

New charter school will lease Midtown facility

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Rob Roberts Reporter *Kansas City Business Journal*

Citizens of the World Kansas City has entered into lease negotiations for a Midtown building that will become the campus for a new K-1 charter school.

Officials with the charter school announced that it would open in the 38,000-square-foot building at 3435 Broadway in the fall.

Citizens of the World, which operates charter schools in Los Angeles and New York, was brought to Kansas City by the Midtown Community School Initiative, a group of Midtown parents and community members committed to providing better public school options for families in the Midtown neighborhood.

In its first year, the new Midtown charter school will offer 12 classrooms for as many as 288 kindergartners and first-graders. The campus will expand to add six more second-grade classrooms the following year to serve a total of 432 K-2 students by the fall of 2017.

The facility is being financed through nonprofit lender and real estate consultant IFF in partnership with the [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](#). CWCKC is negotiating a long-term lease with IFF with plans to eventually buy the facility.

The building at 3435 Broadway was previously owned by [Kansas City Life Insurance Co.](#) It was not actively seeking a buyer for the building, but when Citizens of the World Kansas City expressed interest, Kansas City Life CEO [Philip Bixby](#) was eager to help.

"We are proud to offer our support to Citizens of the World Schools," Bixby said in a release. "We believe this new school will strengthen our Midtown community and encourage parents to stay and raise their children in this neighborhood because they have more quality education options."

CWCKC will focus on providing an economically, culturally, and racially diverse student population with a challenging academic program.

"The new Citizens of the World campus marks a major milestone in our efforts to bring high-quality schools to Midtown, with the intentional purpose of bringing together, under one school roof, members of a community that has been segregated for far too long," CWCKC Executive Director [Kristin Droege](#) said in a release. "We were thoughtful about being accessible to all families in the community because we believe that in order to reach their full potential, students need to interact with people from different backgrounds starting from a young age. Our hope is to raise a generation of children who recognize that our differences make us stronger as a community of learners, so we can build lasting connections across our diverse neighborhoods."

Rob reports on real estate and development.