



Vanderbilt unveils renderings for vision for business and tech campus in West Palm Beach



As Vanderbilt University continues to partner with the Palm Beach region to explore the potential for a campus in West Palm Beach, the university released artist renderings of its planned West Palm Beach Campus. The renderings offer a preview of its vision to create a vibrant graduate school that focuses on business, data science and AI, and a state-of-the-art innovation center that fosters collaboration among startups, investors, established businesses and academia.

The proposed project has achieved remarkable progress in a short time. In the fall of 2024, Vanderbilt was unanimously granted five acres of county-owned land and two acres of city-owned land for the location by county and city commissioners, respectively. The next step to realize the vision for this campus now shifts to reaching a fundraising target of \$300 million set by Vanderbilt's Board of Trust. Today's release of new renderings aims to generate awareness and excitement for community philanthropic investment in the project.

“We are delighted to share these renderings and our vision for a West Palm Beach campus,” Chancellor Daniel Diermeier said. “The images show that we are planning a unique learning and research environment that nurtures collaboration and innovation and is sustainable in all senses.”

A CAMPUS ROOTED IN NATURE



Elkus Manfredi Architects was selected to spearhead the design. David P. Manfredi, CEO and founding principal of the firm, describes the location

as a “living laboratory of South Florida landscape.” In a nod to the Vanderbilt University Arboretum in Nashville, Manfredi envisions the West Palm Beach location as a reflection of the concept using plantings native to South Florida.

“The arboretum—mirroring the arboretum on our Nashville campus—symbolizes our commitment to operate as One Vanderbilt, and our never-ending collective effort to dare to grow,” Diermeier said.

The tropical arboretum will showcase a diverse array of indigenous South Florida species. Visitors might expect to see slash pines reaching for the sky, vibrant Cherokee Beans adding splashes of color and the iconic sabal palm standing proud. Other local flora like sea grape, gumbo limbo and buttonbush will further enhance the connection to the South Florida environment.

“We are inspired by Vanderbilt’s goals to create an environment of teaching, learning, discovery and research that promotes a culture of openness, transparency, innovation and collaboration,” Manfredi said.

BRIDGING TWO WORLDS



While the West Palm Beach location will have its own distinct identity, it will maintain design principles that guide planning on Vanderbilt’s Nashville campus. Both will feature networks of outdoor spaces designed to be destinations for students. These areas will be informal and welcoming, encouraging students to linger and engage with their surroundings.

Each campus will embrace a sense of place and integrate with its natural environment—a philosophy that aligns with Vanderbilt’s commitment to creating spaces that foster innovation, collaboration and personal growth.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN

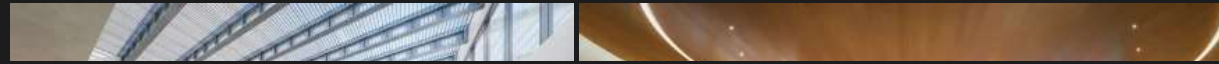


The renderings reveal a campus that’s aesthetically appealing and functional. Plans for the Executive Education & Lifelong Learning Building, a centerpiece of the new location, call for using mass timber, a highly renewable resource. The exposed timber structure will create warm, natural learning environments that connect students to the materials around them.

The design also explores the potential for solar energy. The renderings show rooftops adorned with photovoltaic cells, which will use the sun’s rays to power on-site lighting and other electrical needs.

The coastal-area site has been meticulously designed with resilience in mind. The plans comply with floodplain regulations and incorporate advanced stormwater mitigation strategies.

A CATALYST FOR INNOVATION



Vanderbilt intends for the West Palm Beach campus to welcome nearly 1,000 students in various graduate-level business programs—such as an Executive MBA and master’s in finance—and in engineering and computing-focused fields like artificial intelligence, data science and computer science. Vanderbilt is actively engaged with the Florida Commission for Independent Education to design academic programming for this location and will seek appropriate approvals from relevant accreditors and regulatory bodies. Plans also include developing a state-of-the-art innovation hub that offers opportunities for robust community engagement and access to an ecosystem of entrepreneurial energy and opportunity, and that connects Vanderbilt to the booming growth in the Palm Beach region.

Establishing a campus in West Palm Beach is one of several initiatives to expand the reach, impact and reputation of Vanderbilt University worldwide and, thus, create new opportunities for students, faculty, alumni and supporters.

[Learn more about Vanderbilt’s growth initiatives.](#)

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