

Benjamin's Desk Announces Expansion Of Rittenhouse Square Coworking To Historic Sun Oil Building

New Space Becomes Hub of Rittenhouse Row Coworking District; Members to Enjoy Access, Events, and Amenities Across City-wide and Global Business Networks

PHILADELPHIA, August 3, 2016—Benjamin's Desk, the Philadelphia coworking network that helped launch regional offices for companies like Uber and Municibid, has started construction on 11,693 square feet of additional space for private offices, shared desks, and meeting rooms at 1608 Walnut Street.

Benjamin's Desk CEO Anthony Maher made the announcement today at a celebration commemorating the full opening of the network's second location at The Curtis on Washington Square. The announcement was prefaced by remarks from Philadelphia Councilman-at-Large Allan Domb.

"Members consistently tell us that being close to their clients, to transit hubs, and to a neighborhood's vibrant amenities makes a huge impact on the growth of their companies," said Maher. "Therefore, we're more than doubling down on our presence at the heart of Center City and opening up even more space for members to incubate their ideas and build lasting relationships."

Architecture firm Tilden, Register & Pepper brought modern European influences to Walnut Street with the building's initial design and construction in 1925. For a period spanning five decades, the 19-story Art Deco high rise building served as the home for the Sun Oil Company. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, the building has since been a mainstay of the Rittenhouse Row commercial district, housing both retail and commercial tenants. The building is owned and leased by PMC Property Group.

"We're extremely excited about Benjamin's Desk coming to 1608 Walnut Street," said Adriano Calvanese, Vice President of PMC Property Group. "We look forward to the energy they'll bring to the building."

Renovations on the interior space will be overseen by Benjamin's Desk Chief Design Officer Adam Glaser with support from construction partners Brass Castle Partners. As with the renovations of every Benjamin's Desk space, the design and construction teams emphasize efficient reuse of existing architectural elements while honoring the spirit and heritage of historic spaces.

Described as "Philadelphia's Premier Coworking Network," Benjamin's Desk aims to provide mobile professionals, consultants, entrepreneurs and startups across a range of industries with more than just office space. Members are given access to capital resources, economic partners, high-profile networking events, and more—all with the explicit goal of helping them grow.

Benjamin's Desk offers four core membership opportunities for entrepreneurs and enterprise partners:

- **The Network**—A membership program that includes occasional use of common space and access to special events, professional development courses, and business incubation services.
- **Part-Time**—Flexible access to shared desks and conference rooms for professionals requiring presence in targeted geographic areas.
- **Full-Time**—Full access to Benjamin's Desk facilities, including the option for dedicated desks and virtual office solutions.
- **Private Offices**—Short term, flexible leases for early-stage startup companies and other teams.

Members will enjoy access to facilities and services at both locations, including mentorship and benefits from corporate sponsors that include Comcast Business, Pepper Hamilton, GMS Surgent, TriNet, Professional Planning Associates, and 2820 Press.

"Our Benjamin's Desk community has taught us that access to convenient locations, inspiring spaces, and thoughtful engagement are the keys to growing successful companies," Maher said. "In an environment when we often hear about coworking spaces struggling to survive, support from our hundreds of members has enabled us to offer even more flexibility for our community."

Upon opening, the new location will become known as Benjamin's Desk Rittenhouse Square. The original Benjamin's Desk coworking space on the seventh floor of 1701 Walnut Street will be rebranded as Benjamin's Desk Innovation Lab, while the flexible eighth floor space in the same building will continue to be known as the Benjamin's Desk Innovation Loft.

Member companies operating from 1608 Walnut Street, 1701 Walnut Street, and the existing Rittenhouse Annex location at 1611 Walnut Street will be supported by a Member Experience team that operates across all three buildings in the service district. The expansion will result in a Rittenhouse Square coworking district of more than 20,000 square feet, all within steps of the 17th & Walnut intersection.

Although an opening date has not been set, Maher said that founding members will gain access to private office space during the fourth quarter of 2016. Access and services at the new location will be extended to all Benjamin's Desk members shortly after.

In addition to the amenities in each home location, members enjoy on-demand access to every facility in the Benjamin's Desk network, including the Pennovation Center powered by Benjamin's Desk on Grays Ferry Avenue and the global business networks managed by LEXC and Startup Federation. Upon completion of the new facility, Benjamin's Desk will manage over 110,000 square feet of coworking space within the City of Philadelphia.

Maher said that further updates, including event announcements and pre-opening photographs, will be published to the network's official website, at BenjaminsDesk.com. Additional sneak preview material will be published to social media channels under the hashtag #InventYourFuture.

About Benjamin's Desk

Benjamin's Desk is a Philadelphia-based coworking network for mobile professionals, entrepreneurs, and startups. Membership is affordable, flexible, and scalable to support businesses as they grow. State-of-the-art workspaces, event facilities, conference rooms, and a diverse community of members help businesses grow and thrive. For more information, visit benjaminsdesk.com or email info@benjaminsdesk.com. Media kits, photos, and other resources for reporters are available at press.benjaminsdesk.com.

ABOUT BENJAMIN'S DESK

Benjamin's Desk provides physical resources, insightful programming, and a coworking community to help small

companies grow. Our state-of-the-art workspaces, conference rooms, and corporate partnerships offer solo entrepreneurs and early stage startups the building blocks to scale in high-density urban business centers.



Benjamin's Desknewsroom