Construction projects are funded by one-time capital dollars, separately appropriated for such work and not interchangeable with recurring monies dedicated to staff and programs.
This is a point in time snapshot of active capital projects, from those in design, to those about to close-out.
Podium Construction
One big project since 1964

Work on the Uptown Podium is continually progressing since original construction in the 1960’s. Buildings and systems need to be repaired and upgraded to meet modern needs as well as to address deferred maintenance. These photos illustrate the monolithic scale of the 21 acre+ Podium structure.
Constructed all at the same time, unfortunately, the Uptown Campus is obsolescing all at once, creating a large deferred maintenance and staging challenge.
This photo provides insight into how the Podium was constructed. Unlike then, repairs and upgrades today require careful coordination to minimize disturbances to operations and to allow sufficient access for construction equipment and materials.
The University’s buildings are aging and need to be renovated.
This image is a draft construction staging plan used by the Facilities Office to coordinate work among scores of concurrent major projects. Careful planning is needed to limit impact on campus day-to-day operations.
Uptown Campus projects

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

SPRING 2014
CAMPUS CENTER EXPANSION & RENOVATION
As depicted by this model, the Campus Center project involves additions to the East and West, a new stairway enclosure in the renovated courtyard, and gut renovation to 46,000 SF of the existing building on the ground floor between these two new additions.
This work will start in June 2014, and when completed in 2017, it will provide a seamless blend of renovated and new space from West to East: new auditorium, fitness center, and student space in the West (inside red box at left); new dining and kitchen facilities in the East (red box at right); and all new serving and seating sections on the ground floor between the two.
East Addition - view from Indian Quad
Completion date September 2015
East Addition - Rendering of interior dining/serving space
Completion date September 2015
West Addition - view from bus stop/athletics
Completion date Spring 2017
West Addition - view from Dutch Commons
Completion date Spring 2017
West Addition - Rendering of new auditorium space
Completion date Spring 2017
West Addition - view from Podium (CC/Education stairs)
Completion date Spring 2017
Renovated Science Library Courtyard - view from Science Library
Completion date Spring 2017
Renovation of Existing Campus Center - Rendering of new stairway access into dining/seating area
Completion date Spring 2017
The following slides will describe the expected staging and access plans during construction. The construction will indeed have an impact on access to the Campus Center and Science Library.
YEAR 1: MAY/JUNE 2014 - INITIAL STAGING

- RELOCATE BUS SHELTER
- CONSTRUCT EMERGENCY ROAD
- BLOCK GRADE LEVEL ACCESS TO PODIUM STAIRS & CAMPUS CENTER; ACCESS INSTEAD THRU OTHER BLDGS
- INSTALL FENCING AND STAGING
YEAR 1: JUNE 2014 - CONSTRUCTION START

WEST ADDITION START

EAST ADDITION START

KITCHEN START, EXCAVATE
END OF YEAR 1: SUMMER 2015 – EAST COMPLETE

EAST ADDITION COMPLETE, SITE RESTORED
YEAR 2+: FALL 2015 – RENOVATION START

GROUND FLOOR AREAS OF CC UNDER RENOVATION

BAGATELLE/SCI LIB COURTYARD RENOVATION
YEAR 2+: FALL 2015 – SPRING 2017 – SCI LIBRARY ACCESS

ACCESS VIA
PODIUM DECK
LEVEL THRU
UPPER LEVEL
SCI LIB DOORS

EAST GRADE
LEVEL ACCESS,
NO
OBSTRUCTIONS

SOUTH ENTRY
POSSIBLE BUT
MORE
CIRCUITOUS
Venues in the grey boxes will remain open during renovation. Anticipated access is shown.
END OF YEAR 2+: SPRING 2017 – FINISH!

- WEST ADDITION COMPLETE
- CC GROUND FLOOR & COURTYARD COMPLETE
- BUS STOP & SITE UPGRADES

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW
UAS will make alternate dining locations open and available prior to, and during, construction to help serve the campus community.

