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Plans for Airline farmers market unveiled at groundbreaking

By **Nancy Sarnoff** Published 2:30 pm CDT, Wednesday, August 7, 2019

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Renderings of the future Houston Farmers Market, the redevelopment of the produce and grocery market on Airline Drive near the Heights.

Houston super-chef Chris Shepherd will develop a new food concept for the Houston Farmers Market, the 18-acre culinary and entertainment development on Airline Drive near the Heights.

Shepherd -- the James Beard Award winning owner of One Fifth, UB Preserv and Georgia James -- and the owners of the property provided new details on the farmers market project Tuesday during a groundbreaking ceremony on the site at 2520 Airline Drive.

"As the country's fourth-largest city and leading culinary capital, Houston is long overdue for a world-class market," Todd Mason, managing

principal of developer MLB Capital Partners, said in a statement. "We x
skilled to reimagine this local landmark into an essential destination

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the project

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MLB Capital revealed new renderings of the project illustrating upgrades planned for property, now a mix of ramshackle buildings and old warehouses. When completed, the development will include climate-controlled structures, shaded open-air market areas, new restrooms and common seating areas, the developer said. Parking, landscaping and sidewalks will also be improved.

The project is also expected to include spaces for chef demonstrations, wine tastings and live entertainment.

In addition to opening a new concept -- for which details were not offered this week -- Shepherd will also serve as a consultant on project. Clark Condon Associates, Studio RED Architects, Gunda Corp. and Arch-Con Construction are also involved in the market's design and construction.

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purveyors, **formerly housed Camino's Produce Co.**

MLB Capital, a Houston-based commercial real estate investment company, **purchased the 77-year-old market in May 2017 from the Farmers' Marketing Association** of Houston Inc., which had owned and operated the market since its inception in 1942.

Since that transaction, several **new real estate developments have been announced** nearby.

The existing operations at the market will stay open throughout the redevelopment process. Completion is expected in late 2020.

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