

Today's Headlines: Kingsbridge Armory to be Ice Center

Posted on Apr 24, Posted by [David Howard King](#) Category [The Eye-Opener](#)

The long-vacant Kingsbridge Armory is again the [focus of a redevelopment project](#) designed to bring much-needed jobs and economic stimulus to the Bronx. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Bronx officials announced yesterday that they have a deal with a developer to turn the massive ice center with 9 regulation ice rinks for skating and hockey and a 5,000 seat arena. The [\\$275 million deal](#)

is expected to

[create 267 permanent jobs and 890 construction jobs](#)

. The plan will need approval by the City Council before moving forward. In 2009 Bloomberg and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

[clashed over a proposal](#)

to turn the site into a shopping complex. Diaz and Bronx residents were concerned the project would create low-paying jobs and conflict with local businesses. The fight eventually spawned the city-wide push for the living wage. The developers of the ice center have signed an agreement promising to pay workers \$10 an hour with benefits or \$11.50 an hour without, as well as giving Bronx residents hiring preference.

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