1. RECONFIGURE AND UPGRADE 518 MARKET IN CAMPUS CTR SUMMER 2014
2. Relocate bank of vending and construct "Argo Tea" servery in LC area Summer/Fall 2014
3. zime IN BUSINESS BLDG ALREADY OPEN
4. FOOD TRUCK STARTED ON CAMPUS
5. PATROON ROOM LIKELY ALTERED FOR HIGHER VOLUME DINING
Gut renovation of 24 story, 440 bed residential tower began in 2012. The tower will be ready for August 2014 occupancy.
Interior lobby ‘opened up’ for improved visitor and residence entry.
The tower was gutted, every interior suite room wall on every floor, to replace all aging systems and provide energy efficiency upgrades.
A new chase was cut through every floor, 24 stories, to enable new and improved ductwork.
Brand new elevators and systems.
Beautiful new fixtures and finishes for our students in residence.
Brand new room. New everything.
RESIDENTIAL TOWER WINDOW REPLACEMENT AND FAÇADE REPAIR
In lieu of full gut renovation, each of the other three residential towers are receiving new windows and important façade repair and restoration over the 2013-2015 period.
Photo of Eastman tower, 2013, where crews work on ‘stair climbers’ replacing over 2,200 windows and doing concrete work in a very short period of 2 ½ months.
This project involves total restoration and upgrade of the water tower, main fountain, and Campus Center fountain; replacement of fountain north and south exterior stairs; water-proofing and restoration of planters; and replacement and upgrade of the glass curtain wall around the Lecture Center area. Work began in spring 2012 is concluding summer 2014.
This initiative combined all disruptive center-Podium work under one coordinated project, getting it done as soon as possible. In addition to the tower, the project also addresses long-standing repair and upgrade needs to the main fountain, the stairs into the fountain area, the surrounding planters, and the failing window wall around the Lecture Center.
This photo depicts how the water tower was originally constructed. Note how the original project provided direct truck access and did not need to factor-in disruption and site staging which leads to the extended time required to do today’s work.
Deterioration of steel and systems at the top portion of the tower, endemic of structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing repairs and upgrades needed throughout the tower.
Interior photo of water tower walls. This tower is more than an aesthetic campus icon, it is a functioning water vessel that provides water pressure to the entire Uptown Campus, akin to a municipal water tower. Almost 50 years old, it required renovation, especially as these steel walls, in selected locations, had pitted, losing about 1/3 of their structural thickness.
To address the deterioration within the tower structure, over 5,000 square feet of new steel plates were welded-in. (The photo shows temporary flooring within the 248 feet tall tower to allow crews to do their work).
The entire tower was sandblasted and repainted, requiring scaffolding and a total wrap of the structure over 2 summers, the duration and means of the work was related to limiting noise and disruption, the need for a protected environment, and to assure proper environmental conditions.
Photo of upper portion of tower, after restoration and repainting. Also replaced were tower lights with efficient LED fixtures.
Demolition of main fountain and stairs.
The design of the Uptown Podium made access into the fountain area very difficult and disruptive to the campus community. The contractor installed a creative temporary ramp to transport construction debris and new materials on small vehicles between various buildings on the Podium down to the center of the structure.
New concrete base into fountain plaza area, including installation of snow melt. Also note the sound barriers around the Lecture Center windows, addressing the need to reduce disruption to University operations in the heart of the campus.
Fountain area snow melt system in action during winter 2013-14.
Fountain area taking shape, winter 2013.
Spring 2014 - the final concrete work had to await proper temperatures before the weekend-long pour.
The mechanical and plumbing systems for the tower and fountains were aging and required replacement and upgrade. Shown here are new installations.
Campus Center fountain, reconditioned with new plumbing and mechanical and new lighting in, and around, concrete base.
New tower lighting with colored light options.
Landscaping, lighting, ‘greening’, and site furniture in the fountain plaza area are important adds to make the center of the campus a year-round attractive amenity rather than a limited/seasonal resource.
Early May 2014, prior to opening, photo shows upgraded stairs, new safety/barrier rails around upper level, and upgraded Lecture Center curtain wall.
First day the project was open to campus. Fountain testing ongoing. Area designed to be fully handicapped accessible.
Photo showing full capability of fountain, especially stunning at night. The fountain has over 200 lights and 42 water jets, each of which are separately programmable. Special displays, such as in this photo, will be limited to special times and occasions. This tower and fountain project was important to address decades of deferred maintenance. The upgrades improve safety and efficiency and utilize modern technology to preserve and advance an iconic feature literally and figuratively at the heart of the Uptown Campus, important to alums as well as the current and future University community.
Shown here in a pre-renovation photo, Service Building “C”, the old Commissary will be soon be the new home of the Information Technology building, to house and consolidate University data center and selected Information Technology staff and functions.
Existing 1960-era data center on Podium which is undersized for the cooling, space, security, and power needs of modern (and growing) computing. Also, it is located underground and has experienced flooding, providing an unacceptable operational risk.
Fall 2013 photo of renovation and upgrade to Service Building C – a creative adaptive reuse of one of the first buildings constructed on the Uptown Campus.
Interior gut renovation. The old Commissary was ideal for a data center/IT function given its high ceilings, open floor plan, loading dock, and adjacency to the central plant.
New mechanical and electrical service to the building, essential for well-functioning data center operations.
Server racks, prior to move-in.
The project is expected to be completed in early summer 2014 for a coordinated migration of data infrastructure, followed by selected ITS staff/functions.
On three occasions in July and September 2013, the Uptown Campus experienced extremely intensive rainfalls, in one case 2.25 inches in one hour, overtaxing storm water systems, causing damaging flooding. This photo is of the stairs leading from the Podium deck to the Lecture Centers. The door and glass panel is (temporarily) holding back a wall of water.
The tremendous water pressures, from the roof drainage systems as well as back-ups from off-site facilities, caused breakages in underground pipes, forcing sandy water through the interior service tunnel systems down to the lowest levels of the Podium.
Sandy water leaked into selected areas of below-grade spaces, largely on the north side of the Podium.
Photo showing early 1960’s underground storm pipes that literally split in half due to water pressure.
On left, below tunnel slab, the water forced-out the supporting soils, leaving large voids. On right, the tunnel slab was cut open so that new pipes and structural infill could be upgraded and installed.
Work has progressed through mid-2013 and into summer 2014 to address storm water system deficiencies, including planned installation of additional storm water capacity on the northwest portion of the Uptown Campus.
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURISM COMPLEX (E-TEC)

