

## THE FRICK COLLECTION

### Building Upgrade and Expansion Fact Sheet

**Project Description:** Honoring the architectural legacy and unique character of the Frick, the design for the upgrade and expansion by **Seldorf Architects** provides unprecedented access to the original 1914 home of Henry Clay Frick, preserves the intimate visitor experience and beloved galleries for which the Frick is known, and revitalizes the 70th Street Garden. Conceived to address pressing institutional and programmatic needs, the new plan creates new resources for permanent collection display and special exhibitions, conservation, and education and public programs, while upgrading visitor amenities and overall accessibility. The project marks the first comprehensive upgrade to the Frick's buildings since the institution opened to the public eighty-two years ago in 1935.

**Groundbreaking:** 2020

**Location:** 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021

**Square Footage:** Current: 179,000 square feet  
Future: 197,000 square feet (10% increase) \*

*\*Note that this figure takes into consideration new construction as well as the loss of existing space resulting from the elimination of mezzanine levels in the library.*

**Project Breakdown:** Repurposed Space: 60,000 square feet  
New Construction: 27,000 square feet\*

*\*\*Given that 9,000 square feet of library stack space is removed through repurposing, the construction nets a total additional space of 18,000 square feet.*

#### **Building Features & New Amenities:**

- **30% more gallery space** for the collection and special exhibitions:
  - a series of approximately twelve spaces on the second floor of the original residence, opening to public for first time as exhibition galleries
  - a new special exhibition space on the main floor
- **Purpose-built spaces for public and educational programs:**
  - a dedicated education center, the first in the Frick's history
  - a new 220-seat state-of-the-art auditorium

- **Improved visitor amenities and accessibility**, including:
  - a passageway providing public access between the museum and library
  - new ADA-accessible ramps at the main entrances to the museum and library
  - new and upgraded ADA-accessible elevators in the museum and library
  - upgraded ADA-accessible restrooms
  - a reconfigured and expanded reception hall including a new second level, created by raising the height of the existing 1977 building by less than 5 feet
  - the museum's first café overlooking the 70th Street Garden
- **Modernized back-of-house facilities**, including:
  - new conservation laboratories for the museum and library collections, created above the new special exhibitions gallery
- **Updated infrastructure and systems** to safeguard the Frick's collection and buildings and improve energy efficiency, including:
  - Upgraded and modernized heating, air conditioning, lighting, and electrical systems
  - Significant improvements to the building's exterior including skylights, windows, doors, roofing, and waterproofing of the underground areas under the 70th Street Garden
  - Full skylight replacement over the West, Oval and East Galleries, and the Garden Court

**Construction Budget:** \$160 million

**Frick Leadership:** **Ian Wardropper**, Director  
**Elizabeth M. Eveillard**, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
**Dr. James S. Reibel**, Chair of the Architecture and Long-Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees

**Architect:** **Selldorf Architects**

**Project Team:** **Beyer Blinder Belle**, Executive Architect  
**Lynden B. Miller**, Garden Designer and Preservationist  
**Sciame Construction, LLC**, Construction Manager  
**Guy Nordenson & Associates** with **Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Associates, Inc. P.C.**, Structural Engineers  
**Kohler Ronan, LLC**, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Security and IT Engineering  
**Atelier Ten**, Sustainability  
**WSP**, LEED Administration  
**Arup**, Façade, Windows & Skylights and Theatre, Acoustics & AV  
**Samuel Anderson Architects**, Objects and Book Conservation  
**L'Observatoire International**, Lighting Design

**Dharam Consulting**, Cost Estimating  
**Loisos+Ubbelohde**, Daylighting Design  
**Jenkins & Huntington, Inc.**, Vertical Transportation  
**Langan Engineering**, Geotechnical Engineering  
**Philip Habib & Associate**, Civil Engineering  
**Atelier Ten**, Sustainability  
**Clevenger Frable LaVallee, Inc.**, Food Service Consulting  
**Code Consultants, Inc.**, Code and Accessibility Consulting  
**Radii Inc**, Architectural Modelmaking

**About the Evolution  
of the Frick's  
Buildings:**

Originally designed by Carrère and Hastings in 1914 as a private home for Henry Clay Frick, the structure has undergone several changes over the past century, most significantly in the 1930s when architect John Russell Pope converted the family home into a public museum. Pope's expansion and additions nearly doubled the size of the original residence, and also included the construction of an adjacent seven-story-high building to house the Frick Art Reference Library (founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter), today one of the world's leading public art history research centers. In 1977, the Frick added to the museum two rooms with low ceilings at the basement level (which currently serve as small exhibition galleries), a reception hall to the east of the former residence, and the 70th Street Garden, designed by Russell Page. The Portico Gallery was added in 2011 by enclosing an existing loggia in the Fifth Avenue Garden.

**About Selldorf  
Architects:**

Founded in New York in 1988 by Annabelle Selldorf, Selldorf Architects creates public and private spaces that manifest a clear and modern sensibility of enduring impact. The firm has particular expertise creating architecture that enhances the experience of art, having worked internationally on numerous museums, galleries, art foundations, and other cultural projects. Past projects include the Neue Galerie in New York, which, like the Frick, was originally designed in 1914 by Carrère and Hastings; the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA; LUMA Arles, a new center for contemporary art in Southern France; and galleries for David Zwirner and Hauser & Wirth, amongst others. Current projects include the expansion of the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego and the Swiss Institute in New York.

**About  
Beyer Blinder Belle:**

Beyer Blinder Belle is acclaimed for revitalizing the facilities of some of America's most iconic public buildings and cultural institutions, and is known for their deep experience in restoration. In addition to the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C., past projects in New York City include The Met Breuer; Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration; Grand Central Terminal; Empire State Building; New York City Hall; and Temple Emanu-El. As Executive Architects for this project, Beyer Blinder Belle which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will provide technical support to help realize the design plan being developed by Selldorf Architects.

**About Lynden B. Miller:**

Consultant Lynden B. Miller has over forty years of experience working on major public gardens and parks throughout New York City, including the Conservatory Garden in Central Park, Bryant Park, The New York Botanical Garden, and Madison Square Park. She has designed landscape improvements to the campuses at Columbia and Princeton and plantings for the garden at the Museum of Modern Art. In revitalizing the 70th Street Garden, Miller will be working in tandem with the Frick's longtime horticulturist Galen Lee, who trained under Russell Page and was hired by the Frick under his advising.

**About the Frick:**

Housed in one of New York's last great Gilded Age homes, The Frick Collection provides visitors with an unparalleled opportunity for intimate encounters with one of the world's foremost collections of fine and decorative arts. The house and collection originated with Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919), who bequeathed his home and collection of European paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts for the enjoyment of the public. Since it first opened as a museum in 1935, The Frick Collection has continued to add to its holdings, which encompass masterworks from the Renaissance through the early modern period. Adjacent to the museum is the Frick Art Reference Library, founded nearly one hundred years ago by Henry Clay Frick's daughter Helen Clay Frick and recognized as one of the top resources of its kind in the world. Today, the Frick offers a range of exhibitions, concerts, and educational programs throughout the year, and continues to provide visitors with indelible arts experiences in a setting of tranquil contemplation.

**Project website:**

[www.frickfuture.org](http://www.frickfuture.org)

**Media Contacts:**

**Heidi Rosenau**, Associate Director of Media Relations & Marketing  
Phone: 212.547.6866  
Email: [rosenau@frick.org](mailto:rosenau@frick.org)

**Juliet Sorce**, Resnicow and Associates  
Phone: 212.671.5158  
Email: [jsorce@resnicow.com](mailto:jsorce@resnicow.com)