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New local music venue on path to December- January opening

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Typical construction sounds are what's heard at the project site for The Rink Studios on Del Paso Boulevard in Sacramento these days. But within a few months, a whole lot more sound – of the more ear-pleasing variety – should be emanating from there instead.

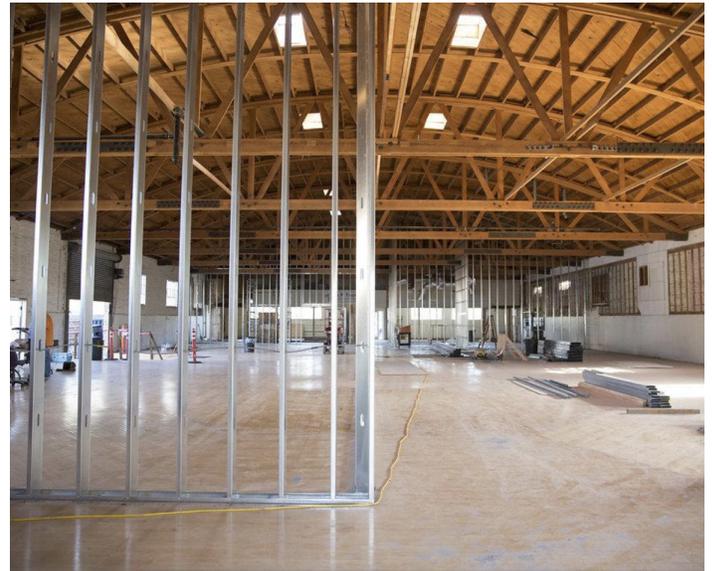
Project head Greg Kennedy said he's happy work's gotten underway on the adaptive re-use project that will bring new life to a long-closed roller rink called the Senator Rollerdrome.

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"The closer you get, the more anxious you get," he said. "But seeing the construction started is a big step."

Kennedy said the project's first phase, the performance space, is on a tentative track to be completed by December. That would allow concerts and other kind of



performances in the venue at 1030 Del Paso, with a standing capacity of about 500 people and 250 to 275 seats. Final numbers will be determined by the fire inspector, Kennedy said.

About a month later, the entire project should open up. Of the rink's total 11,250 square feet, 3,000 will become studios and office space for people looking for careers in music and similar vocations. Of the 15 studios, five would be leased on an annual basis to music industry majors, six would be for up-and-coming "garage bands" and four would be studios for music instructors. There would also be about 400 square feet for food and beverage service tied to events in the auditorium, which takes up the bulk of the building.

"This is a concept that's relatively new,

with all the elements in one spot," Kennedy said. "We're making this a music incubator, and we really want to encourage music among the younger set."

He said the operators are planning outreach and offering internships to locals interested in careers as musicians, studio engineers and related fields.

A grand opening event is set for Jan. 18. Kennedy said the project is about a \$2 million investment.