



NEAR WEST SIDE

A Neighborhood of Neighborhoods

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**Near West Side Partners, Elected and Community Leaders
Cut Ribbon to Celebrate Opening of Concordia 27**

New, comprehensive community center and resource hub opens on Milwaukee's Near West Side

MILWAUKEE — Near West Side Partners (NWSP), joined by elected and community leaders and project supporters, on Tuesday afternoon, officially opened the doors to [Concordia 27](#) with a ceremonial ribbon cutting - marking a complete transformation from vacant building to welcoming community center and resource hub.

The following remarks were issued in celebration of this milestone:

Rick Wiegand, Owner, Wiegand Enterprises; Developer, Concordia 27; Chair, Near West Side BID #10 Board of Directors

“I am so thrilled to see this project come to life. As a Near West Side community, we’ve been working toward a shared vision since 2015, knowing that key investments in revitalization will make the Near West Side an even better place to live, work, play and stay. My team and I at Wiegand Enterprises look forward to finalizing the affordable housing component of Concordia 27 in the months ahead, and continuing to work alongside our neighbors and fellow businesses in the Near West Side into the future.”

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin

“I want to thank Near West Side Partners and all the local leaders, businesses and organizations who played a role in bringing this project to life. Part community hub and part apartment building, with 30 affordable housing units for working families and seniors, Concordia 27 will be such an important asset for our community. Folks will be able to access healthy meals, mental healthcare, job training, support for their businesses, housing, transportation and more, all under one roof.

And we know all of these resources play a critical role in the success of our kids, our families, our communities, and our state. That’s why I’m proud the State could be part of it by providing a \$5 million investment to see it over the finish line. Together, we’re helping to uplift local businesses, increase the level of services available throughout the Near West Side, and to build the sort of future we want to see for the residents that call the Near West Side their home, the greater Milwaukee community, and our entire state. Congratulations on this exciting milestone today.”

Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator for Wisconsin

“With everything from new affordable housing for working families and seniors to helping people land a good paying job, Concordia 27 will be a huge asset for our community, businesses and our future. I was proud to secure over \$2 million to help make this project a reality – helping families find stability and opportunity to get ahead, fueling economic growth, and fostering a vibrant community for generations to come.”

David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive

“The Concordia 27 project represents a significant step towards achieving racial equity and becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin. We are turning a vacant building into a community center that’s going to provide essential services for everyone – services like affordable housing. That’s not only going to boost the health of this community, but also boost the social and economic opportunities for all those who live in the community as well.”

Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

“As Chairwoman, I am proud to have authored the budget amendment that propelled \$2 million in County funding for the Concordia 27 project. This transformative initiative exemplifies the power of strategic collaboration between community stakeholders and reimagining what our communities can be. Concordia 27 will provide vital tools for a healthy and thriving neighborhood, affordable housing, job training, solutions to address food insecurity and health disparities, and support for local entrepreneurs – all while creating stable employment opportunities. I eagerly anticipate the positive impact this development will have on the Near West Side, as well as the ripple effect on the surrounding neighborhoods.”

Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, City of Milwaukee

“We’re here to celebrate the grand opening of the Concordia 27 Project on 27th Street in the Near West Side, and right here in my neighborhood – in Concordia – on the Near West Side of the city. I had the opportunity to tour the Concordia 27 project just recently, and let me tell you, it’s going to add tremendous value to 27th Street as it becomes a health and wellness corridor, impacting not just this neighborhood, but the entire city of Milwaukee. Congratulations to all the partners, all the planners, all the folks who worked to make this happen. This is going to be an outstanding, monumental addition to this neighborhood, to my neighborhood, and to the entire City. Thanks so much, and congratulations!”

NEAR WEST SIDE PARTNERS ANCHOR INSTITUTION LEADERS:

Gabrielle Finley-Hazle, President, Aurora Health Care

“At Aurora, we are proud to partner to bring this project to life. We have been a part of the Near West Side partnership for over 10 years, and will remain steadfast in our commitment for years to come. We are committed to this community, and the entire state of Wisconsin. Congratulations, and thank you, to everyone who helped to make this project a reality today.”

Jochen Zeitz, CEO, Harley-Davidson

“Congratulations, Concordia 27, from your friends at Harley Davidson and the Harley Davidson Foundation. Building on the work of the Appreciative Inquiry Summit, we are proud of what you’ve accomplished and honored to be able to support you and the wider Near West Side community. Thank you.”

