaret D. Bishop; the Henry Peterson Foundation; and an anonymous donor.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges Raymond James as the inaugural sponsor of *Invisible Worlds*.

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (AMNH)**

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869 with a dual mission of scientific research and science education, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum encompasses more than 40 permanent exhibition halls, galleries for temporary exhibitions, the Rose Center for Earth and Space including the Hayden Planetarium, and the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation. The Museum's scientists draw on a world-class permanent collection of more than 34 million specimens and artifacts, some of which are billions of years old, and on one of the largest natural history libraries in the world. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, the Museum offers two of the only free-standing, degree-granting programs of their kind at any museum in the U.S.: the Ph.D. program in Comparative Biology and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Earth Science residency program. Visit [amnh.org](https://amnh.org) for more information.

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