

Village Exhibit Shows Hudson Yards' Towering Future

Bill Pedersen of Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates has been an architect for more than 50 years, and says the Hudson Yards Development is one of the most exciting projects he has ever been a part of.

“Any great city has a multitude of centers of dynamic activity, and we will be adding another one, a very large one but another one,” Pedersen said.

Developer Related Companies' \$15 billion project on 26 acres of the West Side Rail yards is the focus of an exhibition at the Center for Architecture at 536 La Guardia Place in Greenwich Village.

Construction began on the first commercial tower back in December, with an anticipated completion in 2015. When the entire project is completed, expected to be sometime in 2024, it will include a mix of commercial, residential, retail and public open space, most of it on a platform to be constructed over the rail yards.

“In many ways the rail yards has actually been a drain on the neighborhood, it's actually separated Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen pretty dramatically, so I think we are filling in that hole, and actually tying these neighborhoods together,” said Related Companies Hudson Yards Planner Michael Samuelian.

Visitors can catch a glimpse of what the area will look like as construction progresses, through models, maps and video presentations.

“It gives you really the full picture of what everyone is thinking about when they are designing these buildings,” said American Institute of Architects New York Chapter 2013 President Jill Lerner.

During the eight week exhibition, there will also be a speaker series with many of the principals involved with the development.

“We're going to have public officials, the developers and the architects all speaking together,” Lerner said.

“You're going to see a lot of variety here. We didn't just pick one architect to do it, we picked a lot of architects to do it, so you're going to see different approaches to different types of buildings,” Samuelian said.

The Exhibition runs through June 30.