



BIGGER  
BETTER  
TOGETHER

# Let's Get MOVING

H&R BLOCK®

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

Issue 8 | August | 2006

## The Vision Becomes Reality

*Associates who have already moved into H&R Block Center have seen it; associates moving in later phases are sure to see it, too.*

"It" is the exciting and changing culture of H&R Block that is evolving as we settle in to our new environment.

And "new" is the word. We all have new routes to work, a new building, new parking locations, a new way to go through security, brand new work stations, new colors, new break rooms, new building smells, and new conference rooms.

There are also a lot of new people, seemingly. They're not necessarily new to H&R Block, but they may seem new to yourself and others. That is what happens when associates from five different locations are relocated into one. New faces and, perhaps, some older, familiar ones, keep showing up on each "Move Monday", and they'll continue to do so through mid-October.



There is a major benefit to be gained from our move downtown and having almost all of our Kansas City associates in one building: An atmosphere and culture that facilitates and encourages collaboration. One of the goals for the move was to create such an environment, and easy access to fellow associates is surely a step in that direction!

Here is what some associates are saying about their new environment:



*Amanda Reed*

"The move downtown has more than met my expectations. I absolutely love our floor. The cubes are unique and add an extra fun component to our workday. Even after one week of work, I found that there are two items I can't imagine not having - the sliding doors to the cube and the big wiper boards. Our group constantly passes paperwork back and forth and often has to discuss various items. It is extremely convenient to slide the doors back and forth - as well as it helps with the over-all bonding of our group. The wiper board has helped me organize and become more efficient. And of course I can't forget to mention the giant flat screen monitors - They're great!

I also enjoy being in the center of the action downtown. During lunch I have ventured through the town checking out the park area, restaurants, and shops. It is very relaxing and a great break in the middle of the day.

Lastly, I am excited to have the rest of Block move in. It gives me a chance to meet new people from other departments and make friends I otherwise wouldn't have met."

Amanda Reed, Program Director



*Trevor Combs*

"I have been involved in a lot of corporate moves over the past 6 years, both big and small, and I must say, I have been very impressed with how smoothly the ones here at Block have gone so far. The support and organization by the move company on the first day after the move is amazing.

"As for downtown, there is so much going on down here right by our building. There are going to be tons of great places to eat and shop. I really think that downtown finally has a chance to come back to life with all that is going on. The next year is going to be very exciting not only for those of us that work down here, but for those that will be traveling downtown. The night life and daytime shopping is going to rival some of those other locations in the suburbs. It's about time downtown received this kind of makeover."

Trevor Combs  
Senior Support Specialist



*Mary Briscoe, lower left, and her team, Shannon Cheah, Audra Jackson and Charlie Riehl*

"There is just one word to describe the new H&R Block Center: AWESOME! The transition team, welcome packet, maps, and the 'green vested' traffic directors helped make for a very smooth move.

Downtown Kansas City is changing right before our eyes and the new HRB WHQ building is the center piece. My fondest memory of downtown Kansas City is shopping at the Jones Store with my grandmother, so I'm looking forward to the completion of the Power & Light District and the energy that will bring back to downtown."

Mary Briscoe, Program Manager  
HRBFA University Staff



*Tanya Anissy-Dunn*

"Everyone loves the new building! The move was very smooth, and much easier than we all anticipated. I like the culture the new space affords, and the divider that opens between the person beside me makes it easier for team building. I park in the further garage by choice because I enjoy the walk into work."

Tanya Anissy-Dunn  
Administrative Assistant  
HRBFA Field Deployment

## Did Ya' Know?



*In 1911 Mack McKeever's Pool Hall stood where our neighbor, the Marriott, now stands*

Did ya' know that the site of the new H&R Block Center and the rapidly developing Kansas City Power and Light District has been home to an incredibly wide variety of businesses over the years? Each of those businesses were typical of their times and the nature of our town. Through them one can trace the development of Kansas City from an outpost of the Wild West to a major city, from a period of sad decline to the exciting redevelopment we see going on around us now!

In 1886, businesses located on Main Street between 13th and 14th Streets included the Heim Brewing Company, Gustave Lange's Boarding House, a butcher shop and the H.A. Kendall Carriage Company.

In 1911 the 12th Street Theater, one of the first movie theaters in Kansas City, opened at 12th Street and Grand Avenue. Where the Marriott Hotel now stands was Mack McKeever's Pool Hall, featuring "The Girls from Paris" and "Bohemian Burlesquers."

Businesses at 13th and Main in 1916 included the Reverend Yates Saloon, the McHugh Saloon, the Henry Harris Clothing Company, the Edward Reed Shooting Gallery and the W.D. Husang Insect Powder Company.

The Gayety Theater, at 13th Street and Wyandotte, a nationwide chain of vaudeville houses, was a popular nightspot in 1935.

