Overview

The new Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation will invite visitors to experience the Museum not only as a place of public exhibitions but as an active scientific and educational institution.

The Gilder Center will include new exhibition and learning spaces with state-of-the-art technology and access to the Museum's world-class collections. It will also expand access to a broader range of the Museum's resources for students, teachers, and families, offering new learning opportunities and inviting all visitors to share in the excitement of discovery.

Project Cost

- The projected budget for the Gilder Center project is $383 million. The new building is named for Museum Trustee Richard Gilder in recognition of his lifetime giving to the Museum, which includes a new lead gift for the building.

Project Information

- More information about the project is available at amnh.org/GilderCenter
- Contact us with questions: GilderCenter@amnh.org 212-769-5246

The Need

- Science is at the core of the most pressing issues of the day—human health, climate change, and biodiversity conservation, among others. There is an urgent need to enhance the public understanding of science and to provide educational experiences that support informed engagement with these topics.

- There is an equally critical need to address challenges in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education. The Gilder Center will expand the reach and deepen the impact of the Museum's work in science education, building on a strong foundation of successful programs such as Urban Advantage, the Master of Arts in Teaching Program, and the Science Research Mentoring Program, which already serve teachers and students throughout New York City, New York State, and beyond.

- The Gilder Center will make physical and programmatic connections among existing and new galleries, classrooms, collections, and library resources to highlight links across scientific disciplines and to place educational experiences within current scientific practice.

- Over the last several decades, annual Museum attendance has grown from approximately three million to approximately five million. To accommodate this growth, the proposed design includes links to 10 Museum buildings through approximately 30 connections, vastly improving visitor circulation and experience.
Design

• The Gilder Center is designed by Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects. Ralph Appelbaum of Ralph Appelbaum Associates is designing the exhibition experiences, and the landscape architect is Reed Hilderbrand.

• Approximately 80 percent of the 230,000-gross-square-foot project will be located within the area currently occupied by the Museum. Three existing Museum buildings will be removed to minimize the Gilder Center footprint in Theodore Roosevelt Park to about 11,600 square feet (approximately a quarter acre).

• In June 2016, the Museum revised the original concept design proposal, to be submitted to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, for the area of the park in front of the Gilder Center, the below-grade service area, and the service driveway with the goal of preserving two notable trees. The revised proposal, developed with the Park Working Group formed to advise on the park’s design, reduces the number of trees removed from the Park to 7 and expands areas for play and respite to maintain the park’s essential character and existing uses.

• For the Columbus Avenue façade, the design team has selected Milford pink granite, the stone used on the Central Park West façade, or granite similar in color and character.

Process and Timeline

2016

• In April, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks), as lead agency, conducted a City Environmental Quality Review public scoping meeting.

• In July and September, the Museum held public informational meetings about the project.

• On October 5, Manhattan’s Community Board 7 (CB7) approved the architectural design for the Gilder Center and landscape design for the adjacent part of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

• On October 11, Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) evaluated the appropriateness of the project’s architecture and design, and changes to the adjacent park, and unanimously approved the application.

2017

• On June 15, NYC Parks held a public hearing to receive comments on the draft EIS. Written comments were accepted by NYC Parks through June 26. On November 15, NYC Parks issued the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

• On December 4, NYC Parks approved the Museum’s plans for the Richard Gilder Center project following completion of the environmental review process and issuance of its Statement of Findings.

2018

• On April 25, NYC Parks and LPC approved Design Development updates to the project. The environmental review documents and approval letters are available at http://nyc.gov/parks/amnh-gilder.