



MELVIN MARK

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New Event Space Excited for Opportunity at Union Bank Building

Portland's Art of Catering recently signed a lease with Union Bank building owners Melvin Mark Companies and Downtown Development Group to convert the building's unique ground floor into an event venue.

The venue, called 'The Midtown' will be split into two rentable spaces hosted by Art of Catering, which has been providing full-service event experiences in Portland since 2001. Co-owner Eric Sandstrom says Art of Catering is dedicated to the city's "comeback" and wanted to create a place in Downtown where people could get together and have a memorable experience.

"We're committed to being part of the solution," says Sandstrom. "We want to attract people to Downtown Portland where they can have a wonderful, fun, and safe evening and tell their friends they had a great time."

With its green-tinted windows and gray-green Elterwater slate, the 15-story Union Bank building at SW Washington & SW Broadway is a notable and unique part of the cityscape. Inside, the 16,600 square feet of ground floor features 35-foot coffered ceilings, huge rectangular windows, stately columns, and an outdoor atrium.

"It's a beautiful site," says Sandstrom. "It's open, has lots of natural light, is a historic building, and has plenty of parking, which is usually rare for an event space."

Guests at The Midtown will not only have the opportunity of street parking, but will also have access to more than 300 paid parking spaces via Union Bank's underground parking garage, including available valet and prepaid parking options.

Melvin Mark Brokerage Company's Paul Andrews helped Sandstrom and co-owner Christopher Dahl put the Midtown together.

"I am really excited about the high-quality events that Eric and Christopher are known for and will bring to the space," says Andrews. "It's also a chance to really highlight the Midtown neighborhood."

As a Portland native, Sandstrom wants to help show others that the city isn't as bad as it's often made out to be.

"This city means a lot to me; it's part of my identity," he says. "I've really noticed an effort recently to keep it clean and attract people Downtown. We want to help get the word out that [at The Midtown] people can have a delicious meal, great drinks, and be part of the city again."

The Midtown will host its grand opening on Thursday, January 18.

About Art of Catering

Art of Catering offers full-service event experiences and specializes in high-quality food and beverage services via a team of chefs, event coordinators, and on-site event staff. They host a variety of events from business meetings to personal parties to weddings and more.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.artofcatering.net/> or contact Eric Sandstrom at esandstrom@artofcatering.net.

About Melvin Mark Companies

Melvin Mark has owned, operated, and invested in meaningful commercial real estate projects throughout the Northwest since 1945. The locally owned company offers an umbrella of services via Melvin Mark Brokerage Company, Melvin Mark Capital Group, and Melvin Mark Investors, all of which aim to create shared success for both clients and the community. Learn more at <https://www.melvinmark.com>.