

Transwestern starts development at former Arnold Oil site

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Transwestern Development Co. said today that it has broken ground on a project that will bring 446,000 square feet of mixed-use development to the former Arnold Oil Co. site in East Austin.

Transwestern and its partners will build the project on a 4.2-acre site at East Sixth Street and Comal Avenue. Arnold Oil, a distributor of auto supplies, relocated last year, saying it had outgrown the location.

The new project will be immediately adjacent to the Austin MetroRail's Plaza Saltillo station, an area where more mixed-use development is planned as East Austin continues to gentrify with luxury residences, restaurants and bars — a trend that some residents and community activists say is adversely affecting east-side neighborhoods.

The first component of the new project will be a 94,500-square-foot office building, which is due to be completed in January of 2016. The second building, a 346-unit apartment complex called The Arnold, is expected to be finished in July. The building will also have 9,600 square feet of retail space.



Kirksey Architecture designed the office portion of Transwestern Development Co.'s mixed-use project that will be built in East Austin. Credit: Kirksey Architecture

“We are very pleased to get started on this exciting development,” said Josh Delk, an associate vice president with Transwestern in Austin who is leading the development team. “This location is in the center of one of Austin’s most culturally rich and defining neighborhoods, and we are thrilled to be bringing a project of this caliber to the area. The Arnold and accompanying office building will add to the creative energy with its mix of office, multiple housing options and prominent local retail and restaurant offerings.”

Amegy Bank of Texas and Comerica Inc. provided the financing for the project. Kirksey Architecture designed the office portion of the project, and Wilder Belshaw Architects designed the Arnold. The general contractors are Harvey Cleary for the office portion, and Andres Construction for the mixed-use building. KimballBruehlGarciaEstes is the civil engineer for both buildings.