Rana Altenburg, Associate Vice President of Public Affairs, Marquette University

“Concordia 27 will have a lasting impact on the Near West Side, in Milwaukee County, and beyond. There's nothing more important in community engagement than the power of partnership. C27 is an exemplary model of this partnership in action. Everyone has a role to play and together we can do incredible things in the Near West Side.”

Dave Osswald, Chief People and Diversity Officer, Molson Coors

“I'm so excited to see Concordia 27 become a reality. This development proves the power of partnership of Near West Side Partners, which we've seen demonstrated time and time again over the last 10 years. At Molson Coors, we're excited to see another great, new development for the neighborhood.”

Kip Ritchie, CEO, Potawatomi Ventures

“Our team at Potawatomi Ventures is thrilled to celebrate the opening of Concordia 27. It's exciting to collaborate with fellow businesses and institutions in the Near West Side for the past decade. Together, we are supporting the community's business goals in this neighborhood. Concordia 27 is the physical example of these goals becoming a reality. We are proud that Greenfire, a construction management company, could bring this vision to life. We look forward to seeing the impact of the development in the Near West Side for years to come.”

CONCORDIA 27 TENANTS:

Heidi Chada, Vice President of Employment and Commercial Services, Centers for Independence (CFI)

“Concordia 27 is a catalytic opportunity for Centers for Independence to advance the total health of our community. Our 12,000-square-foot commercial, training and incubator kitchen helps increase food security in the near West Side and beyond. In addition, the project allows us to expand paid job training and job placement opportunities and helps local entrepreneurs launch their culinary businesses. Together we are building a healthy and hopeful community.”

Rachaad Howard, Co-Founder, Fruition MKE

“Fruition MKE's mission is a culture of connection, community and growing in an area that needs this. We're super excited because this community around Concordia 27 needs everything that we're offering. It needs the coworking space, it needs the maker space, it needs the cafe with healthy food options that will help create inspiration.”

Tiffany Miller, Co-Founder, Fruition MKE

“Fruition MKE in Concordia 27 will be an invitation for people to connect and build community, create, and collaborate. And most importantly, we will be a space that is an invitation to joy. Resources and healthy food should exist in our neighborhoods in the Near West Side, I'm excited that Fruition MKE will be a part of that journey for 27th Street.”

Patrick Kennelly, Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee (SWIM)

“The Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee hub at Concordia 27 represents the next chapter for SWIM as an organization. It's allowing us to dramatically scale up the wellness services that we provide to the community. It creates a collaborative space where a number of our nonprofit partners can come together, work together, and figure out how to better address trauma throughout the community, and positions Milwaukee to be a model of how to address trauma at a community level and in the workforce.”

About Concordia 27:

NWSP partnered with Wiegand Enterprises to develop Concordia 27 based on the community's vision - as identified during the 2021 Harley-Davidson Foundation Appreciative Inquiry Summit - with a goal to catalyze health, social and economic improvements for the Near West Side, City of Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin residents. The space represents the culmination of nearly a decade of collaboration between neighbors, business owners and NWSP and is the embodiment of neighbors' vision for their community.

Concordia 27 is part apartment building, part hub for resources and career development, and part gathering space. It includes a cafe, six retail spaces available for small business owners or local artisans, a community event and meeting space, and offices for NWSP, the Centers for Independence (CFI), Fruition MKE, and Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee (SWIM). Onsite, neighbors can access health and wellness resources, engage with others in beautiful, creative spaces, and grow into new full-time job opportunities, and entrepreneurs and small businesses will be supported as they grow and generate additional jobs.

In addition to the community spaces and storefronts on Concordia 27's ground level, the vision for the development includes 33 affordable housing units on levels two, three and four of the building. These one- and two-bedroom units, once complete, will be made available to individuals and families of those making about \$15 per hour.

A true private-public partnership, Concordia 27 is supported with funding from the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other generous partners.

About Near West Side Partners

Near West Side Partners (NWSP) is a non-profit organization that works to revitalize the Near West Side of Milwaukee in four key focus areas: safety, housing, attracting and retaining businesses, and promoting the well-being of our neighbors. NWSP was founded through the support of business and civic leaders, including the organization's five anchor institutions – Aurora Health Care, Harley-Davidson, Marquette University, Molson Coors and Potawatomi Ventures.

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