



MAYOR'S OFFICE
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Little City launches new, affordable business space option in the Granary District

Commercial space is one of the largest expenses a growing start-up may incur. Negotiating the right lease price can mean make-or-break for some Salt Lake City entrepreneurs. Tim Sullivan and Michael Yount are looking to solve that problem by offering shipping containers – repurposed and modified space as an affordable, compact place to do business. The containers will be part of a pop-up project called FLEET, near the northwest corner of Fleet Block, the large city block bounded by 800 and 900 South and 300 and 400 West, largely seen as a catalytic opportunity in the Granary District.

Yount and Sullivan's company, Little City, aims to make underutilized land more productive so the community and future tenants don't have to wait for redevelopment. Each space will offer approximately 160 square feet. The owners are taking a different approach to the format. Their concept will have a common area, which will serve as a meeting and gathering place for entertainment. The units are intentionally small, mobile, and nimble so as the surrounding land becomes developed they can easily pick up and move to a new area.

The business owners chose the Granary District because of its space potential and the increasing community energy. Known as an area for makers and craftspeople, Little City wants to attract more of the same types of businesses into the Granary. They want to help facilitate the growth that is already taking place -- to help people feel more comfortable living, working, and shopping in the area.

"Everything from real estate to zoning, it's just different with this format," says Yount. "It has been essential having someone in the City advocating for us."

"It has been so great working with the economic development team," adds Sullivan. "When all is said and done, we're a small project but they gave us priority treatment. They took time to meet and talk through the vision. They have been a great partner for us."

"These small commercial spaces are important for incubating local businesses that often do not need or cannot afford a larger space," says Lara Fritts, Salt Lake City's Economic Development Director. "We're excited to see a new and unique solution to help our small businesses thrive. This concept will allow for more innovation, which we want to see in SLC."

FLEET will open over the course of fall 2018.

About Salt Lake City Department of Economic Development: Formed in 2016, under the leadership of Mayor Jackie Biskupski, Salt Lake City's Department of Economic Development is focused on building Salt Lake City as a vibrant, beautiful, prosperous, diverse, and authentic place – a place that is

economically accessible to everyone. Known as the “Crossroads of the West,” Salt Lake City is strategically located for businesses to succeed. SLCDED works to streamline processes, provide excellent customer service, and offer an array of resources and services to recruit and retain businesses in the City, and ensure they have the tools to thrive.

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