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SAKURA NOVI SIGNS LEASE WITH THE DANCING PINE KOREAN STEAKHOUSE AND SIGNS JOINT VENTURE WITH ROBERTSON BROTHERS HOMES TO CONSTRUCT APARTMENT COMMUNITY AT SAKURA NOVI

Project will break ground in Spring 2023

Novi, MI - January 31st, 2023 Sakura Novi, Michigan’s first Asian-themed, mixed-use real estate development announced two more important project milestones. First, a lease has been executed for The Dancing Pine Korean Steakhouse to join Sakura Novi’s tenant roster. Second, a joint venture agreement has been executed by Sakura Novi, LLC and Robertson Brothers Homes, one of the largest home-builders in south-east Michigan, to construct the project’s apartment community at Grand River Avenue and Town Center Drive in Novi.

Sakura Novi includes a collection of Asian-themed restaurants, high-end lifestyle retail shops and services, 117 townhome apartments, and, at the center, a Japanese-themed garden path, a pond, and a public plaza for community events.

The Dancing Pine will be a unique, high-end steakhouse brought to market by Seven York Inc., owner of many beloved restaurants across metro Detroit, including Kimchi Box, Dae Jang Keum, Tomo Sushi, The Seoul, Blue Fish Asian Cuisine, and Mama Satto. According to Owner Min Kyu Kim, “The Sakura Novi project has a lot of energy and excitement. It was the perfect partnership to bring a modern Korean BBQ experience into Michigan. The Dancing Pine project will be a new

and approachable luxury concept for customers. An inclusive restaurant for the community that does not compromise on taste or experience.”

The Dancing Pine is the anchor tenant in the distinctive Sakura Novi restaurant collection. Cindy Ciura of CC Consulting played a critical role in bringing The Dancing Pine to the development. Each restaurant in the collection will bring different flavors from various Asian cuisines to the community, including flavors from Korea, Japan, Hawaii, Mongolia and China among others. From steaks, hot pots, poke, sushi, baked goods and others, the collection makes Sakura Novi into a choice destination where people can discover and experience the tastes of Asian cuisine in a refined experiential setting. According to Developer Philip Kim, “The goal to bring together authentic complementary flavors and cuisines by quality operators is worth the extra effort and time required, and makes Sakura Novi a superb choice for all foodies in the metro Detroit area.”

The Residences at Sakura Novi is another central project anchor. The Residences at Sakura Novi will offer a unique, walkable lifestyle in downtown Novi. These homes are expected to be very popular with, among others, the many international business executives that settle in Michigan for short-term stays. Robertson Brothers Homes, historically a builder of for-sale condominiums and homes, is enthusiastically leading the charge to bring their first apartment community to the public. According to President Jim Clarke, “These new townhome apartments will feature private entrances, one and two car attached garages, first floor offices and two- or three-bedroom layouts. Robertson is very excited to be helping create this new mixed-use community in the heart of Novi.”

The demolition of the buildings on the site, including a decrepit cinder-block carwash, took place in Fall 2022. Before this, the project was caught up in the pre-development process for multiple years. The support of a broad array of area leaders has enabled developers to bring the project to fruition. These leaders include the late L. Brooks Patterson and his team, the current Japanese Consul General Yusuke Shindo, and Novi leaders such as Mayor Bob Gatt and Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt. According to developer Scott Aikens, “Working on Sakura Novi has been, alternatively, a humbling and an exhilarating experience. All of us are now just thrilled to get shovels in the ground as soon as winter conditions end this Spring.”

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Sakura Novi, LLC, an affiliate of Robert B. Aikens & Associates, LLC, specializes in culturally-themed real estate development, the creation of restaurant collections, and mixed-use real estate development.

Robertson Homes, for more than 75 years, has been elevating the metro Detroit landscape by building high-quality homes and first-rate communities. Garnering national attention and receiving a myriad of awards since our founding, Robertson Homes is passionate about building lively, beautiful communities with a wide array of home styles to meet the needs and exceed the desires of Michigan residents.

