

Groundbreaking to Kick-off SunTrust Plaza Construction

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new SunTrust Plaza office building took place on Thursday May 26, at 5 p.m. at the building's future downtown site located between 4th and 5th Avenues next to the Ryman Auditorium. Eakin Partners, the building's owner and developer, hosted the party to kick-off the construction that is scheduled to begin on June 13. The 338,000 rentable square foot, thirteen-story building will be constructed using post-tension concrete and will have an exterior skin of granite, energy efficient glass, and polished aluminum panels. The building, locally owned and managed, will feature a people friendly plaza, a fitness facility and a deli. The building is currently 56% leased with anchor tenants to include SunTrust Bank, who will occupy 150,000 square feet, and the law firm of Stites & Harbison, PLLC who will occupy 38,000 square feet. "We're excited to make a long term commitment to Nashville's thriving and growing downtown," said Stuart Campbell, managing member of the Nashville office of Stites & Harbison. "This new building is a great opportunity for our firm to design office space which will enhance our ability to take care of our clients and their needs." With Brasfield & Gorrie acting as contractor and Nashville based Hastings Architecture as the designer, the building is on target for completion in December 2007.

Eakin Partners has worked diligently with the City of Nashville, the Metro Planning Commission, and Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority to develop a building that will complement the Ryman and still possess all the modern efficiencies of a new office building. Tenants will benefit from increased efficiencies due to the large 28,000 square foot floor plates, Energy Management Systems, and five levels of underground parking. The 500 parking spaces will not only serve as an amenity to the tenants within the building, but also serve as an after-hour parking garage for downtown Nashville. The Ryman Auditorium, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, as well as Second Avenue businesses will greatly benefit from the conveniently located SunTrust Plaza Parking Garage. John Eakin, chairman of Eakin Partners stated, "We are excited to be developing such a quality building on such a significant well located block of prime downtown real estate. We are pleased to have SunTrust Bank as our lead tenant along with Stites & Harbison. A building of this quality with 500 parking spaces should help attract new tenants to Nashville that would not have looked at the city previously."

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