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Donohoe Development to build hotel in Mount Vernon Triangle

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Arts at 5th & I will include an ME hotel by Sol Melia, the Spanish hotel and resort chain, and a Boisdale restaurant and 200-seat jazz lounge.

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A team led by **Donohoe Development Co.** will build a 260-room Spanish luxury hotel at 5th and Eye streets NW as part of a larger entertainment project in Mount Vernon Triangle.

The team was selected by D.C. to develop the city-owned vacant lot.

Mayor Adrian Fenty, Deputy Mayor Neil Albert and Councilman Kwame Brown, D-at large, made the announcement at the site Friday. In addition to a hotel, Donohoe will build 166 apartments, 50 of them below market rate, and a 238-space underground parking garage.

Albert said negotiations are set to begin on whether the project would require a subsidy but that the land was worth \$7 million. Jad Donohoe, the company's development director, said groundbreaking could be in 18 months, provided the D.C. Council quickly approves a deal.

The 475,000-square-foot project, called Arts at 5th & I, will include an ME hotel by Sol Meliá, the Spanish hotel and resort chain, and a Boisdale restaurant and 200-seat jazz lounge, of the London chain. The hotel will be the fourth for the ME brand, following locations in Madrid and in the Mexican cities of Cancun and Cabo.

The project is being designed by D.C. architect Shalom Baranes and features housing beneath the hotel and a green roof above it. The entire Donohoe team is based in D.C., including partners **Holland Development Group**, **Harris Development Group** LLC and **Spectrum Management**, LLC.

Other partners include the **Zenith Gallery**, founded in 1978, which will move from its current space at 413 7th Street, according to Margery Goldberg, Zenith's owner. The owners of The Bike Shop - District Hardware, on 24th street in the West end, will open a second location in the new building and Memphis Holland of Holland Development said the development team was in discussions with an independent book store.

Community residents at the announcement said the Donohoe project was the best of the bids and praised the developers and mayor's office for listening to them. "This is further testament of the community [involvement] process at its best," said Keith Silver, an advisory neighborhood commissioner. The other bidders were Ben Soto's **Paramount Development** LLC., the **JBG Cos.** of Chevy Chase and Buccini/Pollin Group.

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