



## Flint Farmers' Market Relocation to Provide Enhanced Community Placemaking

### IMPROVED ACCESS TO FRESH FOODS, EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND EXPANDED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Flint Farmers' Market, managed by Uptown Reinvestment Corporation (URC), is slated to open in its new location on May 1, 2014. This marks the return of the market to the downtown Flint area after more than 70 years. The new site is about a half mile south of the current Market, easily accessible off the I-475 access road, Chavez Drive, across First Street from the University of Michigan-Flint campus and the beautiful Willson Park. Market Managers procured architectural design services of FUNchitecture based on a previous working experience with FUNchitecture's President, Shannon Easter White, who had been involved with several design "visioning" projects for the market over the last decade. FUNchitecture is pleased to deliver a "FUNctional, sophisticated, quirky, and well-designed farmer's market" to the City of Flint and the residents of Genesee County and beyond.

Since first announcing in March that the market would move back downtown, market officials and

FUNchitecture, LLC have been gathering feedback and suggestions for the new site. Based on vendor, community and individual ideas and concerns, the original plans have been modified. The issue of most interest to all parties has been the availability of parking.

The market site design will accommodate onsite parking for 338. FUNchitecture has designed for the NEW Flint Farmer's Market a replica of the current outdoor pavilion with 46 vendor stalls along First Street with easy truck back-up parking for vendors and lighting and tube heating that will allow the market's outdoor vendors to extend their season late into the fall as the harvest allows. Heating and Lighting also will allow the outdoor pavilion to house holiday and seasonal festivities outside that could not happen at the current market. FUNchitecture has designed an additional customer entrance on the east side of the building (four major doors total, three on the west side, one on the east side) and a fully accessible concrete porch

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## CASE STUDY

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with aluminum decorative railing that will wrap the north and east facades of the building. This porch will allow after-market hours access to the community room, the art gallery and the demonstration kitchen for cooking classes in the evening or on off-market days. It will also feature weather-appropriate tables, chairs and umbrellas for al fresco dining! FUNchitecture has incorporated the existing truck bays into the market's storage area for easier vendor loading and unloading. Additionally, new cold and dry storage surround the new incubator/commercial kitchen which allow anyone to bring "grandma's recipe" to market in two commercially licensed clean and safe, state-of-the-art appliance-filled kitchen environments.

The NEW Flint Farmers' Market will feature the building's four story open atrium, its most distinctive feature, which will become the market's indoor "town square," facing First Street and Willson Park. This area will be used for overflow events held in the community room, public gathering, seating, dining and exhibition space for gardeners, artists, market vendors and community groups – a true "town square" feel. The atrium originally housed the Flint Journal's four story printing presses and features

floor to 55' ceiling glass, allowing natural daylight to penetrate deep into the market and its mezzanine.

The market features a new community room with direct access to the new demonstration kitchen. Here, cooking classes, food and nutrition demonstrations and other educational programming can entertain the public. It also features a mezzanine with leasable space, additional restrooms, market office and vendor lounge, all of which open onto a new and exciting roof terrace that can be rented for parties or utilized for al fresco dining, or enjoying a fresh cup of coffee or glass of wine while overlooking the beautiful UM-Flint campus and rolling Willson Park.

"We believe that these changes will truly make the market a community destination for current market fans and new patrons from Flint, Genesee County, and the rest of southeast Michigan," said Dick Ramsdell, Market Manager. Flint Mayor Dayne Walling had this to say about the announcement, "It is great to see that the concerns of residents, patrons and vendors have been taken in to consideration in this new plan for the market."

