

Exclusive: Dayton entrepreneur details plans for family entertainment center at Tuttle Crossing (slideshow)

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On Friday morning, Jonah Sandler walked through the former Macy's at the Mall at Tuttle Crossing that his company just paid \$3 million for and described how an additional \$15 million will transform the 225,000-square-foot space into a family entertainment center.

The ground floor, for example, will feature an open-floor arcade with about 250 games. The floor will also have video game areas, a multi-floor laser tag arena, bowling, bumper cars, bars and a restaurant.

Upstairs will include a go-kart track, a high-tech entertainment hub, miniature golf, inflatable castles, escape rooms and a 10,000-square-foot events center.

Take a look at the slideshow of what is in store for Columbus.

"This whole building is just beautiful, and I think it will translate well," said Sandler, founder and "chief fun officer" of Dayton-based Scene 75 Entertainment Center, which purchased the space at 5033 Tuttle Crossing Blvd. this month.

"It's crazy to think that when we first started, it was just me and my dad. Now we have a lot of people on our team to help us put these together."

There are a few bigger indoor sports centers and convention-style event sites in North America, but Scene 75 says it is different because it provides such a variety of attractions in each location.

The Tuttle Crossing site will create 200 part-time and full-time jobs.



TRISTAN NAVERA

Jonah Sandler, founder and "chief fun officer" of Dayton-based Scene 75, stands in the now-empty Macy's anchor space at the Mall at Tuttle Crossing. He's bought the building and it will be his fifth, and largest, indoor entertainment center.

Scene 75 opened its first location in a former warehouse north of Dayton in 2012. Since then, it has expanded into Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, often turning former warehouses or big-box retail space into these spaces.

This space, with its marble floors and central open walkways, will feature the same LED lights and bright colors as the others, Sandler said, adding that the Tuttle Crossing location is going to be more events-focused than the others.

Macy's closed the store at Tuttle Crossing in 2017 as it consolidated and closed 100 stores. It still has an anchor space on the mall's west end.

Mike Costantini of Cincinnati-based 3CRE Commercial Real Estate, is Scene 75's broker for all of its real estate deals.

He said pairing arcade-entertainment centers with traditional shopping could help malls repurpose empty spaces.

"This is a trend for consumers and shoppers and, if done right, this footprint is something that will be much more prominent for us as we expand (to new places)," Costantini said.

Sandler said he hopes to open at the end of 2018 or in early 2019.

"This is the kind of thing we love doing, coming into a city and building something and making an impact on the city around us," he said.

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