

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 View our Mobile Site

Customer Service: [Subscribe Now](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Make us your Homepage](#)

Tallahassee's Homepage
Tallahassee.com

[All](#) | [Articles](#) | [Yellow Pages](#) | [Movies](#) | [Events](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Shopping](#)

SPONSORED BY:



[Search All](#)

- ▶ Find a job careersbuilder
- ▶ Find a car
- ▶ Find a home
- ▶ Rentals
- ▶ Shopping

Tallahassee's Homepage
Tallahassee.com

Dining Guide

Click Ad to View

ADVERTISEMENT

Originally published January 23, 2008

Making Gains 'It's time to turn some dirt'

[Print](#) | [Email to a friend](#) | [Subscribe](#)

The 22nd floor of the Florida Capitol was an appropriate setting for Tuesday's announcement that the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is giving a \$375,000 grant — \$150,000 more than requested — to help Tallahassee transform Gaines Street from mundane to, in time, magnificent.

The breathtaking panoramic view from the Capitol's top floor gives one a strong sense of our community's beauty as well as its potential, including that run-down district a few blocks south called the Gaines Street Corridor. The ongoing effort to remake Gaines is, in fact, all about possibilities.

ADVERTISEMENT

Over 38 Years of Experience

DELMAS — 2758 Capital Cir. NE
Diamonds & Jewelers (next to Calico Jacks)
(850)656-2871

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Visionaries for years have dreamed that Gaines could be a funky arts and entertainment district where artists, urban dwellers and others could live and work, and that could become an incubator for local arts-related businesses.

But big dreams like this one become reality only with a lot of hard work, persistence and big bucks — not only

actual dollars contributed, as in the case of the Knight Foundation grant, but also "in-kind" contributions of expertise.

This is where Minneapolis-based Artspace Projects, the nationwide nonprofit real-estate agent for the arts, comes in. Artspace, in partnership with the Knight Foundation, the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA), local and state governments and two state universities, could finally be the straw that stirs Gaines Street's drink — and the community's.

From dream to done deal

Tuesday's announcement was an important step toward converting "could" to "will." The Knight Foundation money is going specifically for "pre-development" of the Arts on Gaines project, several years in the works by local arts advocates.

As Democrat Staff Writer Julian Pecquet reported Monday, Arts on Gaines is envisioned as a mixed-use development where artists live, work and hold exhibits; where organizations and businesses devoted to the arts share space and ideas, an incubator for arts-related commerce and creativity; and where an eclectic collection of restaurants and retail stores serves a bustling clientele.

A model of neighborhood revitalization.

But the dream extends beyond bricks and mortar. Remaking Gaines Street could be a catalyst for remaking Tallahassee in ways that many for years have openly hoped for.

An important gateway from the airport. A bridge to downtown and state government. A bridge, almost literally, between Florida A&M and Florida State universities. A "perfect connection" in so many ways, as Mike Pate, the Knight Foundation's local program manager and former Tallahassee Democrat publisher, described Tuesday.

COMMENT ON THIS STORY Your Thoughts
Your Opinions
Your Voice

STORYCHAT

[Add Comment](#) | [View All Comments](#)

Hey folks!!!

This sentence sums up the "rest of us" with this project:
"serving a bustling clientele"
I shall practice bustling for the upcoming opening!

The Knight Foundation still supports Tallahassee in ways Gannett obviously has no interest in doing.
Thanks Mike Pate!

BTW, Richard Florida was not mentioned a single time in this editorial. YaYYYYYYY!!!

Bob O'Lary

Posted by: **Bobolary** on Wed Jan 23, 2008 7:24 am

STAY CONNECTED!

