

**THE GREEN @ UTEC**

JULIA MALAKIE / LOWELL SUN

UTEC employees, from left, organizing assistant manager Yesenia Ruiz, operations support Joy Robinson, organizing program manager Francelis Quinones, culinary enterprise program manager Kassandra Berzins, street worker Indra Cruz, CEO Gregg Croteau, street worker Jonathan Cruz, and director of transitional coaching Anthony Ellis, at The Green @ UTEC, a larger green space under construction.

# Ground broken on event space

## Agency provides teens, young adults with social, job support

**By Aaron Curtis**  
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**LOWELL »** Construction for UTEC's outdoor event space broke ground at the agency's headquarters in downtown

Lowell last month, paving the way for the development of land that will be used to host community events, support jobs for young adults and create room for the agency's child care center.

When completed The Green @ UTEC will offer 7,500 square feet of newly developed park space, as well as sidewalks and curbing along Hurd and Warren streets, according to UTEC CEO Gregg Croteau.

The space will be used to host public events and will support jobs for UTEC's young adults through their food services program and through event management work.

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# UTEC

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"Part of our work is to really make sure we have job opportunities for young adults and we are always looking at ways to do community building," Croteau said. "This project fits nicely in both of those areas."

According to Croteau, the new space will also provide an outdoor play space for the kids of UTEC parents as part of the agency's child care center.

The project also has the potential to attract new development projects to the area, Croteau said.

"It helps us in terms of providing more job opportunities for young adults because now they are going to be able to be employed in our food services enterprise, which also does event management, so this allows us to have more jobs

for our young adults and for our staff as well," Croteau said. "So it's an economic development initiative, both for UTEC and the community in that we are improving a key space in partnership with the city."

Construction is expected to be completed in the fall. Landscape architectural firm Lemon Brooke designed the project.

Funding came through a nearly \$1.1M grant award from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development's MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program, in partnership with MassDevelopment.

According to Croteau, UTEC is still fundraising for the final \$150,000 needed to complete the project. Those interested in supporting UTEC can do so by visiting [utecinc.org/the-green](http://utecinc.org/the-green).

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RENDERING COURTESY UTEC

An artist's rendering of the Green @ UTEC in downtown Lowell.