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# Life sciences R&D complex proposed near Harvard's Allston campus

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One of the most prominent developers of life sciences real estate in the region has its eyes on Allston as the site of its next large-scale project.

Boston-based [King Street Properties](#), in partnership with Mugar Enterprises Inc. and the DiStefano family, has proposed Nexus on Western Ave., a 560,000-square-foot office and research and development complex on 4.4 acres on Western Avenue in Allston, according to a letter of intent filed with the Boston Planning and Development Agency on Tuesday.

“(The project) will be designed to accommodate research companies in the biotechnology and life sciences industry,” wrote [Thomas Ragno](#), King Street Properties’ founder and principal, in the letter of intent. “Hundreds of jobs at a variety of positions will be created.”

King Street has proposed the complex on a 3.24-acre parcel at 250-280 Western Ave. and a 1.05-acre parcel at 305 Western Ave. — a site not far from Harvard University’s John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a 500,000-square-foot facility that will open in 2020.

“The site currently has a variety of uses, including Stadium Autobody, Enterprise Rental, residential use, restaurant uses and surface parking areas used by various construction and industrial operators for diesel truck and supply storage,” the letter of intent states. “The DiStefano family has owned and operated the site for over 50 years with a variety of automotive and industrial uses and is excited to



RENDERING COURTESY OF DIMELLA SHAFFER

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partner with King Street and Mugar to realize their vision for a reimagined use for the property.”

Beyond the life sciences space, King Street is also proposing 22,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and restaurant space, 40 residential units, a parking garage and open space on the site. The project’s architect is DiMella Shaffer.

“When completed, Nexus on Western Ave. will create a fully integrated live-work community anchored by innovation-focused science research that creates a cohesive, energetic streetscape, including an enhanced pedestrian experience along Western Ave., while stimulating economic activity and creating new housing opportunities,” the development team wrote in a statement.

Outside of Allston, King Street is building a 105,000-square-foot biotech-focused building at the former headquarters of the MetroWest Daily News in Framingham. It also built the Hayden Research Campus in Lexington, which recently landed the headquarters of Concert Pharmaceuticals (Nasdaq: CNCE), and is expanding that campus by another 213,000 square feet.

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