In the 50's, 12th Street was something of a notorious honky-tonk district, with nightclubs and burlesque houses such as the Star Dust Lounge, the Folly theater and Craig's Gay Nineties all just down the street from the Hotel Phillips and the Muehlebach. The area was also the premier shopping district. Downtown department stores included Macy's, Jones, Emery Bird & Thayer, Woolf Brothers, Harzfeld's and Swansons.

## Downtown Neighbor: Kansas City Repertory Theatre's Copaken Stage



*The Copaken Stage of the KC Rep*



*The new Kansas City Repertory Theatre*

While the Helen F. Spencer Theatre on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, home to the Rep since 1979 has been a great location, the organization had long sought a second, smaller performance space downtown. Now they have it at H&R Block Center!

"Under the leadership of Peter Altman, our current producing artistic director, and William C. Nelson, chairman of the Rep's board of director, we have fulfilled that dream, says Alison B. Patterson, Copaken Stage Campaign Manager. "Mr. Altman believes that a theatre represents the heart of city and that our second theatre should be located downtown. And the legacy of the Rep will expand as it becomes a cornerstone of the revitalization of downtown Kansas City."

It generally costs \$15-\$20 million to build a new theatre, but the partnership with H&R Block, has significantly reduced that expense. "This unique alliance with H&R Block makes it affordable for the Rep to have a much needed additional stage by sharing construction costs," says William C. Nelson chairman of the Rep's board of Trustees. "The Rep's presence in the heart of downtown entertainment district will enable the theatre to become an even more influential leader in the cultural, social, and economic life of our city."

Situated in the heart of an increasingly vibrant city core, the new 319-seat theater promises to increase attendance and access to live performance. For example, those people living north and east of the Missouri River may be more likely to choose to attend a downtown venue rather than one further away. Younger and more diverse groups of people are expected to connect more readily with the urban stage and its unique productions. Those are expected to include full-scale productions, small cast musicals, as well as intimate stagings of classics, new plays and one-man shows.

Most major regional theatres (several of which the Rep has partnered with on co-productions) including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, St. Louis Rep, and the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, have established multiple venues for their operations to better serve their community and artistic goals. A smaller, more intimate, downtown stage will allow the Rep to do the same. "With this new stage, our production capabilities will increase—not only with respect to the number of plays we can produce, but also the types. Essential new and diverse audiences will be attracted to this unique venue, its productions, and readings," said Alison. Additionally, works by playwrights of national and international significance who have not been produced in Kansas City because there is no appropriate venue for their plays will now find a stage.

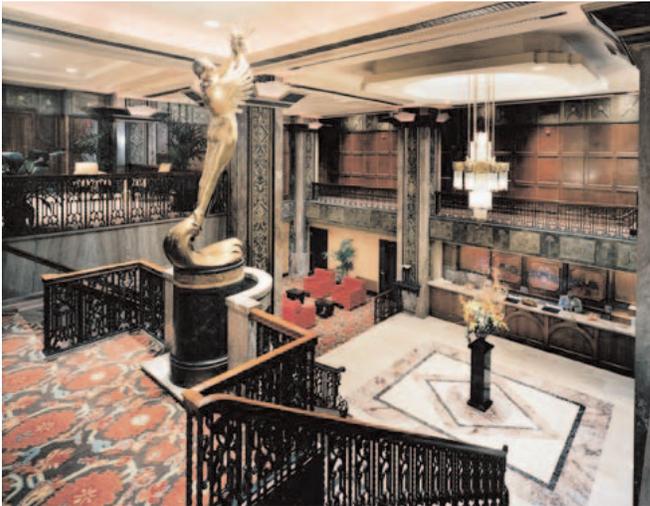
The Rep is a cultural resource that provides affordable arts education for school districts with lean budgets and helps teachers integrate the arts into curriculum. The downtown stage will offer more material from which to draw upon for education programs, more opportunities for schools to participate in their Student Matinee Series, and provide additional space for special activities. In addition, lifelong learning opportunities for adults will increase with a second stage—the Rep's popular Conversation Series at Spencer Theatre will also run downtown.

The Rep's association with H&R Block will be more than just geographic. "We are thrilled to be participating in the Associate Open House on October 21. Throughout the day KC Rep staff will be conducting tours of the theatre and answering questions about our upcoming season. We will have drawings for free tickets to performances at both Spencer Theatre and Copaken Stage," said Alison. Special highlights not to be missed that day by associates include a Season Preview, with local actors performing excerpts and readings from shows in the upcoming season lineup. In addition, children will have the chance to participate in theatre skill sessions and games.

For one day only, during the Open House on October 21st, the Rep will also offer Block associates a five play subscription at deeply discounted prices. A five play subscription good for any available seat on any day, normally \$180.00 value, will be available to Block employees for \$135.00, a 25% discount! Everyone benefits from our new relationship with the KC Rep: The KC Rep, Kansas City's artistic and business communities, and H&R Block associates!

