

YONKERS RISING - FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017

Boyce Thompson Open & Restored



A renovated and nearly filled Boyce Thompson property in Executive Park Yonkers.

For nearly four decades, the Boyce Thompson Institute plant research center building in Yonkers sat abandoned and deteriorating – its walls covered in graffiti, greenhouses in ruins and grounds overgrown.

Last week, executives of Simone Development Companies joined with Yonkers May-

or Mike Spano and city and county officials to celebrate the transformation of this historic building into the Boyce Thompson Center, an innovative 85,000-square-foot mixed-use center featuring premier office/medical space, retail stores, restaurants and banking.

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Boyce Thompson

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"The grand opening celebration represented an important milestone for Simone Development and the City of Yonkers," said Joseph Simone, president of Simone Development Companies, the developer of the \$35 million project. "What was once an eyesore will now be generating tax revenue for the city, creating jobs and bringing new retail and health care services to the residents of Yonkers and nearby Rivertown communities. We are especially pleased to be preserving an important piece of history for Yonkers and West-

chester County,"

"There is such a tremendous sense of pride and renewal felt by the city as we breathe new life into Boyce Thompson," added Spano. "With the vision and commitment of Simone Development, we have been able to turn a symbol of long-stalled development into a historic and authentic economic driver that will build upon the momentum that's happening in Yonkers right now."

Built in the 1920s, the property was acquired by Simone Development two years ago, who restored the main building to its original character with a new plaza and fountain.

On the northern end of the site, a new two-level, 15,000-square-foot freestanding building was constructed and leased to St. John's Riverside Hospital for outpatient care and physician offices.

A new 20,000-square-foot addition was constructed at the southern end of the main building with an architectural style resembling the historic building. WESTMED Medical Group is leasing the entire structure.

Fortina, one of the region's hottest restaurants, has leased the entire wing on the northern end of the main building. Led by celebrity Chef Christian Petroni, Fortina is scheduled to open next month.

In addition to preserving the classic architectural style of the main building, Simone Development is also honoring the building's legacy as a plant research center. This week Simone is hosting a reception at the center for officials from the Boyce Thompson Institute, which is now located in Ithaca. Vintage photos of the institute in the 1920s are on permanent display in the main building.

"We at the Boyce Thompson Institute are thrilled to have been able to participate in the restoration of our former home," said David Stern, president, Boyce Thompson Institute. "Simone Development has been incredibly generous in paying homage not only to the history of the Boyce Thompson Institute, but also our present and future. This project has reconnected us with our past, and as a result, reinvigorated our relationships with the city, schools, and people of Yonkers. We value these new relationships and look forward to new and continued partnerships moving forward."

Approximately 85 percent of the Boyce Thompson Center is leased and additional new tenants will be announced soon. The unprecedented success of the Boyce Thompson Center is yet another example of the economic renaissance in Yonkers, which has more than \$1 billion in development under way.