

Education

# Franklin Cummings Tech secures funding to begin new campus construction



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Franklin Cummings Tech is building a new Roxbury campus at 1011 Harrison Ave.

GARY HIGGINS / BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL



By **Grant Welker** – Projects Reporter, Boston Business Journal Jan 18, 2024

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Franklin Cummings Tech will start building its new campus in Roxbury's Nubian Square this spring after securing the last piece of financing it needed.

MassDevelopment, the state's quasi-public economic development and finance authority, approved a \$25 million bond on Jan. 11. That supplements other funding sources that include a \$4 million grant from the city of Boston, a \$2 million grant from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, and private fundraising.

“The financing for Franklin Cummings Tech is now in place, and we will be moving ahead with groundbreaking and construction in the early spring,” Aisha Francis, Franklin Cummings Tech’s president and CEO, said in a statement to the Boston Business Journal.

Franklin Cummings Tech has been seeking to move from its longtime South End location to a spot in Roxbury that’s closer to where many of its students live.

A new building will total 68,000 square feet on three floors.

The college bought the former Harrison Supply site at Melnea Cass Boulevard and Harrison Avenue for \$6 million in 2019 and signed a purchase-and-sale agreement with developer Related Beal for its current campus at 41 Berkeley St. months later.



Franklin Cummings Tech is planning to leave its campus in Boston’s South End for a new building in Roxbury.

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Franklin Cummings Tech **held a ceremony in 2022** celebrating the new site with then-governor Charlie Baker that marked the start of environmental remediation, though fundraising and permitting work was still ongoing.

More recently, Franklin Cummings Tech **secured permitting approval** from the Boston Planning & Development Agency in October after already winning a sign-off from the Boston Parks Commission, Boston Landmarks Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The school was known as the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology **until rebranding a year ago** with the Cummings name to honor Bill Cummings and Joyce Cummings, the couple that committed \$12.5 million to help the school with its mission to educate students who are often underrepresented in higher education.

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