



## The Fedcap Group's Civic Hall and RAL Development Services Finalize Agreement to House CIVIC HALL @ UNION SQUARE in New Zero Irving Development

*CIVIC HALL @ UNION SQUARE Will Be a State-of-the-Art Digital Skills Training Hub, Technology Incubator, and Conference and Community Space*

*Sponsored by The City of New York's Economic Development Corporation, CIVIC HALL @ UNION SQUARE Will Create a Pipeline of Diverse Trained Talent to Support New York's Growing Technology Industries*

October 3, 2022

**New York, NY**— RAL Development Services and The Fedcap Group finalized a 25-year lease agreement to house Civic Hall @ Union Square in RAL's new Zero Irving development at 124 East 14th Street. Zero Irving is a 21-story, 260,000-square foot tech-focused mixed-use development in the heart of Union



Square. As contemplated by RAL's winning RFP response to the New York City Economic Development Corporation that led to the launch of Zero Irving, The Fedcap Group's Civic Hall @ Union Square will occupy 85,000 square feet on six floors and include a digital workforce training center with 25 state-of-the-art high-tech classrooms, collaborative community space, a technology start-up incubator, and modern conference and events center. Construction is scheduled to be completed and programs launched in early 2023.

The Fedcap Group's Civic Hall @ Union Square will provide a comprehensive offering of digital skills and tech training programs—from certificates to degrees—to meet the New York City tech sector's growing workforce need. The facility will primarily train individuals from underserved communities to provide economic well-being through well-paying sustainable tech jobs. The training and education programs will be delivered

by The Fedcap Group's nation-leading subsidiaries and partners, including Apex Technical School, Power52 Energy Solutions, Paul Smith's College, and Fedcap Inc.—Fedcap's workforce training arm. Additional tech training providers, focused on underserved populations working in New York City, will also be invited to utilize the Civic Hall facilities. Individuals trained at Civic Hall @ Union Square will also gain access to a suite of Fedcap's wraparound services, including Single Stop which links individuals to essential services and benefits, financial literacy training, and other support programs.

"Civic Hall @ Union Square will be the crown jewel of digital skills training, collaboration, and innovation in the tech sector for New York City and beyond," said **Christine McMahon, President and CEO of The Fedcap Group**. "Civic Hall @ Union Square will not only lift up and provide a sustainable economic future for many individuals too often left behind in our economy, but also will provide the pipeline to

meet the tremendous workforce need for New York City's thriving tech sector. I want to thank Mayor Adams, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation led by President and CEO, Andrew Kimball, as well as his entire team, for their steadfast support of this critically-important project. I also want to give special thanks to Andrew Rasiej, Co-Founder and President of Civic Hall, for his vision and unending effort to make this project happen."

"RAL's development ethos is to be a city builder more than a building builder. That means we take on complex projects that build toward both commercial success and social contributions. The anticipated opening of Civic Hall @ Union Square makes us particularly proud, as we believe that offering tech education in a central, transit-rich location like Union Square will make a genuine difference to the fabric of New York City. We will continue to seek out public-private deals and other projects in New York and beyond that engage our full team toward inclusive developments that enhance communities," said **Spencer Levine, President of RAL Development Services.**

"Civic Hall @ Union Square will be a critical hub for New Yorkers of all backgrounds to learn new skills leading to good paying jobs and career pathways in a range of tech sectors," said **NYCEDC President & CEO Andrew Kimball.** "I want to thank RAL, Fedcap, Civic Hall, my colleagues at EDC and Council Member Carlina Rivera for their leadership in creating this remarkable public-private partnership."

A recent [study](#) found that although high-tech employment expanded by 45% since 2008—or 2.5 times faster than the New York City economy overall—and despite the fact that tech sector wages are 80% higher than for New York City jobs overall, 70% of employers faced challenges hiring in the sector. And communities of color are often left behind with Black and Latinx workers making up only 18% of the high-tech workforce.

"New York City is full of good paying jobs in exciting industries, but too many people face barriers to accessing these opportunities. I'm proud to support the work of The Fedcap Group and Civic Hall to bring real life skills training and development to people who need it the most," said **Council Member Carlina Rivera.** "As we look to our economic future, we must make sure that people are prepared to take positions in growing industries, and that no one is left behind in the pandemic recovery. Working with Community Board 3 and local social services organizations, Civic Hall @ Zero Irving is an amazing opportunity to bring these vital programs to those communities most in need."

"We must ensure that there are strong pipelines to tech sector jobs and the modern economy, and Civic Hall @ Union Square will play a crucial role in preparing New Yorkers for careers in tech," said **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.** "I'm looking forward to watching talented New Yorkers learn, collaborate, and grow as we continue our economic recovery here in New York City."

"This project represents New York City's unending commitment to every New Yorker, regardless of background, or economic ability, to have the opportunity to fully participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy," said **Andrew Rasiej, Co-Founder and President of Civic Hall.** "The ultimate goal is for Civic Hall @ Union Square to be a replicable model ensuring that diversity, equity, and inclusion will be the hallmark of our City's economic future. I want to thank The Fedcap Group, the City of New York Economic Development Corporation, and RAL Development Services for fulfilling the promise we all made to our community and to our City and making the dream of Civic Hall @ Union Square a reality."

## **About the Zero Irving Project**

In addition to the six floors dedicated to Civic Hall @ Union Square, Zero Irving introduces 176,000 square feet of modern, trophy quality office space across the upper 14 floors of the 21-story building. Views of Midtown and Downtown Manhattan are spectacular, and alternating floors at Zero Irving boast corner double-height dedicated spaces with 23-foot ceilings, offering users distinctive high-impact space. Among the premier office building's amenities are a large, landscaped roof deck, a 14,000 square foot event and conferencing space available to tenants, a full-service fitness center with lockers, showers and bike storage, and a ground floor indoor/outdoor food hall by Urbanspace with 12+ curated food vendors.

### **About The Fedcap Group**

Since 1935, The Fedcap Group has developed scalable, innovative and potentially disruptive solutions to some of society's most pressing needs. The Fedcap Group generates more than \$400M of revenue annually to serve over 250,000+ people each year across an international footprint. The work of The Fedcap Group is structured within four major areas of practice—workforce development, educational services, health services, and economic development— and delivered through a growing number of top-tier companies—each focused on helping people with barriers achieve long term economic well-being.

### **About RAL Development Services**

RAL Development Services LLC (RAL), <http://ralcompanies.com/>, is a real estate development firm with a three-generation, 40+ year track record of success in building complex, high-profile projects nationally and internationally. RAL's multidisciplinary in-house expertise includes predevelopment and approvals, urban planning, architecture and design, finance, construction management, landscape architecture, marketing and leasing, and property management. RAL operates both as a principal owner/developer and as an owner's representative, bringing its expertise to residential, commercial, mixed-use, planned communities, Resorts and hospitality, and other property types. RAL prides itself on its dedication to the communities it works with, creating strong and lasting relationships with local constituencies wherever they build, as well as employing union labor and collaborating with MWBE contractors when possible. RAL uses and believes in cutting-edge processes and technologies, but never substitutes them for the experience, ingenuity, creativity, passion, leadership, and professional judgment provided by its people.

### **About Civic Hall**

Founded in 2015, Civic Hall is one of the nation's leading organizations focused on learning and collaboration to advance technology and problem-solving for the public good. It has grown into a thriving community with more than 1,000 members and organizations that includes tech companies, government and nonprofit agencies and philanthropic and academic institutions and has become the center for NYC's efforts to develop a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive technology industry. The Fedcap Group acquired Civic Hall in 2021.

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