

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

Nada was a no-brainer for Arena District developer Nationwide Realty

By Dan Eaton | Columbus Business First | Tuesday, April 22, 2014

How long did it take Nationwide Realty Investors Ltd. to decide it wanted Nada in the Arena District?

“I don’t even think we made it through the appetizers,” Brian Ellis, president of the development company, told me of his initial visit to the Cincinnati restaurant.

After a year of discussion, Nada is taking an Arena District space on the ground floor of 240 Nationwide Blvd., the under-construction future home of Columbia Gas of Ohio.

The 6,229-square-foot space is on the southeast end of the building. Its patio will wrap around that corner of the building.

“It’ll be right in the shadow of the (Union Station) arch,” Ellis said. “It will look right down McFerson Commons. We think it’ll be a tremendous, high-energy location.”

It’s also nicely situated between Nationwide Arena and Huntington Park.

When it opens later this year, it’ll also have 1,000 potential customers in the same building.

“That’s a lot of mouths to feed,” Ellis said.

Nada will be the only other tenant in the Columbia Gas building.

The restaurant, according to a release from Cincinnati-based owners Boca Restaurant Group, is a modern take on Mexican cuisine. I asked Ellis to put on his culinary cap.

“I hesitate to describe it. It really is different,” he said. “It makes you think of Mexican, but it’s not. I think it’s going to be a great attraction.”

I haven’t had a chance to talk with owner/chef David Falk so let’s just link to a dinner menu for the time being. It looks to be in the popular polished-casual segment with lunches around the \$15 price point and dinners up into the \$20s. Ellis said it’s a good fit in terms of style and price with the existing mix of Arena District restaurants.



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Nada will serve up fresh Mexican-inspired fare for brunch, lunch, and dinner in Columbus’ Arena District.

At least one other eatery will be coming to the district, but what that is remains to be seen. Ellis said there has been a good level of interest in the 343 Front St. space that has been home to a few restaurant-bar operations over the years, most memorably Frog Bear & Wild Boar.

“We need to find the right fit,” he said. “We want something that will stand the test of time.” ■