- Governor’s initiative
- Enrollment growth
- Research growth
- New jobs
- Economic impact
The ETEC building is the signature construction element of the NYSUNY2020 initiative at UAlbany. The site of the 225,000 SF building will be south of Life Sciences, in the approximate location shown by the dotted red lines.
The new occupants of the building will be weather and climate instruction and research (ASRC and DAES), entrepreneurial and business development operations (to connect economic growth with research initiatives), selected portions of Chemistry and Physics, and space for industry partners in these fields.
Early rendering of building.
The Uptown Podium deck is not only a walking surface, but the “roof” for spaces below. Over the decades, the original waterproofing systems have failed, requiring a sustained deck replacement program to address leaks and structural deterioration. Pictured here is the concrete deck removed to the undersurfaces. Work occurs in stages, carefully planned to limit campus access and disruption.
Examples of damage caused by leaks from deck above.
Another example of such damage.
New water-proofing membrane.
New, re-poured deck. Work will continue on the deck through summer and fall 2014.
ENERGY MASTER PLAN
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Since 2010-11 - Energy Use/SF ↓6%  Annual savings: $400,000

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITS

HIGH EFFICIENCY CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES
EXECUTIVE ORDER 88

20% REDUCTION BY 2020 (2010-11 BASE YEAR)

