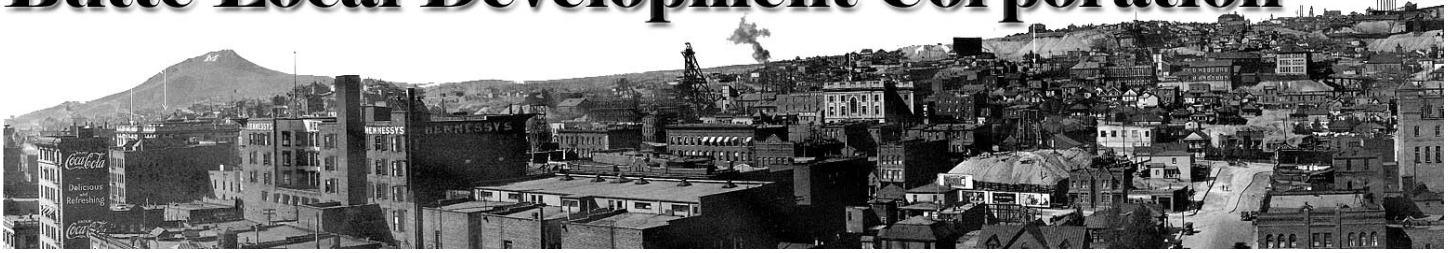


Butte Local Development Corporation



SPRING 2007

MARCH 23, 2007

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BLDC Loans Funds to Sears Building Owners

The BLDC has approved a loan to Sears Building Owners LLC. The loan amount of \$150,000 will be used towards working capital for renovation plans of the Historic Sears Building located on East Granite St. The project is also being financed through a \$150,000 grant from the URA and a \$300,000 URA loan.

The Sears Building had previously been planned as a call center for SATO Travel. When those plans fell through, the building was boarded up and has been vacant since 2001.

Sears Building Owners LLC consists of members of the Kujawa family. The Kujawa family of Butte purchased the Sears building from the county for \$10,000 through the Developer's Process Packet in May of 2006. The Kujawa's dream is to create a diverse and environmentally responsible building in the Uptown area. The building will be "green" and energy efficient.

The family plans to convert the first floor of the building into a science museum managed by the Montana Mind Expansion. The Montana Mind

Expansion is a non-profit group composed of educators, engineers and other members of the Butte community. The museum will be named the "Science Mine." The plans for the Science Mine will be similar to the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

The second through fifth floors of the building will be converted into 34 loft apartments for rent named the "Sears Building Lofts." There will be ten apartments per floor on the second through fourth floors consisting of mainly two bedroom units. The fifth floor will consist of four two bedroom units measuring 1,500 square feet with additional office space and a den. Uptown

Butte is seeing an increasing demand for apartment space and this will help to meet that need.

The Kujawas are currently developing a web site (www.searsbuildinglofts.com) that will contain floor plans for the apartment units. They will also have available a form to apply for a rental unit and be placed on a waiting list.

The Kujawas plan to begin renovation of the Sears building this summer and anticipate substantial completion of the building by mid summer 2008.

The BLDC Has Moved!

The BLDC has moved to its new location in Water and Environmental Technology's (WET) Moonlight Professional Building located at 480 East Park Street. This new three story building is occupied by WET, the BLDC and Fleming and O'Leary Attorneys at Law. The BLDC is located on the ground floor of the facility. The new office complex includes three separate office spaces, a reception area and

conference room. Jim Smitham, Executive Director stated "We have the same amount of space, but it is laid out much more efficiently. The new offices provide our staff and clients with a very pleasant working environment." The BLDC and the other occupants of the building will hold an Open House this spring for the community. To contact the BLDC, call 723-4349 or fax 723-1539.



480 East Park Street
Butte, Montana 59701

406-723-4349

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Ueland Family Purchases Metals Bank Building

The Metals Bank Building has been purchased by the Ueland Family Partnership. The building was owned for the past 30 years by the Taylor family. The seven story building was built in 1906 on the corner of Park and Main streets and was the first steel structure West of the Mississippi.

The Uelands plan to remodel and renovate the building for several different uses. The first floor of the building will be home to the Metals Sports Bar and Grill. The upper floors of the building will be renovated into office space, a banquet room and apartment space. The seventh floor banquet room will be available to rent for community functions or private events. The planned upscale condominiums to be located on the upper floors will help the Uptown housing market.

Some of the upgrades and remodeling planned for the building include a new roof, updated plumbing, electrical and elevator and new windows. A portion of this work will be funded through two grants from the URA. The remodeling will be completed in phases with the historical character of the grand building remaining intact. The total cost of the renovation will be approximately \$2 million.

Montana Club Comes to Butte

A Missoula restaurant plans to build in Butte. The Montana Club will construct a new restaurant at the site of the former Nite Owl Bar. The owners of the Montana Club, Bob Powell and Nick Alonzo, have worked with the BLDC for the past six months to find a location to build. The BLDC showed the owners several locations to build prior to

settling on the Nite Owl location. The property will be cleared and a new building constructed on the site. The Montana Club hopes to begin construction in mid April and open sometime next year. When it opens the Montana club will offer a full menu for tastes of all ages and a separate casino.

BLDC Begins Membership Drive

The Butte Local Development Corporation has begun its annual membership drive. The BLDC offers a number of membership levels and benefits for potential members. All members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner. As of this date there are 57 individuals and businesses that have shown

their support for the BLDC with contributions exceeding \$16,000.

If you haven't sent in your membership pledge, there is still time to do so. To become a member of the BLDC or for more information call 723-4349 or e-mail bldc@bldc.net. Your support is greatly appreciated.