

Beam Signing Event Marks Milestone in Construction of Green House Venture's Education Center

Supporters of the Green House Venture gathered on March 3, 2026 to celebrate an important milestone in the construction of its new Education Center. The GHV senior leadership team, members of the board of directors, principals of the four Urban Education Alliance member schools, construction team leaders and long-time volunteers signed a ceremonial beam marking the progress of a facility designed to transform the hands-on teaching of urban agriculture, nutrition, dietetics and bioscience to young students in the city of St. Louis and across the region.

The signed beam will be placed atop the structure on March 5 by Bush Construction (formerly UIC), the project's design/build contractor, marking the completion of its structural framework and ushering in the next stage of construction.

Slated to open in the Fall of 2026, the new 9,300 square foot, 2 ½ story Education Center building will feature classrooms and laboratories, a greenhouse with aquaponic growing, rooftop rain gardening, vertical farming, multi-purpose gallery, office space for a full-time staff of three and advanced multi-media communication technology to enable educational outreach to schools both locally and regionally through online videos, live streaming of teaching sessions and space for students to collaborate and connect with peers.

For many in attendance, the beam signing event reflected not only construction progress but also the promise of a new era in educational programming.

"This event honors our Education Center's many stakeholders with a permanent record of their dedication to this project and their commitment to bringing to life our vision of equipping an inclusive population of elementary students to pursue a sustainable world through a hands-on program in bioscience, dietetics, nutrition and urban agriculture," said Tom Purcell, President of the Green House Venture. "The beam serves as a lasting, hidden record of the people who built this structure and teamwork that went into bringing this facility out of the ground."

The new \$4.7 million Education Center is located across the street from GHV's recently completed 3.7-acre outdoor food production area known as the Embankment Greenway along Interstate 44 in south central St. Louis. The Education Center and the Embankment Greenway together will comprise the GHV campus.