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# Rink Studios in North Sacramento getting ready to roll – and rock

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See Correction/Clarification at end of article

Within months, up-and-coming garage bands will get their first taste of the big time when they take the stage at a new events center in North Sacramento.

The Rink Studios at 1031 Del Paso Blvd. could be hosting those bands, along with movie nights and touring acts, by summer.

Project head Greg Kennedy said as the opening gets closer, details come into focus. Fire inspectors put the official standing room capacity for the auditorium at 542, a bit more than he expected. And a building sign, mounted over the front door, is complete and just awaiting final design approval from the city.

The 11,250-square-foot building, which dates to the 1920s, operated in the late 1970s and '80s as a roller rink. More recently, Kennedy said, a screen printing business operated there, but it's been about a decade since the building was active and occupied.

When it opens, The Rink will be known to most as an events space, with a bar just inside the door as well as a staging area for catering. The auditorium, formerly the roller rink, takes up most of the eastern side of the building, with a mezzanine for light and sound control boards.

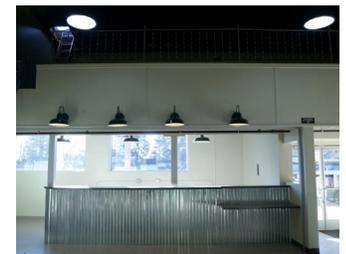
On the western half of the building is

a VIP room for record label executives or other professionals to meet with bands. The Rink will connect with local bands to post sound files of their songs on a website and stream them. Positive feedback on songs will lead to an offer to that band to play a show for free, along with an allotment of tickets for friends and family and the ability to stream the show as well.

In the rest of the building, a long hallway connects to three shorter ones with rooms for rehearsals, instruction and studio records. At the back of the building is both a green room for artists and control rooms for cameras and other equipment if the venue hosted a live performance.

Kennedy said, as with any adaptive re-use project, he's made some discoveries during the construction process. Floor joints running the length of the building were cut in half during previous projects, leaving little support. When a side floor collapsed, a previous crew filled the space with concrete rather than fixing the foundational problem, he said.

"It's a classic," he said, with a laugh. "But that was part of the charm of the



building."

Other vintage building features are being retained or repurposed. A roll-up door onto the auditorium still has a ramp for large equipment to be wheeled in, and a wedge to fill in the space otherwise. Original ceiling tiles with a distinct pattern from another part of the building have gone into the VIP room. And another roll-up door, tagged with graffiti, will be mounted inside the green room as art.

Those features are meant to give the building an authentic, comfortable feel. That's also why Kennedy is using local sources for construction, furniture and other aspects of the project.

"That's behind all of this, to give local talent a wider audience," Kennedy said.

## Correction/Clarification

A previous version of this story incorrectly stated the location for The Rink Studios.