



**For immediate release:**

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## **Laurel Apartments Celebrate Grand Opening as Downtown's Only Nighttime Parade Rolls Through the MX**

**St. Louis, Mo.** – The Laurel Apartments in the Mercantile Exchange (MX) District celebrated a grand opening as St. Louis' Light Up the Night Fat Tuesday Parade rolled through the new MX entertainment district. Hundreds gathered inside the magnificent new Laurel Gardens open-air atrium nestled inside the Laurel building, while thousands filled the streets of the MX for the capstone event of St. Louis Mardi Gras, one of America's largest pre-Lenten celebrations.

Photos of the Laurel Gardens and the Fat Tuesday Parade rolling through the MX district can be viewed and downloaded at <http://gallery.me.com/mack.bradley#100295>.

"Celebrating the Laurel Apartments grand opening in concert with this iconic St. Louis event really points out how unique this neighborhood is," said Amos Harris, President of Spinnaker St. Louis, developer of the MX. "The MX is in the heart of it all, and our new neighbors who call the Laurel home will enjoy many amenities and events as the MX continues to build this year."

The Laurel Apartments join the 212-room Embassy Suites Downtown St. Louis in the magnificent Laurel building. Apartments range in size from 642 to more than 2,700 square feet and offer 10-12 foot ceilings, bamboo flooring and a host of other stunning finishes and luxury features.

Residents can enjoy room service, valet parking and maid service from the Embassy Suites Hotel, the best views of St. Louis from their own windows, the magnificent Laurel Gardens, trash and recycling chutes on each floor, state-of-the-art fitness facilities, in-building garage parking, dedicated doorman service and downtown's only electric vehicle charging station. Meanwhile, their best friends can enjoy the dog run in the Laurel Gardens and dog walking services.

"The Laurel is the center of vitality and fun activity downtown," said Laurel resident Brian Hall. "How many people get to watch a parade from their own front door?"

The Laurel Apartments entrance at 616 North Seventh Street is just off Washington Avenue which was recently named one of America's 10 Great Streets by the American Planning Association. The Apartments entrance is now graced by a 13-foot clay column designed by [Missouri artist Carol Fleming](#). Hand-painted leaves adorn the side of the statue to symbolize the Laurel tree, in honor of Washington Avenue's original name, Laurel Street.

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## About the MX

The Mercantile Exchange (MX) is downtown's newest and most stimulating gathering place. It is emerging within the area surrounding the MX and Laurel Buildings. The epicenter of downtown energy, the MX is the vital link between downtown's most important residential, shopping and entertainment neighborhoods, from the Washington Avenue Loft District to City Garden and the ballpark, and Post Office Square to the Arch Grounds.

Leading to a retail opening in the second half of 2012, the MX is developing into a full-service retail, dining, entertainment, arts & culture and residential district along Washington Avenue. It includes the landmark downtown Macy's, the 212-room Embassy Suites Hotel and the The Laurel Apartments. Future tenants will include MX Movies, Pi Pizzeria and Robust Wine Bar.

Other dining, entertainment and shopping options, to be announced in the first half of 2012. This mix of destination retail, hotel, residential and commercial activity will give the MX a 24/7 vitality.

The street-level experience will be supported by a completely transformed streetscape, highlighted by warm street level lighting, sidewalk cafes, fountains, public art, and lush urban landscaping and a dedicated 24/7 security presence. Residents and visitors will enjoy bustling street scenes amidst the many festivals, markets, and celebrations that will take place year-round, throughout the MX.

For more information about the Laurel Apartments visit us at 616 North Seventh Street, or at [laurelstl.com](http://laurelstl.com), follow LaurelMX @LaurelMX or like The Laurel Apartments at [facebook.com/LaurelMX](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelMX). For information on the MX, visit [mxstl.com](http://mxstl.com) or follow us @TheMXstl.

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The MX Building, right, rises above Washington Avenue, with the Laurel, left.