



Columbus Main Street Organization

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CDDC/ Columbus Main Street Purchases the Whitney... Again

The Whitney apartment building at the corner of Ludington and James Streets has a long history with CDDC / Columbus Main Street. Back in 1990, the Whitney was slated for demolition because the building had fallen into disrepair and was red-lined by the fire department. A group of Columbus citizens banded together to save the building. They created CDDC with the purpose of improving the downtown district and specifically, saving the Whitney building. And the Whitney was saved. It was renovated into 8 apartments and 2 commercial spaces. It has remained a landmark in downtown Columbus.



The Whitney was sold to Heartland Properties, but in an unusual real estate transaction, CDDC / Columbus Main Street retained ownership of the land. Heartland has owned and operated this investment property ever since. On Tuesday, December 27th, CDDC / Columbus Main Street purchased the Whitney from Heartland.

CDDC / Columbus Main Street plans to use the income from this property to provide services to downtown businesses and help fund programs. CDDC / Columbus Main Street owns and operates the Visitor Center at 128 West James Street. They provide sign and awning grants to new downtown businesses and assist in business consulting. CDDC / Columbus Main Street plans to investigate the possibility of establishing a wireless hot spot in this building to serve downtown businesses and tourists. CDDC / Columbus Main Street's workplan for 2012 includes downtown events like the Public Enemies celebration, a girls shopping day, partnering with the Chamber of Commerce on Red Bud Days, and the Autumn Iron Tractor show. In 2012 CDDC / Columbus Main Street will focus on virtual marketing of Columbus through social networking mediums.

CDDC / Columbus Main Street president, Jorie Habenicht, said "I am very excited about purchasing the Whitney. We are excited to continue our tradition of helping renovate and restore downtown businesses. This is a historic event for our organization." If you are interested in helping Main Street with their projects or serving on a committee, please email info@columbusmainstreet.org, or call 920.623.5325.