

GCS Press Release – 05:06:13

Clearwater Company GreatCircle Studios Boosts Downtown Technology District

CLEARWATER, FL – City of Clearwater’s Community Redevelopment Agency has unanimously approved support for local company GreatCircle Studios. In a vote by the CRA’s Board of Directors it was unanimously agreed that GreatCircle Studios would receive a grant that has enabled the burgeoning company to expand to new offices in the downtown region.

Rod Irwin, Assistant City Manager with the City of Clearwater and Executive Director of the City’s Community Redevelopment Agency said that, “The CRA is happy to be able to support the expansion of GreatCircle Studios in our Technology District, which was created in part to nurture the growth of small businesses in the IT/Software industry. The company’s commitment to participate in the City’s new Virtual Incubator Program – a partnership with the Tampa Bay Innovation Center to provide business incubator and accelerator services to early- and mid-stage IT/Software companies located in the Technology District – is further evidence of the company’s commitment to strategic growth in the City of Clearwater. We look forward to working with GreatCircle Studios as they grow and prosper as a member of our IT/Software Technology District community.”

Speaking on behalf of GreatCircle Studios, Co-Founder and President Jason Stanard said, “As a long time business owner in downtown Clearwater – and one with a rapidly expanding business – we engaged the City of Clearwater to help us expand both our company as well as the downtown tech corridor. Without the help of the City of Clearwater and the CRA, with particular mention to Rod Irwin and Denise Sanderson [Assistant Director, City of Clearwater, Economic Development & Housing Department], GreatCircle Studios would not have been able to remain in the downtown area as we continue to grow as a company. I would like to personally thank them and look forward to a long and productive relationship that helps grow the downtown Clearwater tech corridor.”

The move, completed on May 6th 2013, saw GreatCircle Studios move to new offices at 600 Cleveland Street in the heart of downtown Clearwater. The move also heralds the launch of GCS’s new business arm, Web Concierge, for which the company has recently added new staff, and is expected to continue to create new positions as this innovative web marketing service comes on line. “I would lastly like to say that we are very proud to be creating new jobs within the Clearwater region,” said Stanard, “Which we hope benefits the City, our company, and of course the people of Clearwater themselves.”

About GreatCircle Studios in 15 seconds:

GreatCircle Studios is a full service web design, SEO, web marketing and managed hosting service provider. Specializing in audience-driven methodologies, GCS helps its partners optimize their online visibility, drive targeted traffic to websites, generate measurable results and maximize revenue streams. GCS’ corporate offices are located in Clearwater, Florida, with additional offices in Washington, D.C. and NYC, New York. www.greatcirclestudios.com

About Jason Stanard in 20 seconds:

Jason founded GreatCircle Studios in 2007 having previously held key positions at EarthLink.com, CU Shopper, Webworld Technologies, and InsureSuite.com. A recognized industry expert in such fields as website development, SEO and online marketing programs, Jason has been nominated for the 2011 and 2012 Tampa Bay Technology Forums’ Rising Star Awards, and 2011 and 2012 Tampa Bay Business Journal’s Up-and-Comers Awards. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Clearwater Downtown Partnership and the Clearwater IT Initiative, and sits on the International Academy of Design & Technology (Tampa) Advisory Board. Jason is a regular guest on talk radio shows and online podcasts.

For more information or to interview Jason Stanard please contact Melissa Simonds at 727-216-8758 or email msimonds@greatcirclestudios.com

Rod Irwin: rod.irwin@MyClearwater.com

Assistant City Manager Rod Irwin Rod Irwin was selected in July 2005 to serve as Assistant City Manager for Economic Development and oversee the City's economic and community redevelopment activities. He also serves as Executive Director of the Community Redevelopment Agency and has responsibility for oversight of the City's primary enterprise operations.

Rod has extensive public sector experience, including 18 years as chief executive officer of municipalities throughout the country. Rod has also served as Assistant County Manager in Arlington County, Virginia and Strategic Development Project Manager for Arlington Economic Development, the County's economic development agency. In both of these capacities he successfully led negotiations of major, mixed-use projects of critical importance to the County's development plans.

Rod holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee and a M.P.A. from City University of New York. He is a graduate of the Program for Senior Executives in State/Local Government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He also holds a Certificate in Real Estate Development and a Certificate in Real Estate Development Finance from the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Director of Economic Development Denise Sanderson

denise.sanderson@myclearwater.com

President of Clearwater downtown partnership Bill Sturtevant: billsturtevant49@gmail.com

CRA www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/econ_devel/cra/

City of Clearwater www.myclearwater.com/gov/

Bank of America Tower Clearwater

This prominent 11-story, 134,306-square-foot professional office building is located in the heart of downtown Clearwater. Renovations to the entire building are well underway. Offering outstanding water views, the Bank of America Tower offers very competitive rates, nearby beachfront hotel accommodations, maintenance staff on-site, lobby banking, and ample parking.

Its central location is just a short walk from numerous restaurants, specialty shops, retail services, Clearwater's Main Public Library, a historic U.S. Post Office, and City and County offices.

Available Office Space - Downtown

These properties are located in the City's Enterprise Zone and Brownfields area which offers an assortment of tax incentives to businesses that create employment.

Class A Office Space Clearwater Garden - Bank of America Tower Building 600 Cleveland Street, Clearwater 33755

Building Facts: Total Building Area: 147,914 sq.ft Rentable Sq.Ft: 135,150 sq. ft Total
Space Available: 39,764 sq. ft. Number of Floors: 11 Minimum Available: 799 sq. ft.
Maximum Contiguous: 12,758 sq. ft. Minimum/Maximum Rent: \$17.00-\$20.00 psf Parking
Space: 252 Parking Ratio: 4:1 incl garage Year Built: 1975