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National Development plans to construct 200-room AC Hotel by Marriott in Ink Block area

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National Development has plans for a 200-room hotel on Albany St., adjacent to the company's new Ink Block development. An AC Hotel by Marriott will occupy the former sites of FW Webb and Independent Taxi. National Development has previously acquired both sites. The company anticipates the hotel will begin construction later this year and open in early 2017.

Ted Tye, National Development's managing partner, stated that the vision for the 6-acre Ink Block is becoming a reality. "The character of the neighborhood and its surroundings are quickly evolving. A new community is emerging that not only reflects the vibe, context and culture of the South End, but is representative of where Boston is going," said Tye. "The response to the recent opening of Whole Foods at Ink Block has been off the charts. With the success of Ink Block and other new development, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the market is demanding these types of dynamic mixed-use projects."

Both the scale and exterior design of the hotel will create a contemporary feel that works well with National's four adjacent buildings. Residents have begun to move in to two of the buildings and a third is scheduled to open this month. Sepia, the condominiums at Ink Block, will open in September. Tye said, "This collection of new buildings is creating amenities like Whole Foods that had not previously existed. The hotel will add yet another element to this emerging neighborhood. Ink Block's vitality brings another level of energy to the already booming part of the South End."

With Ink Block's themes of the South End's art, music and food, the AC Hotel by Marriott is a perfect complement to what is becoming one of the city's fastest growing areas. With roots in Europe, select service AC Hotels are described by Marriott as, "stylish hotels for urban spirits." The distinguishing characteristics are design-led, urban, cosmopolitan and tailor-made for modern travelers looking for a new way of experiencing and feeling the city. The hotel will include a European-inspired style that defines contemporary hospitality.

Construction is planned to begin this year. The project architect for the hotel is Elkus Manfredi Architects. Cranshaw Construction is the general contractor. The management firm for the hotel has not been determined.

For over 25 years, National Development has been one of the most active development firms in Massachusetts. Specializing in mixed-use, retail, multi-family, commercial and senior housing projects, National Development and its affiliates have developed over 25 million s/f.

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