

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 - 10:31 AM MST

Work begins on affordable housing project

Denver Business Journal

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless broke ground Tuesday on its first "green" affordable housing project in metro Denver.

The four-story Renaissance Riverfront Lofts at 3440 Park Avenue West in downtown Denver will include 100 affordable apartments. The units were designed, and will be built, in accordance with Enterprise Green Communities sustainability guidelines.

Green Communities project criteria range from an integrated design process and water conservation to energy efficiency and use of environmentally friendly building materials. A project also must fit in its surrounding "neighborhood fabric."

Metro Denver is one of the first U.S. communities to adopt those standards, according to the CCH.

Renaissance Riverfront Lofts will be located on 1.3 acres on the South Platte River, near the new Railyards Marketplace retail center.

Forty percent of the units will be set aside for formerly homeless people being served by the CCH. The rest of the units will be leased to households at, or below, 50 percent of this area's median income, or \$30,000.

The project is being developed by Renaissance Housing Development Corp., a CCH subsidiary.

Christopher Carvell Architects of Denver designed the project, using Green Communities guidelines.

Green Communities is five-year, \$555 million commitment by Enterprise Partners Inc. started in 2004 to build 8,500 low-income, energy-efficient homes, and to bring environmentally sustainable development to affordable housing. The group provides funds and expertise to affordable housing developers.

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