

New movie studio slated for old Shannon Mall property



A blighted eyesore in Union City could become its crown jewel by late next year. The vacant Shannon Mall fell on hard times and started losing tenants in 2008. Eventually, the dying shopping mall shut down for good in 2010. 11Alive News

Valerie Hoff, WXIA-TV Atlanta 7:02 p.m. EDT October 27, 2014



(Photo: 11Alive News)

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UNION CITY, Ga. (WXIA) -- A blighted eyesore in Union City could become its crown jewel by late next year. The vacant Shannon Mall fell on hard times and started losing tenants in 2008. Eventually, the dying shopping mall shut down for good in 2010.

The vacant building is now being torn down to make way for a major movie studio.

With the action and drama of Hollywood, demolition began on the old Shannon Mall property -- a project Union City's mayor has been waiting for for years.

"I've consistently been asked what is going to be done about the mall," said Mayor Vince Williams.

The answer to that question -- a 25 acre film and television studio developed by Rooker Real Estate Development and 404 Studio Partners, a studio development company.

"The anticipated impact will be 400 to 1,000 jobs and an initial investment of \$50-to-\$100 million Union City," said John Rooker of Rooker Development.

Developers say the permits and financing for Atlanta Metro Studios are already in place and they hope to have the state of the art facility done by the end of next year.

After that -- it's showtime.

"We've all ready got relationships in place and a lot of interest so far -- We'll be excited to continue those conversations," said Ed Richardson with 404 Studio Partners.

It's a project local leaders say could transform Union City.

"This is what I would call an economic generator," said US Rep. David Scott (D-13th, Jonesboro-Smyrna). "A series of construction jobs -- actors and actress and production companies."

It's the latest studio startup in metro Atlanta's burgeoning film industry. Another major studio is planned in Norcross and and a handful of others are scattered across the

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state. The total economic impact -- between \$3-and-\$4 billion per year.

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