

# Lincoln Center

## Josie Robertson Plaza / Columbus Avenue

### Overview

**Project Description:** Drawing upon the same design vocabulary and palette of materials being used in Lincoln Center's West 65th Street Project—glass, travertine, new landscape features, and integrated information technologies—Diller Scofidio + Renfro in association with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners has created a complementary plan to rebuild Lincoln Center's primary entryway along Columbus Avenue and to upgrade and reenergize the adjacent Josie Robertson Plaza. The new design reconfigures the vehicular and pedestrian approach to the Plaza from Columbus Avenue by sinking the original service road that led to the Plaza below street level, and by dramatically expanding the original staircase between the Plaza and the street.

Considered by many as the main lobby to the entire campus, Josie Robertson Plaza—Lincoln Center's iconic open public space with its central Revson Fountain set into a distinctive patterned pavement designed by Philip Johnson—also has been updated. The Plaza's pavement masonry has been totally renovated, and the Fountain enhanced with new lighting and technical upgrades.

This project further unites Lincoln Center with the surrounding cityscape and creates a more dramatic and functional threshold to what is Lincoln Center's iconic front door. The design also will open up the campus in ways that encourage interaction among artists, students, and the public.

**Location:** Columbus Avenue between 62nd & 65th Streets, and Josie Robertson Plaza

**Design Team:** Diller Scofidio + Renfro in association with  
Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners  
Ove Arup & Partners (Engineering)  
Tillotson Design Associates (Lighting)  
JMathews Nielsen (Landscape Architecture)  
2 x 4, Inc. (Graphic Design)  
Dewhurst Macfarlane  
WET (Revson Fountain water features)  
Scharff Weisberg (Audio Visual Design)

**Original Architect:** Wallace K. Harrison and Max Abramovitz in collaboration with Philip Johnson

**Key Dates:** April 6, 1964, Lincoln Center Revson Fountain completed  
September 15, 1998, the Plaza is named Josie Robertson Plaza  
June 12, 2006, Promenade project announced  
January 2008, Groundbreaking for Promenade project  
May 2010, project completed

## Design Highlights

Josie Robertson Plaza: The Promenade project called for a full restoration of the Plaza's patterned masonry and new wayfinding signage.

The revitalized Revson Fountain gives the appearance of a floating granite ring, opening views across the Plaza in all directions. The pool of water also has been lowered and converted to a shallow water surface at Plaza level. New technologies provide automated windspray sensors that adjust water pressure, height, and volume. Special nozzles and lighting systems allow for a multitude of special-effect water and light configurations.

Service Road: The service road that led from Columbus Avenue to Josie Robertson Plaza has been dropped below the street to concourse level. Named the **Roslyn and Elliot Jaffe Family Drive**, cars enter at 65th Street and travel south to a covered entrance, the **Bruce and Robbi Toll Porte-cochère**, shaped by the new grand stair above. Underneath the grand stair, this multi-lane service road and new concourse entrance provides a convenient and weatherproof location for patron drop-offs and departures. From this area, visitors have access to stairs, escalators, or an elevator leading up to Josie Robertson Plaza or into newly renovated, clearly defined concourse corridors.

An innovative design for visitors arriving at Lincoln Center by subway features a new, brightly lit pedestrian corridor to the concourse-level roadway. Travelers along this passageway have easy access to stairs, escalators, and an elevator leading to all Lincoln Center venues.

Columbus Avenue Stairs: The concourse corridors were named in honor of **Susan and Jon Rotenstreich**. The existing staircase to Josie Robertson Plaza has been expanded into a new, approximately 170-foot-wide Grand Stair that enables visitors arriving by car to disembark curbside from Columbus Avenue and walk directly up the new stairs onto Josie Robertson Plaza. Twin flanking ramps offer additional ADA accessible entry, from the street to Plaza level. The ramps are covered by sleek glass canopies that project dramatically from the arcades of Avery Fisher Hall and the David H. Koch Theater, providing arriving visitors with protection during inclement weather. Lush entrance greens will be located to the side of each ramp.

Urban Grove/Micro Park: The **Charles B. Benenson Grove** at 62nd Street, across from the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, creates a new green space and enhances the visitor experience. The 3,500-square-foot "urban forest" adjacent to the David H. Koch Theater features approximately 40 quaking aspen, as well as honey locusts, dawn redwood and sweet gum trees and benches for the public.

## Dimensions

Original Staircase: 115 feet - 4 inches wide by 17 feet - 1 inch deep.  
Rises 4 feet - 6 inches from street to Plaza level with eight 6 - inch risers.

New Staircase: 171 feet wide by 40 feet deep.  
Rises 4 feet-6 inches from street to Plaza level with eight 6-inch risers.

Original Inner Roadway: Two lanes at 21 feet-4 inches total width

New Inner Roadway: Two lanes going in, multiple lanes beneath the stair narrowing to a single lane upon exit. The multiple lane width is 28 feet - eight inches.

Original Revson Fountain: 42 feet – 4 inches in diameter by 28 inches high.

New Revson Fountain: 42 feet - 4 inches in diameter by 25 inches high.

### Building Materials

Glass: Glass canopies over pedestrian ramps framing Grand Stairway, LED risers on Stairway with glass coverplate

Granite: Twiga Granite for Grand Stair, Cambrian Black Granite for Revson Fountain Ring and Charles B. Benenson Grove benches, HG Ivory Granite for ring and ray patterns on Josie Robertson Plaza