



East Side Revitalization

Manhattan has its hip and trendy Soho, and Miami has Sobe. Now add McKinney to the list of communities establishing its own edgy corner of the globe as it repurposes aged buildings.

Just east of the Historic Downtown Square past Highway 5 on East Louisiana Street are the vestiges of McKinney's once-bustling industrial area. Big changes are occurring as businesses and artists take over vacant storefronts and old buildings. An example: For those with a penchant for artistic urban living and working with a view, McKinney offers two industrial mills totaling almost 200,000 square feet of mixed-use space.

The revitalization on the east side of McKinney is an inspirational work in

progress. Grant money is beginning to flow, rail tracks are in place and there's still plenty of room for others to take part in the revival effort.

So, make your way over to this booming part of town to see the evolution for yourself.

McKinney Flour Mill

A quick walk from the Square down East Louisiana Street takes you to the McKinney Flour Mill, where owner Brad Kidwell has big plans for the 100-year-old facility. Featuring four buildings with a combined total of 53,000 square feet, the Mill is currently under construction as a mixed use/urban restoration project. It will feature live/work lofts, office space,

retail and an event center able to accommodate 250 people.

At the moment the building hosts eight tenants and an event hall accommodating 196 people – and that's just the first two floors of the Flour Mill.

The Lily Pad, Herald Entertainment and Professional Concepts, Inc. are some of the tenants currently calling the Flour Mill home. Owners of Professional Concepts, Inc., George and Elayne Matson moved to the Flour Mill in 2009 and say it's convenient because it's close to everything. After being in business in McKinney for 25 years, they say the Flour Mill is by far the most unique location they have had.

Now Kidwell is ready to rehabilitate the third and fourth floors. He plans

