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NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE

Four Downtown Ribbon Cuttings Held In One Week



Brandishing his signature martini, **Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman** performed quadruple duty during the last week in April as he presided over ribbon cuttings for four new downtown businesses.

On Tuesday, April 26, he joined the festivities for the formal opening of **Resnicks Grocery, Artifice Bar & Lounge** and **Bar @ The**

Arts Factory. All three are located in downtown's **18b Arts District**. An additional urban lounge, **Lady Silva**, will open next-door to Resnicks in approximately one month.



To encourage businesses to open downtown, city officials created the urban lounge liquor license for the Arts District. This special license limits gaming and allows for multiple bars to be clustered together in one area. City officials also voted to waive the licensing fee for a limited time as an additional incentive for developers in this area.

Just two days later on April 28, the mayor celebrated the opening of **Insert Coin(s)**, the area's first high-tech video lounge. It is located in the **Fremont East Entertainment District**.

Clockwise:

Resnicks Grocery ribbon cutting. (Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau.)

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman – giant drink in hand – talks with Artifice co-owner Trinity Schlottman during the establishment's official grand opening.

Mayor Goodman shows enthusiasm for playing video game at Insert Coin(s) in the Fremont East Entertainment District. (Photo: Sherman Sheftall.)

An interior view of Bar @ The Arts Factory.

Insert Coin(s) owner-operator also took advantage of a waived licensing fee, the city's tavern-limited liquor license and the Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency's **Visual Improvement Program (VIP)**. The city's VIP provides monetary rebates to qualifying business owners for pre-approved exterior improvements and to bring structures up to current building and property code standards. Artifice Bar & Lounge qualified for VIP funds as well.

Grants Used For Homeless Services, Affordable Housing & More

The city of Las Vegas will use more than \$6.8 million in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for affordable housing, community development and homeless assistance. In April, the Las Vegas City Council approved plans for the grants to be used to fund at least 39 projects and programs including:

- 13 providing homeless services
- 7 offering senior-related assistance
- 9 aiding special needs people
- 10 assisting youth-oriented programs/services

These funds will be jointly administered by the **Neighborhood Development Division** of the city's **Economic and Urban Development Department** (EUD) and staff within the city's **Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department**. The EUD works with the **Redevelopment Agency** on eliminating urban decay; diversifying the city's economic base; creating jobs; and business attraction, retention and expansion.

The Community Development Recommending Board, which reviews grant applications for the city, gave special consideration to city projects and programs that address such key areas as homeless prevention, independent living for seniors, people with special needs and youth programs focusing on academic skills and early childhood development.

The funding includes:

- \$5,540,639 in Community Development Block Grant funds;
- \$1,098,706 in Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds; and
- \$226,273 in Emergency Shelter Grant funds.

The city receives federal funding each year and makes it available to various agencies through an application process. Applications for the grants are accepted annually in the summer by the city of Las Vegas. A community board reviews the applications and makes recommendations to the Las Vegas City Council.

View our brief videos on downtown development at:
<http://www.lvrda.org/Videos.php>



Kiplinger Ranks LV As Comeback City

Kiplinger.com recently ranked Las Vegas as one of the comeback cities for 2011. With **Cleveland Clinic's** growing presence and **Zappos.com** imminent headquarters move, downtown Las Vegas is poised to become a comeback kid.

Cultural Corridor Improvements Underway

Improvements to curbs, gutters and sidewalks, and the installation of new Cultural Corridor banners began in April along what will be parts of the **Cultural Corridor Trail** in downtown Las Vegas.

The work will include installing sidewalk ramps, new banner poles, stamped concrete sidewalk panels and concrete embellishments for 12 city blocks along the urban trail that leads to several cultural institutions.

The contractor is Preferred Contracting, Inc. The city of Las Vegas **Department of Public Works** is managing the project. Funding for the \$461,544 in improvements is provided by the **Bureau of Land Management** through the sale of public lands as authorized by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. This act allows money from Nevada federal land sales to be used in the state for park and trail projects. Funding for the public art portion of the improvements is provided in part by the **City of Las Vegas Arts Commission**.

Lane closures and walk detours should be expected on Casino Center Boulevard from Stewart Avenue to Bonanza Road, on Bonanza from Casino Center to Las Vegas Boulevard, and on Las Vegas Boulevard from Bonanza to Washington Avenue for the next three months between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Work close to intersections that requires lane closures will be done between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

LV Top Business-Friendly City

Las Vegas was recently given high marks as a place to do business. Top rankings for the city included: Second in *Top 10 Large Cities: Business Friendliness*, Seventh in *Top 10 Large Cities: Economic Potential*, Eighth in *Top 10 Large Cities: Quality of Life*. Rankings were determined by **fDi Magazine**, a division of the **Financial Times Ltd.**, as part of their first "American Cities of the Future" ratings.

Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency

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