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Merlin Entertainments Group Leases 100,000 SF

Sea Life Aquarium To Open in 2012



Merlin Entertainments Group leased 100,000 square feet for its Sea Life Aquarium attraction at Crown Center Shopping Center in Kansas City, MO.

The aquarium will occupy the first floor of the center's Halls department store and part of the second floor at 2450 Grand Blvd. Groundbreaking on the \$15 million attraction is scheduled for May, and the aquarium is set to open in 2012.

Crown Center is a three-story, 260,000-square-foot retail complex constructed in 1973 and renovated in 1999.

Merlin Entertainments Group, headquartered in the U.K., focuses on location-based entertainment, and has many locations throughout the world. Two of its Sea Life Aquariums are set to open next year: one in Kansas City and the other in Rome. Kansas City was selected based on the longevity of other tenants in the market and its proximity to hotels, retail and other attractions.

Jerry White of Colliers International and Howard Samuels of Samuels & Co. Inc. represented Merlin. **Chris Newkirk and Audrey Navarro of Kessinger/Hunter & Co. L.C. represented the landlord, Crown Center Redevelopment Corp.**