

THE NEW IRISH ARTS CENTER

After a year of construction, our new building is on budget and on schedule to open in the autumn of 2020. This photo essay captures some special moments along the way.



SITE DEDICATION

The New Irish Arts Center marks an historic partnership between the people of Ireland and the people of New York. In their first meeting, on March 16, 2018, Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio joined us at the former Cybert Tire site to rededicate their governments to this dynamic new cultural platform.



GROUNDBREAKING: OCTOBER 11, 2018



A small ram hoe ram makes
the first cut into the Cybert
Tire concrete slab



Gabriel Byrne and the Irish Arts Center Board dig the first ceremonial hole

DEMOLITION





Wood debris from upper floors of Cybert Tire is dumped for clearing



With rear wall demolition complete, the former Cybert Tire structure's steel girders remain, helping fortify the adjacent buildings during demolition

EXCAVATION

More than 1700 cubic yards of rock and soil were broken up and removed from the site, reaching 15 feet below street level.



Ram hoes and back hoes brought on site to begin excavation

A light snow settles on the worksite near the end of excavation.





FOUNDATION

With excavation complete, the rebar is set, and some 650 cubic yards of concrete is poured to lay the foundation.



Extensive underpinning and waterproofing protects the adjacent buildings



STEEL ARRIVES

350 tons of steel is prefabricated with precision and begins to arrive on site the day after the foundation is completed.

SUPERSTRUCTURE

The steel superstructure is erected in just four weeks.



The view through the rising superstructure to 11th Avenue, from the roof of the 51st Street building



TOPPING OUT

The ceremonial final beam of steel is raised.

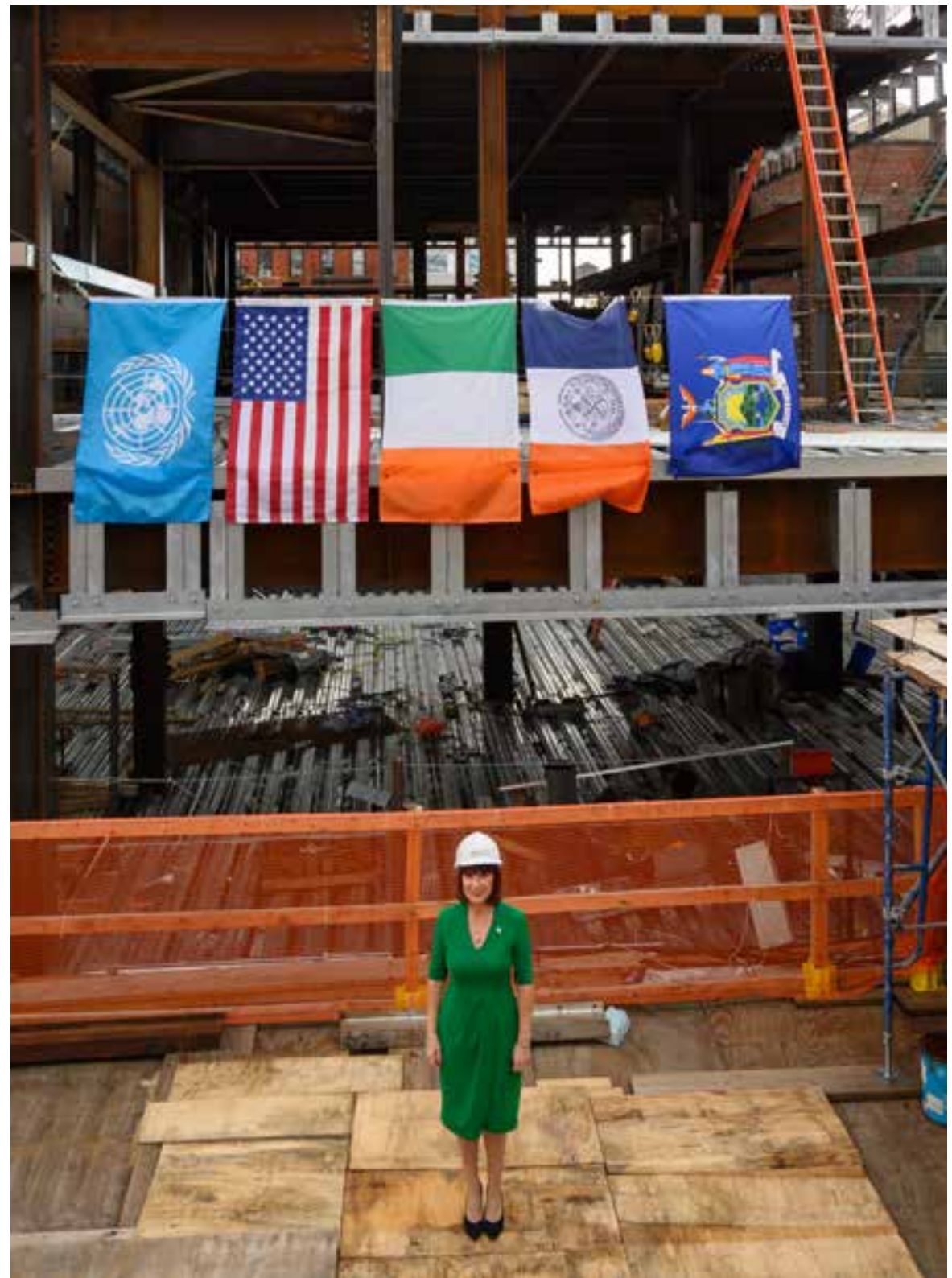


Irish Arts Center staff mark the moment,
following lunch with the construction team





Supporters and stakeholders watch with awe as ironworkers aloft attach the final beam



Josepha Madigan, T.D. Minister for Arts, Culture, and Gaeltacht, completes our topping out ceremonies

CONCRETE

Concrete slabs for the interior floors are poured. The process begins with setting the rebar, and a diligent mapping of sleeves (for piping, electrical and mechanical work) and floor boxes for power, before the concrete is poured and finished.





SPRAY FIREPROOFING

Messy and time-consuming, but of the utmost importance, spray fireproofing protects the steel from melting in high heat.

Workers wear protective gear in applying the cementitious material to the steel girders along the ceiling of the ground floor.

THEATRE

The centerpiece of our new building: a state-of-the-art flexible theatre, built for artistic innovation and greater physical scale while maintaining a precious sense of intimacy.



The view west towards 11th Avenue, prior to the theatre's concrete floor being poured.



The view east towards the 51st Street building after the floor is poured.



A scissor lift raises workers to install the beams and brackets for an advanced trolley system in our wire tension grid, allowing maximum mobility and flexibility for lighting and sound equipment



The walls are built for complete acoustic separation: a thick cinderblock, with each gap filled with concrete, with an additional layer of thick, dense, acoustically engineered sheetrock



Ireland's President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins visit the site on September 28, 2019