



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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Gateway Region YMCA Relocating Downtown St. Louis Y Branch to New State-of-the-Art Facility in Business District

ST. LOUIS (July 26, 2016) – The Board of Directors for the Gateway Region YMCA has voted to relocate the current Downtown St. Louis Y at 1528 Locust to a new location in the central business district. Currently, the Y has signed a letter of intent for a new state-of-the-art facility at [6th and Locust Streets](#) in the MX Building development.

“We are excited to relocate our Downtown Y to a new facility that will give our members better fitness features and amenities, and allow us to continue to serve the downtown community,” said Tim Helm, president and CEO of the Gateway Region YMCA. “For a number of reasons, the current facility faces significant annual financial losses. This, along with a sizable investment needed for deferred maintenance, prompted our search for a new location. This move will put us in a position to reduce the negative impact on our long-term fiscal health and provide continued service to the downtown community and those from around the bi-state area who use the facility.”

The new location will feature many amenities, including a fitness center, group exercise rooms, the latest equipment, private showers, changing rooms and steam rooms, an outdoor patio for outdoor classes and social functions, and an open lobby with free Wi-Fi, coffee, gathering and working areas. The target date for opening the new branch is January 2017. Operations will continue at the current facility until the new facility is ready.

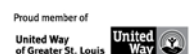
The Downtown Y branch has been in its current building since 1926 and has approximately 1,400 members – roughly one percent of the Association’s area-wide membership base. Membership at the Y allows access to all [24 branches](#) in the bi-state area, so members can continue to take advantage of the great amenities and classes at any branch, including the four other branches in the City of St. Louis - the South City Family Y, the Monsanto Family Y, the Carondelet Park Rec Complex, and the O’Fallon Park Rec Complex.

In addition, the recent addition of a new YMCA Community Development Branch that manages outreach programs and volunteer experiences will continue to run the community-based programs formerly operated through the Downtown Y.

The current Downtown facility employs approximately seven full-time people. We will work to provide opportunities for staff to continue employment at either the new location or at other branches which have openings. The Downtown Y also has many other part-time staff - like class instructors -- who work at other branches within the association, and they will continue to have those employment opportunities.

YMCA OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

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About the Gateway Region YMCA

The Gateway Region Y is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Featuring 24 traditional Y branches in Missouri and Illinois, along with the Campus Y student leadership facility at Washington University, the Community Services Y-Without-Walls serving East St. Louis and Y Community Literacy. Our Y also includes YMCA Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. The Carondelet Park Rec Complex and O'Fallon Park Rec Complex are owned by the City of St. Louis and operated by the Y. The Y is committed to serving people of all abilities. For those who qualify, we offer financial assistance so everyone has the opportunity to participate in Y programs, regardless of ability to pay. Our Y is a proud member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. For more information, please visit www.gwrymca.org or call 314-436-1177.

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