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<http://therealdeal.com/blog/2015/01/29/citys-cultural-institutions-spent-1-3b-on-construction/>

City's cultural institutions spent \$1.3B on construction

By Claire Moses



From left: the David H. Koch Plaza in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the new Whitney Museum of American Art in the Meatpacking District

Cultural institutions across the city spent \$1.3 billion on new construction over the five years that ended in 2014.

In 2014, total construction was \$208 million, a 46 percent increase from the year before, according to a the New York Building Congress analysis of information from Dodge Data & Analytics, cited by Crain's. The year with the highest amount of construction was 2011, when new projects for a total of \$491 million were launched, according to the website. The \$422 million construction of the new Whitney Museum of American Art — which is [set to open in the Meatpacking District](#) later this year — contributed to that peak.

Other projects that contributed are the \$81.3 million renovation of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, the \$65 million renovation of the fountains and area in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an [expansion of the Queens Museum](#).

The projects employed roughly 10,000 people over the five years. Still, with \$1.3 billion, these cultural projects are only a small part of the annual \$32 billion in construction spending. [\[Crain's\]](#)