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Let's Get MOVING

H&R BLOCK

Your Monthly Guide to Move-Related Events,
Issues and Happenings

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I Love Downtown

"I don't know if I want to go to New York. They'll have to pay me a lot more money because I like it here."

-Baseball star Roger Maris (1934 – 1985) on Kansas City



Karen Bartle

That is what associates who already work downtown are saying. Karen Bartle and Michael Murphy currently work at the Town Pavilion and have shared some of their thoughts on the move.

Karen Bartle, a Tax Coordinator in the Corporate Tax Department said: "I absolutely love being downtown. I never would have imagined that because I was really dreading the move. My main concern was traffic so I decided to leave home a half hour earlier than I previously left to avoid the traffic. I leave at 6:15 and I am at my desk by 6:45. It is actually quicker for me to get to our current location that it was to get to the Plaza from Overland Park because the trip is almost door to door freeway versus having to drive through the city streets. I love the fact that I can walk across the street to Starbucks for a quick break, the fresh air is great, even on a cold day."



Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy, Manager of Market Research in Analytics, was excited from the start about the prospect of moving downtown: "You're in the middle of everything downtown, and there are lots of alternatives for lunch within walking distance. You can also walk to the library, which is really great because I enjoy going there very much. River Market is walkable as well. Things are even closer than the Plaza was when we worked down there – restaurants, even parking. I've been working here at the Town Pavilion since October 1, and before that time I was really looking forward to working in a more urban environment. Downtown is much more vibrant. It feels as if you are more a part of a community because you are interacting with people from other companies when you go for coffee or take a walk, or take part in some of the activities going on downtown."

Do you currently live downtown? If so, we would like to hear from you for a future "Let's Get Moving" article. You may contact us through the LT Space Planning email box: LTSpacePlanning@hrblock.com

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBOR PROFILE: EMPIRE THEATER



The Empire Theater, built originally in 1921 but shuttered for 20 years, will be revitalized into a premium movie theatre. AMC Entertainment and The Cordish Company have partnered to develop a four- or six-screen theatre complex to feature unique amenities for moviegoers.

The complex also will include a major restaurant and separate bar that will be incorporated into the theatre lobby. The Empire Theatre will serve as the Power & Light District's southwest corner anchor.

The famed and historic Midland Theater, just a couple of blocks down the street from the Empire and also a neighbor of the H&R Block Center, is also scheduled to undergo renovation and restoration.



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The H&R Block Art Program is Launched

A "Call for Artists" was issued to artists, art coalitions, galleries and colleges across the four-state area of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

An Associate Art Committee was created by randomly selecting out of a list of over 100 H&R Block art enthusiasts. The committee members are:

- Ashley Krieg (Contact Center)
- Bill Rose (Digital Tax Solutions – Online)
- Michelle Navedo-Smith (Marketing – Multicultural Marketing)
- Michael Murphy (Market Research Analytics)
- Sara Wasson (Human Resources)
- Tanya Anissy-Dunn (HRBFA Field Development)
- Vishal Pasari (IT – Enterprise Integration)

In addition to identifying opportunities to involve associates and the community in the art program, the H&R Block Art Committee will work with an art consultant to develop a theme for the H&R Block Art Collection. The existing art collection will be augmented by some new pieces, following the theme for the collection.

RUMOR PATROL

RUMOR

We spent all this money to build a beautiful building and then purchased the cheapest furniture we could find to put in it.

FACT

That is the rumor. However, the fact is that although budget is always a consideration cost was not the sole factor in selecting a furniture vendor. The decision was the result of an extensive research and development process, incorporating input from associates and a careful evaluation of all three prospective vendors. Senior Management's goal in the development of the workstations and the selection of the furniture is to create an environment that's comfortable, flexible, and promotes collaborative teaming.

The vendor selected to provide the H&R Block Center workspaces is one of the foremost manufacturers of quality office interiors and furniture, Steelcase, utilizing Scott Rice as the local dealership. Watch for the March edition of "Let's Get Moving" for more details about the furniture decisions and how associate feedback was incorporated into the final furniture decisions.



Picture of Progress

The distinctive green glass 'skin' of the H&R Block Center is now in place.

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