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Arts & Life

Hot City Block Gets More Business

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With its mix of restaurants, entertainment and housing, East Fourth Street in downtown Cleveland was already among the more happening blocks in the city. More is on the way. MRN Ltd., a real estate developer that owns and has converted much of the tight strip of historic buildings between Euclid and Prospect avenues one block north of The Q revealed Thursday that three more attractions are coming:

- BlackFinn Restaurant & Saloon, which is expected to open next March in space formerly occupied by Café 56. BlackFinn, established in New York in 1994, is described by promoters as an elegant mahogany-and-white-tablecloth “downtown saloon.” The Cleveland location will be its 10th.
- Saigon, a Vietnamese restaurant owned and operated by Danny Nguyen and Ken Ho. Their No.1 Pho, also downtown on Superior Avenue, has become a popular destination since its opening about six years ago. Saigon, expected to open early next year across from Lola, will offer lunch and dinner daily with a menu similar to No.1 Pho.
- Hush, a chic two-level lounge by acclaimed Cleveland chef/restaurateur Michael Symon and his Lola restaurant partners. The spot, three doors down from Lola, will feature a rooftop patio, called Hush Up, with private seating and other perks. Hush should open next summer.

About \$110 million has been invested to rebuild East Fourth Street with housing, restaurants and night life, ranging from House of Blues concert hall to a stylish bowling alley with a martini bar and casual diner. MRN Partner Ari Maron, who estimated the coming attractions leave just 5 percent of the space left to fill, believes selectivity is what makes the development special. “For every deal we do, we probably turn down 50,” he said. “It’s got to be the right fit.”