



SoBro building to offer major nightlife attractions

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An investor group is spending approximately \$300,000 to open an upscale dance and nightclub in the SoBro/Second Avenue building that formerly housed Music City Mix Factory, Trafalgar Square and the Nashville Castle.

Nashville-based attorney Whitney Kemper represents the investor group, Rock and Country Club LLC, and said the building at 300 Second Ave. S. is undergoing major exterior updates as it is transformed into Gateway Entertainment Complex. The new enterprise will feature four distinctively different bars/restaurants and is slated to open July 22, Kemper said.

Kemper said the new face of SoBro (the downtown area south of Broadway) was a strong lure for the ownership group. The recent opening of the Gateway Bridge further spurred the group's decision.

"What drew us there was the change of character south of Broadway," Kemper said.

The Gateway Entertainment Complex will have as its flagship Evolution, a Top 40 dance club. In addition, the complex will be home to Icons Comedy & Karaoke, The Big Easy Restaurant & Bar and a rooftop club called The Vue, which will offer live music.

Rock and Country Club LLC (Kemper declined to identify ownership individuals) has secured all necessary permits and licenses and has hired J.J. Brent as general manager, Kemper said.

C.B. Ragland Co. owns the 47,000-square-foot, five-story building and has arranged a short-term lease with multiple options, according to Michael Hayes, the company's asset manager.

Ragland also owns the Second Avenue building that is now home to the recently opened Bluesboro Rhythm and Blues Co.

"We felt with the closing of Trafalgar Square and Have A Nice Day Café, the redevelopment of SoBro had lost some momentum," Hayes said. "Now, SoBro is back on track."

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This downtown building, located at 300 Second Ave. S. and known as The Castle, is being given an exterior overhaul as it transitions toward The Gateway Entertainment Complex. Photo by Anthony Estes