

Business



The new Conventus medical office building has won an Urban Land Institute award. (Derek Gee/Buffalo News)

Conventus building wins Urban Land Institute award

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Ciminelli Real Estate Corp.'s Conventus medical office and research facility in downtown Buffalo has won a prestigious statewide award from the Urban Land Institute, making it the only project outside of New York City to receive such recognition.

The seven-story, \$110 million facility was honored by ULI-New York with its first Excellence in Office Development award, part of a new competition designed to highlight the state's real estate development industry. It's modeled after the national organization's Global Awards for Excellence, to acknowledge projects that raise the bar for development, design, planning and sustainability.

It was one of six awards given out to seven projects – two were named as co-winners for one prize – at the inaugural awards gala in Manhattan last week. The other six winners of awards – and 13 of the 14 finalists in total – were all from New York City, including 4 World Trade Center, which Conventus competed against in its category. The competition began with nominations last September.

“This award represents years of thoughtful planning and collaboration among our team, the city of Buffalo, and our neighbors on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus,” said Paul Ciminelli, president and CEO of the development firm. “It speaks not only to the talents of our project team, but to the momentum that the city of Buffalo and all of the institutions on the Medical Campus have collectively created. It's an incredible honor.”

Located at 1001 Main St., on the edge of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Conventus is a 350,000-square-foot Class A facility designed to encourage collaboration among medical campus entities. The building, which includes two floors of below-grade parking with 300 spaces, houses two floors each for UBMD and Kaleida Health, and will be directly connected to both the new John R. Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo and the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. It also houses the headquarters of Athenex and additional research space for Albany Molecular Research Inc. and Massachusetts-based PerkinsElmer, as part of the state's Buffalo Billion initiative.

Ciminelli worked with C&S Companies, Kideney Architects, LPCiminelli, M/E Engineering PC, First Niagara Bank and Walter P. Moore on aspects of the project. Besides Ciminelli, the project was financed by investment management firm and project partner Seavest Healthcare Properties LLC, which focuses on the medical office and outpatient facility arena.

“This award is a tribute to the planning and execution of the project by our partner, Ciminelli Real Estate,” said Jonathan Winer, senior managing director and chief investment officer of Seavest. “We strive to develop projects that improve the healthcare environment for patients and tenants. Conventus exceeds this goal.”

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