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M. JAMES MARK

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MELVIN MARK COMPANIES

Jim Mark got his start in the family real estate business long before he’d made it a career choice. As a high school and college student, he was recruited to provide “property maintenance” services for the company’s portfolio of then mostly downtown office properties. While such responsibilities are a far cry from the leadership role he assumes now, they were an excellent introduction to the company from the ground up.

Today, as Chief Executive Officer of Melvin Mark Companies, Jim’s focus is on plotting a course for the company’s future. His primary mission is looking for brokerage and development opportunities that will continue the company’s expansion through the region.

“We manage with a long-term view,” says Jim. “We plan not only for next year but for three, five and ten years down the road.” Where the company’s focus was once primarily on leasing and property management, the last two decades have brought real growth in its core areas, expansion outside the downtown to the suburbs, and the strengthening of its development capabilities.

“The real estate market has changed dramatically and we’ve changed along with it. We’re an independent company, fully integrated with a complete menu of real estate services that can be customized to meet any client’s need.”

Under Jim’s leadership, Melvin Mark became the exclusive leasing and management agent for Lincoln Center, a 750,000 square foot Class “A” office campus in Tigard. Their expertise revitalized the property and helped to facilitate a successful sale for the owner. At present, Jim remains focused on the suburbs where he oversees the development of Sunset Center at Tanasbourne, a 600,000 square foot joint venture project with The Standard, which will result in the Sunset Corridor’s first Class A office campus.

A significant company change came in late 1998, when Jim spearheaded an internal team to package and negotiate a sale of the company’s long-held historic portfolio. “Selling the historic was a tough decision but it enabled our company to further invest in other projects both in and out of downtown.”

Jim cares about Portland’s future too. He has served on various regional planning committees for the City of Portland, Portland Business Alliance (formerly Association for Portland Progress), Metro 2040, Tri-Met and more. He currently serves on the boards of Henningsen Cold Storage, Carrera Motors, The CORE Network, Four County Economic Development Corporation, Oregon State Police Foundation, US Bank, and Oregon Community Foundation.

While proud of his contributions to the region’s landscape, Jim’s personal future revolves around his family. With his wife, Jennifer, a nationally renowned artist, he’s involved in everything from homework to after school sports. Together, they know their greatest legacy will be their four children — Michelle, Ryan, Laura, and Andrew.



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