



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## *Economic Development Division*

### m e m o r a n d u m

**TO:** Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

**FROM:** Elizabeth H. Tyler, Community Development Director

**DATE:** January 6, 2014

**SUBJECT:** **Economic Development Activities Report for December 2013**

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### **Business and Development Activity**

#### **Downtown Urbana**

- Work is completed for the renovation of 210 W Main Street which will include offices for multiple creative industry tenants, a shared conference room, and a loft apartment. Cake Design Development has completed the third and final phase of the redevelopment agreement and has been issued the last incentive of \$58,000. Tenants are expected to occupy the space in early 2014.
- Work is nearly complete for the expansion of the Transitions resale store in Lincoln Square.
- County Plaza will welcome a new office tenant employing roughly thirty people in early 2014.
- CoLab hosted the Haus & Home retail pop-up shop in the store front at 206 W Main Street. The shop was a collaboration between the NORDEN German Design Studio and the Dear Home Vintage Modern Shop. While the pop-up shop is over, information can be found at: <http://hausandhome.co/>
- Renovations continue for a new restaurant at the former Morning Cup space in the Stratford Apartments at 202 North Race Street.
- Remodeling work is nearing completion for A-Plus VIP Lounge at 214 West Main Street. The night club plans to make its debut in February after students return from winter break.

#### **Philo Road**

- A permit has been issued for the remodeling of the former Picadilly at 1508 E Colorado Avenue where Rainbow Restoration, a professional cleaning and restoration business, plans to open.

#### **Cunningham Avenue**

- A permit has been issued for interior remodeling at 1104 N Cunningham Avenue where property owner Martin Fuentes, also proprietor of Toro Loco, is planning to open a new restaurant concept.

#### **University-Medical**

- A building permit has been issued for a new Wendy's restaurant at Gateway Shoppes.
- Renovation for KoFusion at Gregory Place West is nearing completion.
- Work is underway for Café Bene, Korea's largest coffee franchise, at Gregory Place East.
- Whitebox renovation is complete for Dear 72, a clothing store moving into Gregory Place East.

#### **East Urbana**

- Building construction continues at the new Birkeys Farm Store on High Cross Road.

### **Marketing and Events Activity**

- Five visitor packets were mailed to leads from the City's advertisement in the Illinois Travel Guide.

## **Urbana's Market at the Square**

- Market Director Natalie Kenny-Marquez co-presented a lecture at the Illini Union on December 3rd featuring Will Allen. Mr. Allen is an urban farmer who is transforming the cultivation, production and delivery of healthy foods to under-served urban populations.
- Applications for both vendors and community groups will be available on February 3, 2014.
- The Market's webpage will have a new recipe section in the 2014 season.

## **Arts Related Activities**

- The Preston Jackson sculpture in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been installed at King Park. A celebration event with students of King School will take place in January. A formal dedication with the artist will follow in April.
- The 2014 Arts Grants Materials are available online at <https://urbanapublicarts.wufoo.com/forms/urbana-arts-grant-application/> Applications are due January 17, 2014 by 5:00 PM.
- The second round of interviews for the Public Arts Coordinator position has been completed.

## **Other Activities**

- The annual TIF Joint Review Board Meeting took place on December 9, 2013.
- ED staff attended a DCEO Community Workshop on Illinois Grants, Loans & Tax Credits on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Beckman Institute.