

New Neal Simeon Project Career Academy Update

Public Building Commission of Chicago, Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chairman; Eileen J. Carey, Executive Director

Construction Starts on New Simeon Academy

Construction began in January on a new high school building for Simeon Career Academy at 81st Street and Vincennes Avenue on the South Side.

The schedule for completing the new Simeon facility calls for it to be open for students at the start of the 2003-04 school year.

The Public Building Commission (PBC) is managing this project, which will result in a modern three-story building with 40 classrooms, six science labs and five rooms devoted to music or art, according to Mayor Richard M. Daley, who also chairs the PBC.

Some of the classrooms will be specially designed for vocational instruction, including shops for carpentry, welding and other trades.

Also included will be computer labs, a gymnasium, a library resource center, a large auditorium and full-service dining facilities.

Simeon's new building will be air conditioned and fully accessible to people with disabilities, PBC executive director Eileen Carey noted. It will total 215,000 square feet of educational facilities.



Construction has begun on Simeon Career Academy's new building at 81st & Vincennes. The new high school is scheduled to open for students at the start of the 2003-04 school year.

Attractive landscaping around the building is included in the project, which is situated on the east side of Vincennes Avenue between 81st and 83rd streets.

The current Simeon Career Academy is housed in a converted grocery warehouse that will be torn down and replaced by a school parking lot after the students have moved into their new building.

Plans call for the existing sports annex to remain on the site, but with a link constructed to the new school building.

Construction of the new high school will cost nearly \$40 million.

"In dollars, this is a sizable
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investment in the community," said Daley, "but even more important is the investment we are making in the future of the children who will be attending Simeon and getting a top-quality education."

The PBC has been working to ensure a high percentage of minority involvement in the building of the new Simeon Career Academy: at least 25% of the construction cost has been earmarked for minority-owned businesses.

Also, minority workers are to perform at least half of the journeyman, apprentice and laborer work actually conducted on the site.

"The new Simeon High School will benefit more than 1,600 youngsters, as well as revitalize the surrounding community," said Chicago Public Schools chief executive officer Arne Duncan. "Our capital needs are great, but we are constantly looking to upgrade our education infrastructure by building new schools and improving existing buildings."



The new Simeon will include both regular and vocational classrooms, computer equipment and specialized art and music rooms. All of the new building will be accessible to people with disabilities.

Other PBC School Projects Underway

Simeon Career Academy is not the only Public Building Commission project now underway in Chicago.

Construction is scheduled to start this spring on the new Cuffe Elementary School on the 8300 and 8400 blocks of South Racine Avenue.

This new three-story grade school will feature 26 classrooms; specialized art, music, science and computer rooms; a gymnasium; a library; and full-service dining facilities.

The new Cuffe building, which also will have extensive landscaping and two play areas, is scheduled to open at the same time as the new Simeon Career Academy.

Meanwhile, construction is underway on the building addition at the Chicago Military Academy at Bronzeville, at 35th Street and Giles Avenue; and at the new Cermak school and teaching academy at 22nd and Federal streets. Both are scheduled to open this fall.

This spring also will see PBC-managed construction beginning at two other elementary schools: McNair at 4829 W. Walton St.; and Field, 1707 W. Morse Ave.

The PBC recently completed an addition at Carnegie Elementary School, 1414 E. 61st St.; and is nearing completion of the renovations at Jones College Prep, 606 S. State St.



above: Bricklayer at Cermak school and teaching academy

below: Chicago Military Academy at Bronzeville addition