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## The Places to Stay: H&R Block Hotel Partnerships



*The Art Deco lobby of the Hotel Phillips*

Thanks to the associates in Enterprise Sourcing & Settlement, H&R Block has partnered with three downtown hotels so H&R Block visitors to Kansas City will have the best places to stay. This preferred vendor arrangement will also provide convenient and cost effective alternatives for meeting space when the event can't be accommodated in our new facility. Hotels that are now our preferred vendors are: Hilton President, Hotel Phillips and Westin Crown Center.

When the evaluation team was deciding which properties to include in the program a wide variety of criteria were included. Some of these are:

- Quality of the sleeping rooms, facilities

and dining/catering

- Experience, professionalism and dedication of the hotel staff
- Additional hotel services and amenities (i.e. shuttle services, internet access, parking, etc.)
- Proximity to the new building
- Overall value to the HRB traveler

"Being downtown was a large factor in the selection of these hotels as we wanted to have hotels with convenient access to H&R Block Center," reported Gerry Hodson, director Sourcing Operations. Not only are two of the properties within walking distance but all three offer H&R Block visitors free shuttle service to new building, the Service Center, and other area locations of interest (i.e. Plaza, River Market, Westport).

Our new hotel partners are of the highest-rated hotels in downtown Kansas City. HRB travelers will get a great room with great service at better rates than we pay today. Enterprise Sourcing & Settlement estimates that H&R Block can save over \$300,000 every year by utilizing these new hotel deals.

Just one more way we are making our move downtown more convenient and definitely more comfortable.



*You don't need to "swipe" your badge. Just separate it from any other badge or parking card and lay it gently at the beginning of the scanner strip on top of the pedestal. 'Tap' and your card is read!*

*The cities on the lighted wall in the Transition area, between the Lobby and the Security Desk, represent all the cities in which H&R Block does business.*

## **Have You Been Wondering?**

**What is the story behind the colorful area that connects the Main Street lobby and the area where the Security Desk is?**

This is becoming the most talked about space in the new building! The changing lights on one side and the beautiful wood on the other are quickly attracting attention. The cities on the lighted wall represent all the cities in which H&R Block and its enterprise do business. It truly is a representation of the global company H&R Block has become.

**What is going on with the wires and circles that are hanging from the west side of the main entrance?**

Though it may look like a foundation for a trapeze act, these are actually the structures that will hold a canopy that will extend part-way along the west side of the building.

**Why do alarms go off when you pull out of the H&R Block Center garage onto Main Street?**

This is a safety feature. The buzzing noise and flashing lights warn pedestrians that a car is exiting the garage.

**Why is the badge reader at the Security desk so temperamental?**

The badge reader really isn't temperamental. What many associates, including the writer of this response, need to remember is that the scanner does not need for you to "swipe" your badge. All you need to do is separate it from any other badge or parking card and lay it gently at the beginning of the scanner strip that is on top of the pedestal. One quick 'tap' and your card is read.

# RUMOR PATROL

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## RUMOR

There isn't as much Zone A parking as we were lead to believe at the H&R Block garage.

## FACT

*There is plenty of Zone A and Zone B parking in the H&R Block garage. There are a couple of things about the garage that have caused some confusion among associates who have moved to the new building and are parking in the H&R Block Center garage.*

- There are 5 levels of the garage. The first level is the level that, if you have seen the "Let's Get Moving" video, has no access to the elevator bank. The elevator is on the second level, where most people seem to prefer to park. The garage goes down several more levels and there is plenty of space in both Zones A and B.*

- Zone B parking is the area on the South end of the garage. The signage indicating the beginning of Zone B hangs from the garage ceiling. We have added additional signage to better indicate the demarcation of Zones A and B.*

## RUMOR

There is a moratorium on working weekends until the construction at H&R Block Center is completed.

## FACT

*There is no moratorium on working weekends during the construction process. Throughout the migration process, special attention has been taken to ensure we make the move to our new headquarters building with minimal disruption of the business. What may have prompted this rumor is that as construction is underway, we are discouraging associates from bringing children and family members into the building on the weekends. We will have a big family celebration on Saturday, October 21. This will be the opportunity to bring your family and show them the entire building, as well as have some fun in our new space.*

## RUMOR

A call center is being created in the new building

## FACT

*This is not true. There will remain two call center locations in Kansas City: one at the Service Center and a smaller center at Town Pavilion*

## RUMOR

There will be a covered cross walk look like that connects the garage that will eventually house Zone C & D parking and H&R Block Center?

## FACT

*There will not be a covered crosswalk connecting the parking garage to the H&R Block Center. For associate safety, there will be a crosswalk but the district design guidelines do not allow for covered walkways.*

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## Picture of Progress



Looking south from the intersection of Main Street and One H&R Block Way, there are changes underway. The construction we see now will result in movie theaters, performance spaces, restaurants – all directly across the street from our new home!



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This newsletter is produced by the Long Term Space Planning team, your partners in the big move!

Questions or comments should be directed to: [LTSpacePlanning@hrblock.com](mailto:LTSpacePlanning@hrblock.com)