

Groundbreaking set for Vine Street-area housing program

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Ground will be broken Friday for the Vine Street Lofts and Vine Street Place, an East Side housing program that is in the largest urban residential development in downtown Kansas City.

The Vine Street Lofts at 21st and Vine streets will consist of 62 new loft units -- 43 containing one bedroom and 19 containing two bedrooms.

Vine Street Place, on the former site of Municipal Stadium, will be made up of 47 single-family houses.

Clyde Wendel, president of Bank of America's Kansas City region, said the district aims to serve a wide demographic range. Artists will be served with studios, galleries and practice rooms.

The Vine Street District partnership has begun talks with community arts organizations, such as the Arts Council of Greater Kansas City and such entities as Foresight Fine Arts Studio Inc. to occupy and manage the visual arts work studio and gallery while offering arts programs.

Plans call for the Vine Street District to include 550 residential units; more than 50,000 square feet for neighborhood retail, commercial and entertainment uses; and 16,000 square feet of office space.

More than \$42 million is to be invested. Bank of America is investing \$1.4 million in equity for predevelopment.

The bank also will provide about \$30 million in debt and equity as the project is built.

Partners with the bank are the Black Economic Union and the Community Movement for Urban Progress, also known as Move UP.

Scheduled to join Wendel in the groundbreaking at 10 a.m. Friday are Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes; Kansas City Council members Troy Nash and Mary Williams Neal; Missouri Rep. Sharon Sanders Brooks; BEU President Sylvester Holmes; and Move UP President Jim Nunn.

The event will take place at 21st Street and Woodland Avenue.