



2026 ULI NEW YORK AWARDS for EXCELLENCE in DEVELOPMENT

Urban League Empowerment Center - New York, NY

Developers: BRP Companies, L+M Development Partners, The Prusik Group, Taconic Partners

Owner: Empire State Development

Architect: Beyer Blinder Belle

Public Agency Partners: New York State Homes and Community Renewal, New York City

Economic Development Corporation

This 17-story, mixed-use building not only returns the National Urban League to its historic home in Harlem but also advances the organization's mission by providing Class A office space to mission-aligned institutions, 171 affordable apartments, and retail serving the surrounding community. The building's program mix includes the 81,000-square-foot headquarters of the National Urban League and its Urban Civil Rights Museum and conference center; 90,000 square feet of Class A spec office space leased to tenants including the Studio Museum in Harlem, the United Negro College Fund, One Hundred Black Men, and Virginia Union University; 84,000 square feet of retail, including Trader Joe's, Target, Sephora, and Pandora; and 171 affordable apartments with rents at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income, including 51 units set aside for young people aging out of foster care. The residential program achieved Enterprise Green Communities Certification and includes 11,500 square feet of green roofs topping both the building's podium and the residential tower to help absorb stormwater and reduce the urban heat island effect—a particular challenge for a Harlem community with high vulnerability to extreme heat. The Urban League Empowerment Center responds directly to contemporary concerns in Harlem and New York City at large: the shortage of affordable housing, the need to preserve and celebrate cultural identity, the "flight to quality" in office space, and the demand for accessible and affordable retail and employment opportunities.