



## Developer: David Whitney Building project in downtown Detroit on track, will be complete this year

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**David Muller | dmuller@mlive.com** By **David Muller | dmuller@mlive.com**

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DETROIT, MI - One of the largest development projects in downtown Detroit in recent years is about 40 to 45 percent complete, and on schedule to open its doors in the latter half of this year, said James Van Dyke, vice president of development for The Roxbury Group.

Van Dyke said he could not nail down a specific month yet, but said progress on the \$82 million project "is going very well."

The renovation of the David Whitney Building officially got under way last March (see photos above), but its redevelopment had been in the works for years. Standing 19 stories tall at Woodward Avenue and Grand Circus Park, it acts as a gateway to downtown Detroit along with the 36-floor Broderick Tower, which **has already been redeveloped** into highly desired downtown residential space.

The David Whitney Building is being converted into 105 residential apartments, 135 hotel rooms and ground-level retail. The hotel will be Michigan's first Aloft-branded accommodations.

The project is being funded with a mix of historic, brownfield and new market tax credits, as well as money from the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Invest Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the Michigan Strategic Fund.

The project is getting \$8.5 million in state grants, coming in the form of a \$7.5 million performance-based loan and a \$1 million Community Revitalization Program performance-based grant.

Gov. Rick Snyder was on hand in March when the renovation officially got underway. Standing in the weathered lobby of the 98-year-old building, Snyder said, "I really look forward to coming here again, when I walk into this place and the words aren't just, 'Wow, what are the possibilities?' The simple words out of everyone's mouths is going to be even shorter, it's just going to be 'Wow.'"

*David Muller is the business reporter for MLive Media Group in Detroit. Email him at dmuller@mlive.com or follow him on **Twitter** or **Facebook**.*

