



Self-Reliant Communities

For Immediate Release

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Isles and Modern Recycled Spaces Save Classic Jersey Diner from the Wrecking Ball
Sunny-Side-Up Future Awaits '50s-era Diner, at Historic Mill One Complex in Hamilton



Hamilton, N.J., (Updated) June 17, 2014 – Isles, Inc., the Trenton-based community development organization, has teamed with a local developer, Modern Recycled Spaces, to save the classic “Calhoun Street Diner” from oblivion. The once-gleaming stainless-steel eatery has sat vacant for decades on Route One in Lawrence. It will be relocated to Mill One, Modern Recycled Spaces' and Isles' historic re-development project in Hamilton, and converted into unique classroom space for vocational training.

“It’s vital that we save this art-deco diner from the landfill,” said Isles’ President Marty Johnson.

“And if we can return it to the Trenton and Hamilton area and restore it as the world’s most unique classroom for job training, it’s a win for everyone.”

The diner’s current owner, SSL Realty Holding, agreed to donate the streamlined wonder to a team that would agree to restore it to its 1950’s glory. More than 40 people expressed interest, and SSL selected the plan put forward by Modern Recycled Spaces and Isles.

“The Calhoun Street Diner is a classic part of New Jersey history and as American as apple pie,” said Daniel Popkin, President of Modern Recycled Spaces. “The protection and restoration of this 1950s icon is what Mill One and Modern Recycled Spaces are all about.”

The diner will be moved to its new home in the morning on Wednesday June 18, 2014. It will be transported along Routes. 1 and 295, Sloan Avenue, Klockner Road and East State Street to its new home, the 200,000 square foot mixed-use re-development project known as Mill One. Mill One, a

former luggage and clothing factory is located at the intersection of Nottingham Way and North Johnston Avenue in Hamilton. Isles and Modern Recycled Spaces will work to raise funds to restore the diner. “Mill One’s mission is to turn grand old structures into new spaces for start-ups, creative businesses and nonprofits,” Popkin said. “We hope to use the diner to show how creativity can transform even the most dilapidated structures into novel work spaces.”

The diner is thought to have been built in the post-war period. Originally located on Calhoun Street in Trenton, it was moved to Lawrenceville in the 1960’s where it was named successively the Cass Diner, Giordano Diner, and Ben’s Diner. According to [The Times](#), it is “one of just five remaining diners in New Jersey built by the Mountain View Diner Co., a Little Falls company that operated from 1939 until 1957.” The company built some 400 pre-fab diners and its motto was: "A Mountain View Diner will last a lifetime."

“Kids and young adults will benefit from the restoration and reuse of this iconic diner,” said Marty Johnson. “The first step was to save it. Now we need the community’s help to faithfully renovate it. We look forward to bringing this emblem of ‘50s Americana back to life.” Isles is seeking funding to restore the diner. To make a donation please visit www.crowdrise.com/savethediner.

For additional information please contact David Schraye, Isles’ Mill One Director, at 609-341-4792 or dschraye@isles.org. Daniel Popkin may be contacted at 609-731-2156 or dpopkin@firstprops.com. Find more information on Modern Recycled Spaces™ [here](#).

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