Text Alerts | RSS Feeds | Mobile Delivery | Newsletter

Opinion »

- ▶ [Making Gains](#)
- ▶ [Campaign coverage has the wrong focus](#)
- ▶ [Zing!](#)
- ▶ [Pander-monium](#)
- ▶ [We can lower taxes and boost education](#)
- ▶ [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Residents are fed up with refuse along road](#)

Ad Links

It's a Buyers Market!
This is the perfect time to buy a house. Rates are now the lowest in years.
[Find your house here!](#)

3 locations to serve you best
Moe's delivers with some of the freshest, tastiest burritos in existence
[click to view website](#)

Need a new dining experience?
Visit the dining guide and explore all of the flavors of Tallahassee!
[Take me there!](#)

dine in or carry out
We cook while you watch. 4 Hat rating by Tallahassee Democrats Ashby Stiff.
[click here for menu](#)

Subscribe NOW!

Home

Local News

- [Breaking News](#)
- [Update Florida](#)
- [Eastside Chronicle](#)
- [Northeast Chronicle](#)
- [TallyMoms.com](#)
- [HomeRoom](#)

Living

- [Photo Galleries](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Travel](#)

Sports

- [Prep Sports](#)
- [Youth Baseball](#)

Business

- [Business Matters](#)

Nation/World

Capital News

Opinion

- [Columnists](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)

Florida State

- [FSU News](#)
- [Nolesports.com](#)

Florida A&M

- [FAMU News](#)
- [Rattlernews.com](#)

Entertainment

- [Local Music](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Dining](#)

Special Sections

- [Celebrations](#)
- [Tallygiftcards.com](#)
- [TallyPets.com](#)
- [Living Here](#)
- [Picture Perfect](#)

Customer Service

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Commercial Print](#)
- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Work With Us](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)

- [Delivery Issues](#)
- [Subscribe Now](#)
- [Pay Bill/Renew](#)
- [Manage My Account](#)
- [Vacation Stop/Start](#)
- [Letter to editor](#)
- [Advertising Inquiry](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Text Alerts](#)

Email Newsletter

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

Play Sudoku online for FREE

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

Those connections were illustrated by the presence of representatives from COCA (Executive Director Peggy Brady); the city (Mayor John Marks); the county (Commissioner Bryan Desloge); the state (Secretary of State Kurt Browning); FAMU (Pharmacy Dean Henry Lewis III); and FSU (Vice President for University Relations Lee Hinkle).

Mr. Marks praised the project's potential for enhancing the arts, but said it was particularly important to the economic health of the community. "It's time to turn some dirt," the mayor said in his public remarks.

Like a puzzle

After Tuesday's news conference, Mr. Marks described investment interest in Gaines as "about to pop," adding that he hoped private development and public-private partnerships like the one with Artspace could "fit together." That's crucial because one location, at Gaines and Gay streets, already has been identified as the preferred site for Arts on Gaines. A residential developer is offering \$4.1 million for that same 4.5-acre parcel, so it's important to note that project supporters haven't excluded other potential sites.

"All our eggs were not put into that basket," said Greg Handberg, Artspace's vice president for properties.

There's still a lot that needs to happen before the Gaines Street Corridor, and perhaps our community along with it, are truly transformed. But the process just took a great leap forward.

TOPJOBS
Tallahassee.com

Leon County Board of Commissioners JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS THE
Leon County Board of Commissioners JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Call, Click, or Visit: 850 523-3217 or 1 800 226-2931
Call, Click, or Visit: (850)523-3217 or ...

Northwest Florida Water Management District Hydrologist J.O.A
Northwest Florida Water Management District...

Full Time Maintenance Technician Needed Experience in
Full Time Maintenance Technician Needed ...

Legal Assistant Needed for small litigation law firm
Legal Assistant Needed for small litigation...

Is looking for ALL POSITIONS with daytime availability
Is looking for ALL POSITIONS with daytime...

All Top Jobs

[About Top Jobs](#)



[Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Place an ad](#)
 Copyright ©2008 Tallahassee Democrat.
 All rights reserved.
 Users of this site agree to the
[Terms of Service](#) and
[Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#)
 (Terms updated 3/6/07)

