

Brad DeHays - FOUNDER



Brad J. DeHays, founder and president of Connect Realty and Mid-Ohio Contracting Services, Inc., is an accomplished real estate developer, investor and property manager. An expert in the adaptive re-use of historic commercial buildings, his achievements are visible throughout downtown Columbus and surrounding markets. DeHays is personally involved in every stage of the development process, from initial site selection, to concept design, construction management and ongoing operations.

DeHays and his team of professionals have injected new life into the downtown community by transforming previously neglected spaces into first-class commercial and residential units. What others see as ruins, DeHays sees as potential growth opportunities for the city. Projects under his leadership and supervision have modernized neighborhoods and stimulated economic development, all while preserving the cultural and historic fabric of the surrounding communities. Furthermore, his ventures have created much-needed affordable housing in the downtown area by responding to the growing demand for micro-living options.

Local leaders and investors have taken notice of DeHays' vision and keen eye toward the future. He was selected to present a redevelopment plan for Columbus' coal-fueled power plant. Work is currently underway on that concept, which will expand the city's Arena District west to the Scioto River. DeHays has also been praised for his purchase of the crumbling trolley barn buildings on the Near East Side, which will be revitalized as a massive mixed-use development set for completion around 2021. The announcement of the "Trolley District" includes the construction of a 102-unit apartment complex to add necessary density to the area.

DeHays also owns one of the largest portfolios of private parking in the central business district – including the renovated Long Street Parking Garage – and has a hand in Central Ohio's growing hospitality industry as a managing member of Grandview Café, Balboa, Hadley's, Rehab Tavern and 1400 Food Lab. In surrounding markets, he has amassed ownership in a wide range of office and retail developments, affordable housing units and apartment complexes.

An active supporter of his community, DeHays serves as president of the Upper Arlington Rotary Club and as a board member of the Columbus Apartment Association. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Prevent Family Homelessness Collaborative, the Urban Land Institute and the Entrepreneurs Organization, among other groups.

DeHays resides in Upper Arlington with his wife, Jaeleen, and their five children.