



If you build it, they will come ... back

By **Stacy J. Willis**

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The frenzy of downtown revitalization is luring art curator and adviser Michele Quinn back to Las Vegas. Quinn, owner of MCQ Fine Art Advisory, moved to suburban Philadelphia in 2010 for her husband's job, while continuing to oversee her business remotely. But traveling back and forth has gotten old, she says, and she wants to be back in the thick of Vegas' urban renewal.

"I really want to be connected to my business and we [she and her husband] want to open a restaurant downtown," Quinn says. "That will be part of the point of our move."

They're still in the preliminary stages of locating a site for their gastropub. "But we're definitely focusing on downtown, for obvious reasons."

In the meantime, Quinn has been busy revamping the art collection of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. She brought in work by emerging local artists to go alongside that of acclaimed artists such as James Rosenquist and Romero Britto.

Adding locals such as Tim Bavington, Erik Beehn and Brent Sommerhauser "seemed like a good way to continue the conversation about downtown," she says. "We have a few more pieces coming in, too, including some Rauschenbergs," Quinn says. "It's still a work in progress."

Quinn also helped launch a website, LouRuvoCenterArt.org, which she says was the "huge missing link" in connecting the Ruvo gallery to the public.

The Lou Ruvo project falls into Quinn's specialization of mixing high-end corporate collections with local art. Quinn has consulted on collections at Nevada Cancer Institute, Harrah's Executive Collection, THEhotel at Mandalay Bay and the \$40 million CityCenter art program, which includes works by Maya Lin, Richard Long and Jenny Holzer, and was home to the *LocalsOnly* exhibit.