

Organizational History

Uptown Developments, LLC, was formed in 2002 specifically to acquire and renovate real estate in downtown Flint. The development team consists of eight Flint-based investors that have strong ties to the community and own and manage some of the most respected businesses in Flint. They are a diverse group of community leaders that share a vision of reinventing downtown Flint with a focus on solid real estate investment in housing, office, retail, and cultural/arts/entertainment uses.

The team also includes the Uptown Reinvestment Corporation (URC), a nonprofit organization with a focus on revitalizing downtown Flint. The URC's mission is to bring together all downtown interests, including government, education, business, and charitable institutions in a broad-based coalition to support existing businesses and encourage entrepreneurial business development in the downtown Flint business district; enhance the public infrastructure and improve aesthetics; increase downtown residency; and develop the downtown into an attractive area for business, employment, and entertainment. The basic premise of the Flint Uptown Reinvestment Strategy is that many small, locally based initiatives and decisions will, over time; result in sustainable and significant improvements for downtown without the need for massive, single-project developments.

The Uptown Reinvestment Corporation, with support from the Mott Foundation, is the catalyst behind many multi-million dollar developments along Saginaw Street and beyond in downtown Flint. Recent projects include: the \$7 million dollar renovation of the First Street Lofts Building into 16 loft units, the construction of the Rowe building, an 83,000 square foot facility that houses Rowe Professional Services and mLive /The Flint Journal offices; the Wade-Trim building, a 35,000 square foot renovation; the renovation of the Riverfront hotel which now houses 500 University of Michigan – Flint students and the Business School; the \$40 million dollar renovation of the Durant Hotel with 83 loft units; the renovation of the former Flint Journal Facility to the home of the Michigan State University's Medical School. The URC was also catalyst to the rebirth of the Flint Farmer's Market in its new downtown location in the former Flint Journal facility, as well as the development of the Genesys PACE Center in the former International Institute. In addition to major development projects, URC has supported downtown events such as the Buckham Alley Fest and the Friday Art Walks.

Governing Board

Gerard Burnash – Director
Deborah Cherry – Director
Loyst Fletcher – Director
Greg Viener – Director
Todd M. Johnson – Director
Bob Kittel – Director
Jack Stock - Director

Tim Herman – President
Claude High – Vice President
David Lossing – Secretary
Kathi Horton – Treasurer