

## BLACK MOUNTAIN HOLDINGS LLC



FORTIS CAPITAL

NEWS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Mountain LLC  
April 18, 2022

Lachelle Cunningham, Chris Montana and Seward Redesign form Black Mountain Holdings to acquire the property at 2843 26th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN from Kristop Properties.

***Acquisition to provide local BIPOC businesses with the opportunity to purposefully invest in the South Minneapolis community through the catalytic redevelopment of the 7-Sigma manufacturing facility.***

**Minneapolis, MN**, April 18th, 2022. Lachelle Cunningham (Healthy Roots Institute LLC), Chris Montana (Du Nord Social Spirits & Du Nord Foundation) and Redesign (Seward Redesign, Inc) formed Black Mountain Holdings LLC and have acquired the property at 2843 26th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN from Kristop Properties.

The acquisition is part of the LISC Community Asset Transition (CAT) Fund. The CAT Fund was designed in partnership with Hennepin County, JPMorgan Chase, the Minneapolis Foundation, the Bush Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation to rebuild after the civil unrest in response to the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. This acquisition also included funding from Fortis Capital. The official announcement was made on Monday, April 18, 2022. The move to acquire the facility first started in Fall 2020, when each party began their search to locate a

property that provided them with an opportunity to invest in the South Minneapolis community. During this search Lachelle Cunningham, Chris Montana and Redesign realized that their individual visions for community growth could be intertwined together. Thus they began to explore how they could achieve community and economic development through a partnership. The seller will remain a tenant for 12 months and construction will not start until summer 2023 at the earliest.

The acquisition of the property fits into their strategy to redevelop the facility into a space that will provide the people that live in the South Minneapolis community with employment opportunities, resources, creative and community space through food and beverage business incubation.

*“This acquisition is one of many steps toward creating synergistic collaborations that are designed to have a deeply profound impact on the local food system and business economy in Minneapolis.”* said Chef Lachelle Cunningham, Founder/Owner of Healthy Roots Institute LLC and Vice President of Black Mountain Holdings LLC.

### **About Healthy Roots Institute**

Healthy Roots Institute's mission is to impact the economy and local food system through food education, culinary training and certification, business training and ongoing professional support for entrepreneurs and businesses.

The Healthy Roots Institute offers catering and food production consulting services, food education, culinary training and certification, business training and ongoing professional support for entrepreneurs and businesses. With this property acquisition and build-out, Healthy Roots Institute will expand its commercial kitchen rental, incubation space and business support to local food businesses.

### **About the Du Nord Foundation**

Following the murder of George Floyd, the subsequent uprising resulted in the destruction of many buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul—some of which were BIPOC owned and/or operated. We believe it is through BIPOC business and property ownership that radical change will occur in this country. So the way we rebuild, in order to visualize this equitable future, is for us to define—as the traditional model does not work.

We are committed to incubating and accelerating the next generation of BIPOC entrepreneurs and in so doing build wealth in communities often left behind by traditional economic growth. Du Nord Social Spirits, and the Du Nord Foundation are excited to transform this building into a national model for business incubation and acceleration that is also a *fun* and welcome addition to the neighborhood.

## About Seward Redesign

Seward Redesign is a Non-profit community developer established in 1969. Seward Redesign is dedicated to improving the Seward and Greater Longfellow neighborhoods of South Minneapolis.

Redesign Inc. provides comprehensive community development services including housing and commercial real estate development, infrastructure advocacy, business development, and program administration. We sustain our work through philanthropic support, government contracts, and earned fees in real estate development.

Redesign engages the energy and creativity of residents and businesses to implement development that responds to community priorities and creates living-wage jobs, affordable housing, and a vibrant local economy.

Redesign envision the neighborhoods where we work as healthy, diverse, and sustainable communities where all people have the opportunity to thrive.

Black Mountain Holdings LLC Media Contact:

Taylor Smrikarova (She/Her/Hers)

Director, Property Development

[taylor@redesigninc.org](mailto:taylor@redesigninc.org)

(612) 435-0278

