Construction Update



Hartley Hall

Full-Building Renovation and Infrastructure Upgrade

Columbia University is performing a full-building renovation and infrastructure upgrade at Hartley residence hall. The scope of work includes the upgrade of student rooms, bathrooms, offices, the main lounge, floor lounges, public corridors, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing modernization as well as new fire alarm system and fire alarm protection upgrades. Originally built in 1905, this will be the first major upgrade to Hartley Hall since the 1980s, and will bring the building up to current building code and best practice standards.

Construction Activities for the Weeks of October 26, 2026 and November 2, 2026

Although contractors carefully stage construction activities to minimize disruption, the nature of construction work is such that some disruptions will occur. The community should expect the following in the coming weeks:

What is Happening

- Con Edison is switching the building's electricity from its permanent power source to a temporary power source on Sunday, October 25. Work will take place at a manhole on the western side of Amsterdam Avenue and West 115th Steet, and localized trenching may occur.
- Demolition of the entrance of the building will commence in the next few weeks, which will include the use of jackhammers.
- Interior demolition is ongoing, which will include chopping after-hours.
- Core drilling within the interior of the building.
- Installing and caulking of windows throughout the building with use of the exterior scaffold.
- Interior steel work and steel deliveries are ongoing.
- Layout and interior fitout to build rooms on the 4th through 9th floors.
- Duct work is ongoing throughout the building.
- Installation of mechanical and sprinkler piping throughout the building.
- Installation of spray foam on walls is ongoing.

What to Expect

- Regular work will take place during New York City standard construction hours, Monday through Friday, with after-hours and Saturday work in accordance with all required permits.
- Con Edison will perform work on Sunday, October 25 between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Equipment will be located near the front of the Hartley/Wallach Gate, and work will take place on the western side of Amsterdam Avenue and West 115th Steet. A flag person will be available to direct pedestrian traffic around the work site.
- Demolition debris will be carted to a packer truck. A flag person will be available to direct pedestrian traffic on the west side of Amsterdam Ave.
- Noise from carting trucks to remove waste and debris, often arriving outside of regular work hours. Carting trucks are particularly prevalent during the demolition phase.
- Noise from the hoist operation, which will be operating throughout work hours for the duration of the project.
- Daily material deliveries are ongoing.

What to Expect (cont.)

- Please note that there is a narrow walkway on Amsterdam Ave. in front of Hartley Hall. Flag people will be on the sidewalk and pedestrian crosswalks directing materials into the building.
- Parking will not be available on the west side of Amsterdam Avenue adjacent to Hartley Hall. This space will be used as a designated loading area for delivery trucks for the duration of the project.
- Construction workers will access Hartley Hall via Amsterdam Ave.
- Expect other impacts typically associated with construction projects.

-Please note that all activities are subject to change based on weather and other field conditions-

For More Information

You can find the latest construction information on our website at cufo.columbia.edu/hartleyrenovation. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please call the Columbia University Facilities Services Center at (212) 854-2222 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or e-mail projx@columbia.edu (emails responded to during normal business hours). We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience while we perform this work.