



That's a wrap: Retailer returns to downtown OKC with new gift store

By: Molly M. Fleming The Journal Record May 8, 2018 0



Londall Guyse stands inside the future home of MCG Gifts on the second floor of the Robinson Renaissance building at 121 N. Robinson Ave. in Oklahoma City. (Photo by Brent Fuchs)

OKLAHOMA CITY – Londall Guyse is excited to be back with his retail family from the First National Center.

Guyse spent six years as the buyer for the former Story of Hope, the store that benefited Feed the Children. The store occupied about 8,000 square feet in the historic bank building. It closed in 2015.

Guyse left downtown and opened My Chic Geek in Warr Acres with his wife, Dawn. The store was in an old house at 4413 N. Meridian

Ave. When the house sold and the lease was up, the Guyse family wanted a new place for their store.

He looked at downtown.

"This was home," he said. "I've been wanting to get down here for the last three years."

Guyse is opening MCG Gifts in the Robinson Renaissance building in June. He'll have about 1,000 square feet on the second floor's south side, next to the Downtown OKC Tag Agency and Gina's Master Tailor. The FNC family is missing someone though.

"If we could only get Ken from the Golden Dragon to come back, we'd all be here," Guyse said.

Newmark Grubb Levy Strange Beffort broker Vicki Knotts worked quickly in late 2015 to help the FNC businesses find new locations. She moved several operations to the Robinson Renaissance building.

But at that time, MCG Gifts' space wasn't the prime spot it is now. A new skywalk connection was built to connect Robinson Renaissance to the First National Center and Corporate Tower. MCG's spot is next to the connection.

Knotts said she's excited to find a new place for him.

"We really don't have a gift shop since (Story of Hope) shut down," she said. "I think it will be a good use, especially with the traffic from the skybridge."

MCG's lease fills the last available retail space on Robinson Renaissance's second floor.

Guyse's new store will offer similar products to A Story of Hope, with some geeky items as well. He has a storage unit filled with products, including more than 600 greeting cards. He's going to offer online ordering and in-store pickup. He said customers can even expect to have free gift wrapping again.



The move from Warr Acres to downtown doesn't mean too much difference in leasing price, he said. He has a marketing plan in place to help attract people off the street and into his second-floor store. But he's not a new face to downtown, so he thinks he'll see a return of his customers.

"(My wife and I) are hoping that my past relationships will help tremendously," he said.

The Guyses will start working in the store on June 1, then move in fixtures on June 2. Guyse said he'll start stocking cards once the fixtures are installed. He has plans to use every inch of the space, including wrapping displays around the columns.

Knotts said the Guyses will have another retailer in the building soon. She said in about 30 days she'll have a lease completed for the first-floor window spot.

She's happy to have Guyse in the building.

"It's like he's going home," she said.

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