

From the Denver Business Journal:

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Nichols Partnership selected as Sakura Square developer

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Denver-based **Nichols Partnership** has been selected as the developer for Sakura Square, a full-block site in downtown Denver that is slated for redevelopment.

Sakura Square is bounded by Larimer, Lawrence, 19th and 20th streets and was completed in 1972 by the Denver Urban Renewal Authority. It was purchased by members of the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple with plans to create a mixed-use development that house Japanese-American-owned businesses and the Tamai Tower apartment building.

"We believe that Sakura Square is a legacy project that will further solidify Denver as a world-class city; we are extremely honored to have been selected to lead the redevelopment and have assembled an incredible team to ensure that Sakura Square remains a cultural destination and economic engine for generations to come," stated Randy Nichols, president and founder of Nichols Partnership.

Sakura Square management and members of the temple decided last year to redevelop the square and issued a request for proposals.

"We are excited to enter into this next phase of the development process on this important city block with Nichols Partnership, Barry Hirschfeld, Jr. and their team," said Gary Yamashita, project manager and CEO of Sakura Square LLC. "Together we look to establish a cultural gateway that preserves and celebrates the Japanese and Japanese-American experience."

Barry Hirschfeld Jr., will act as cultural ambassador for the development. He's a member of the Hirschfeld family, the patriarch of which founded National Hirschfeld Press Inc., a printing company that ran in Denver for more than 100 years beginning in 1907,

Hirschfeld is a Denver native but lived for 20 years in Japan, and his involvement is a key component to making sure the cultures of Denver and Japan are combined in the best possible way, Yamashita said.

"I look forward to attracting best-in-class tenants, capital and other key partners from Japan in order to make the project successful," Hirschfeld said.

The master plan for the block is still in the early planning stages, Yamashita said, but the project will definitely be mixed-use and will include a new temple and cultural and community center, he said.

A host of Denver-based architects are involved in the project, as well as Shigeru Ban, a Japan-based architect who won the industry's coveted Pritzker Architecture Prize.

"We are honored to be part of the Sakura Square team. All over the world we work to create great places to build communities and bring people together. We look forward to creating a new destination for the Japanese Community, the sangha of the Temple, the people of Colorado and everyone beyond," Ban said.



KATHLEEN LAVINE / DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Bill Husted interviews Randy Nichols at Second Home Kitchen & Bar in the JW Marriott Denver in Cherry Creek.

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