ALL BUILDINGS TO BE AUDITED

REAL SAVINGS INVOLVES BIG RENOVATIONS

The University kicked-off a comprehensive Energy Master Plan study of all buildings to identify short- and long-term energy and systems upgrades and building operational and energy savings opportunities. The Energy Master Plan, which should be completed in 2014-15, is a component of Governor Cuomo’s ‘Build Smart NY’ initiative.
EXTEND PURPLE PATH AT SEFCU LOT
Pictured here is the last major portion of the Uptown Campus not to have a sidewalk. This area by the SEFCU Arena will upgraded this summer 2014 for installation of another portion of the “Purple Path”, an important, safe, pedestrian and recreational loop around the campus with proper surfaces, handicapped accessibility, and improved lighting.
Example of other section of Purple Path, similar features to be installed by SEFCU.
The University continually ranks and assesses its classrooms for upgrade needs. Pictured here is an older style classroom since upgraded.
Newer classrooms with more flexible seating and higher levels of technology.
Additional classroom work in 2014-15 will focus on technology and equipment upgrades.
Consistent with the 2012 Facilities Master Plan, “Building 25” (the old Health Center) will be gut renovated to create flexible departmental and instructional space, allowing selected functions to be moved from the Podium so the Podium can be renovated under a well-orchestrated sequential renovation and upgrade plan.
The Economics Departments and the Africana Studies Department will be relocated to this new space in Building 25 designed for their needs.
The major work focus on the Downtown Campus through 2014-15 will be continued façade and cornice repair. Pictured here are upgrades to Husted Hall completed summer 2013. In 2014-15, other buildings on the Downtown Campus will begin the same type of work, essential to preserve the integrity of these structures, some over 100 years old.
SCHUYLER & DOWNTOWN STRATEGY
The University acquired the Schuyler Building (also known as the “old/former Albany High School”) from the Albany City School District in 2013. The 127,000 SF building increased the size of the Downtown Campus by nearly 50 percent. This increase in space, in such a proximate location (15 feet away), provides a key strategic opportunity for the University to provide space for both Uptown and Downtown growth, renovation sequencing needs, AND to advance the University’s goals of community revitalization and engagement.
The Schuyler Building is a jewel, constructed in 1912, with architectural and open floor features not easily constructed in this era. Pictured here is the auditorium, which after renovation, would be the largest performance and lecture venue in the University.
Ceiling detail in the auditorium.
An example of large classroom spaces that are found throughout the building, suitable for reuse as classrooms or other University research or departmental space.
Details and finishes.
As fully described in the Facilities Master Plan, the long-term objective of the University is to fully utilize both the Uptown and Downtown campuses, merely 3 miles apart, so that all spaces are put to their highest and best use.
Schuyler on the Downtown Campus is a key component of the Uptown Campus renovation strategy simply because there is not enough space to sequence planned outyears renovations.
If, as planned, the Podium is viewed in thirds, with one concurrent renovation in each section (West, Center, East), the space in Schuyler is key to making that happen under each scenario.
A Schuyler renovation project is not yet funded, nor are the 4 other planned major construction upgrades for downtown, but nonetheless, the University is anticipating outyears advancement of these plans and is currently progressing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the 4 initiatives depicted on this slide, more fully described in the Facilities Master Plan and the GEIS website.
Other Notable 2014-15 Work, authorized:

- University Library renovation, phase 1
- Varsity tennis court resurfacing
- Road patching and repaving
- Elevator repair and upgrades
- Central Plant upgrade
- PE 3rd floor renovations
Notable projects on the drawing board

- **BUILDING 27 (BA) RENOVATION**
- **LC CONCOURSE UPGRADES**
- "OLD" DATA CENTER AREA RENOVATIONS
- **STATE QUAD COMMONS SITE UPGRADES**
- **DOWNTOWN MILNE BASEMENT RENOVATION**

These projects are in early planning or early stages of design, setting up what is expected to be outyears construction work.
CDTA, the regional transportation provider, is planning a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line to travel along Western Avenue, by the Downtown Campus with limited stops to the Uptown Campus. This initiative is being embraced by the University as an important component in advancing sustainable transportation goals and improving trip travel times between campuses. A concept route for this planned “Purple Line” is depicted here.
The following slides depict construction projects recently completed, upgrading and/or adding modern spaces to better serve University program needs.

**Notable Recent Project Completion**

**Construct Business Building**

August 2013
Pedestrian tunnel to Podium from Business Building with donor wall.
Upgraded site plan and site infrastructure at center/entry of campus, concurrent with the Business Building project.
Notable Recent Project Completion
Renovate Service Building A
July 2013
Notable Recent Project Completion
RNA Institute
June 2013

Previously shelled space in Life Sciences building transformed with $5.4M Federal NIH grant into world-class, cutting edge research space.
Notable Recent Project Completion
Athletic Fields Repairs and Improvements
Recreation field Sept 2013, Stadium Sept 2013, Track April 2014

After decades of deterioration and need, the University embarked on construction of a modest multi-use stadium, an artificial turf field for the recreation and intramural program, and an upgraded track venue.
The Facilities website includes project updates, facilities news, and links to provide comments and suggestions to Facilities staff.