

Made in Manhattan

Autodesk Constructware Streamlines \$420 Million Park Project, Speeding Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan Waterfront

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– Michael Breen, P.E.
CIO
Hudson River Park Trust



Project Summary

The Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York City and State that was created in 1998 and charged with overseeing the transformation of Manhattan's west side docklands into a series of parks and green open spaces. Broken down into phases, there were hundreds of small construction projects – from boathouses, to piers and pedestrian paths – to complete. Adding to the challenge, legislation mandated that many contracts be broken down into specific disciplines - mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and general construction – meaning that there was a veritable flood of RFIs, contracts, and paperwork from different vendors to manage. Using Autodesk Constructware has enabled the Trust to:

- Standardize communications by providing a centralized collaboration space
- Reduce the amount of time needed to process RFIs and other submittals
- Effectively share information with nearly 200 outside consultants, agencies, and other third party vendors
- Strengthen business continuity processes by storing critical construction data on secure offsite servers

The Challenge

Transforming New York City's Waterfront
A partnership between New York City and State, the Hudson River Park Trust was created to oversee the transformation of Manhattan's west side docklands into a series of parks and public spaces. The goal was to create the largest new park in Manhattan since the creation of Central Park in the mid-1800's.

"It was an enormous undertaking," said Michael Breen, CIO of the Hudson River Trust, referring to the \$420 million, multi-year project. "Following upon the format laid-out by NYS DOT in their Route 9A construction, the project was divided into six major segments. There were dozens of small, phased construction projects within each segment – from boathouses and other buildings, to piers and pedestrian paths."

Hudson River Park Trust

Managing so many projects would be challenging under any circumstances – but doing business as a State public benefit corporation presented additional layers of complexity. “The Hudson River Park Act mandates that building construction contracts be broken down into specific disciplines,” explained Breen. “If we want to build one building, we have to break that down into mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and general construction. So for every building, at least four vendors are involved, with all of the associated RFIs, contracts, and paperwork. Luckily, that type of situation lends itself perfectly to a solution like Autodesk Constructware.”

The Solution

On-Demand Collaboration

A sophisticated collaboration tool, Autodesk Constructware centralizes and standardizes communications for the hundreds of specialty contractors, vendors, consulting engineers, and architectural firms working together on Hudson River Park.

“Our designs need to be reviewed by multiple agencies and review boards before they are finally approved by our Board of Directors and the work is done; Autodesk Constructware helps us track that approval process,” said Marc Boddewyn, VP of Design & Construction of the Trust. “We can keep track of who has seen what, who has signed off on what, when they did so, what’s on time, and what’s late.”

Just as importantly, Autodesk Constructware provides this functionality without putting a strain on IT resources, due to its on-demand nature. “We have a very small IT staff,” said Breen. “There is no way we could make an application like this available to the extended project team if we had to

go out and install software on people’s computers and then support the application. With Autodesk Constructware, we don’t need to make those kinds of investments in staff and resources. Because it’s an on-demand solution, new users can be up and running in no time and contributing to their projects.”

Besides saving on IT costs, the Autodesk Constructware on-demand solution helps the Trust ensure business continuity in the event of a disaster. “It’s a huge advantage to have all of our project data securely stored offsite on Autodesk Constructware servers,” said Breen. “If something ever happened to our main facility here in New York, all of our construction documents would still be safe – construction wouldn’t have to grind to a halt.”

The Results

Smarter and Faster

Autodesk Constructware has delivered impressive results for the Trust throughout the planning, design and construction phases for Hudson River Park. “Autodesk Constructware definitely helped us improve communication and accelerate our progress,” said Breen. “RFIs and submittals get done quicker. It used to take 10-14 days to get a submittal back. With Autodesk Constructware, we’re able to get that down to 8 days, or in some cases 5.”

This speed allowed the Trust to stay on track and deliver the first segment of the park to the public in 2003. Three public piers in the Greenwich Village area were soon followed by the Clinton Cove boating and passive recreation area, and Piers 95 and 96, in 2005. In addition, a bikeway, which spans the length of the Park, is maintained by the Trust and enjoyed by thousands of bikers and bladers each day.



“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform New York City’s historic industrial waterfront into Manhattan’s newest recreational playground,” said Connie Fishman, President of the Trust. “We’re honored to have been given the opportunity to make it happen.”

For more information or to learn more, visit: www.autodesk.com/collaborativepm



With Autodesk Constructware, Hudson River Park Trust has increased vendor response time for RFI submittals by 20-50%.