



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2024

195 District Celebrates Groundbreaking for Park Pavilion *Pavilion will feature favorite local brands for year-round dining*

The 195 District today hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the 195 District Park Pavilion, marking the start of construction on the facility that will feature year-round dining, public bathrooms, and support space for park operations. In addition to the approximately 3,500-square-foot building, the project will include infrastructure upgrades to the park including WIFI service, grading and drainage improvements, and electrical upgrades.

“I’m excited to see the 195 District continuing to thrive as a go-to Rhode Island destination for visitors and locals to enjoy,” said Governor Dan McKee. “We’re glad that two great local businesses will be featured in the new pavilion, providing park users with a taste of Rhode Island year-round. I thank Marc Crisafulli and the entire I-195 Redevelopment District Commission for their commitment to the vibrancy of the innovation district.”

“Today marks an exciting milestone as we break ground on the 195 District Park Pavilion, which will bring even more economic vibrancy to our Downtown parks,” said Mayor Brett P. Smiley. “This project brings year-round dining, tech and infrastructure upgrades, essential amenities and a hub for community engagement to our river front, enhancing our public spaces for all neighbors to enjoy.”

“This is an exciting day for the 195 District as we break ground on the pavilion,” said Marc Crisafulli, Chairman of the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission. “With an average of 5,000 visitors each day, 195 District Park has become a destination in Providence and this beautiful pavilion makes this neighborhood even more attractive to residents, visitors, and those who want to be part of the exciting work happening in our innovation district.”

“The pavilion will play a vital role in activating the park year-round, serving as an amenity for park users and the surrounding community,” said Caroline Skuncik, Executive Director of the I-195 Redevelopment District. “The pavilion will allow us to continue to attract and sustain enriching programming that makes our park so valued.”

“The Guild is thrilled to continue to be a part of the District Park and its commitment to creating and supporting a vibrant space along the Providence River,” said Jeremy Duffy, Co-founder of The Guild. “We will bring a full day food and beverage experience provided by two recognizable and popular Rhode Island brands - The Guild and Seven Stars - to support the District Park and its visitors year round.”

Designed by New York City-based Architecture Research Office (ARO), the resilient pavilion is designed for all vantage points around the park, with six sides that frame waterfront views and a canopy that provides shaded seating areas in all directions. The new pavilion’s cedar shiplap rainscreen references the coastal Rhode Island vernacular and visually connects to the wood of the adjacent pedestrian bridge. Operable storefront doors in the pavilion’s main dining area provide panoramic views of the Providence River and can open for indoor-outdoor dining service as weather allows. Kim Yao, ARO Principal, says “The pavilion encourages year-round gathering and use of the Park as an accessible place to eat and drink, supporting the local economy and inviting the public to forge new memories here.”

“We are honored to once again contribute to the revitalization of the I-195 Redevelopment District with a project that exemplifies our commitment to the growth and transformation of Providence,” said Chris Maury, Senior Director of Rhode Island at Shawmut Design and Construction. “This pavilion will enhance the park and serve as a vital gathering space for the community. We are proud to bring this vision to life and support the ongoing evolution of this vibrant district.”

The project was funded in part by the Beach, Clean Water, and Green bond approved by voters in 2021. The food and beverage service at the 195 District Park Pavilion was awarded to the Guild Brewing Company in partnership with Seven Stars Bakery through a competitive bid process.

The following firms are engaged on the project:

- Contractor: Shawmut Design & Construction
- Architecture & Engineering Services: Architecture Research Office (ARO)
- Landscape Architect: Agency Landscape + Planning
- Restaurant Consultant: Agora Partners
- Owner’s Project Manager: Collier’s Project Leaders
- Civil & Environmental Engineer: Fuss & O’Neill
- Food & Beverage Operator: The Guild and Seven Stars Bakery

About the I-195 Redevelopment District

The I-195 Redevelopment District (the District) and its governing Commission were created in late 2011 to serve as the primary authority for the redevelopment of 26 acres of land made available in Providence as a result of the relocation of Interstate 195. To date, thirteen projects totaling over 2 million SF have been completed or are planned in the District, laying the foundation for a vibrant innovation district where the highway once stood. The District includes the seven-acre 195 District Park.

About Shawmut Design and Construction

Shawmut Design and Construction is a \$1.6 billion national construction management firm with a reputation for completing extremely complex and logistically challenging projects for the most high-profile clients in the industry. As a 100% employee-owned company, Shawmut has created a culture of ownership, proactive solution-making, and forward-thinking. Over eighty percent of its business comes from repeat clients, proving there is a strong focus on building lasting partnerships. Shawmut has 11 offices, including New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami, West Palm Beach, and Las Vegas. For more information, please visit www.shawmut.com.

About ARO

Architecture Research Office (ARO) is the New York City firm led by Stephen Cassell, Kim Yao, and Adam Yarinsky. ARO is a diverse collective united by their collaborative process, commitment to accountable action, and social and environmental responsibility. Research gives their work purpose and intention. Their architecture unites beauty and form with strategy and intelligence. Their office designs spaces that inspire people, further institutional missions, and advance equity and resilience. This philosophy has earned the firm over one hundred design awards including the 2020 AIA Architecture Firm Award, the AIA New York State Firm of the Year Award, and the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture. The firm’s new monograph, entitled *Architecture. Research. Office.*, will be published in October. For the first time, the book meticulously compiles ARO’s diverse body of work, which spans cultural and educational institutions, public and commercial buildings, and residences. www.aro.net.

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