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Five Points project adds to Broadway renaissance



Neal St. Anthony, Star Tribune

An architect's rendering of what the former Delisi's building on W. Broadway will look like by the spring of 2010.

The North Side venture also will see KMOJ Radio return home.

By [NEAL ST. ANTHONY](#), Star Tribune

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KMOJ Radio (89.9 FM), the African-American-oriented community station founded in 1976 to serve north Minneapolis, will move back home next spring as the anchor tenant of a \$3.1 million resurrection of a long-abandoned complex at Penn Avenue N. and W. Broadway.

The restoration and expansion of the former Delisi's restaurant building is another piece of the storefront-by-storefront renaissance of W. Broadway, the frayed commercial artery that extends from the Mississippi River to Penn Avenue.

Developer Stu Ackerberg, who has North Side family roots and who has redeveloped several other properties in that area, has formed Catalyst Community Partners, a nonprofit developer that is working with the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, Franklin Bank, the city, foundations and others.

His latest venture, the Five Points complex, will expand and refurbish the former Delisi's, a long-shuttered restaurant and office space that had become a blighted, abandoned hulk on the city's list of tax-foreclosed properties until Ackerberg acquired it a couple of years ago.

"Penn Avenue is where you enter the W. Broadway commercial corridor from the suburbs," said Sarita Turner, executive director of the W. Broadway association of about 60 businesses, ticking off several recent commercial and arts developments. "Our service area runs about 2 miles, from the Mississippi River to Robbinsdale.

"W. Broadway has been neglected and challenged for years, but it is headed toward vitality," Turner added.

Ackerberg said it took several years to develop friendships, partnerships, projects and credibility, starting when the Ackerberg Group redeveloped an abandoned W. Broadway building into the Agape child care center.

A history of broken promises

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