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List Maker

## Downtown Minneapolis living isn't just for the young and the restless

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Older adults seeking senior living options now can look in downtown Minneapolis near the [Guthrie Theater](#).

Shoreview-based [Ecumen](#) opened [Abiitan Mill City](#) in December, which is the only senior living building in the downtown Minneapolis core (there are facilities in the nearby Loring Park and Elliot Park neighborhoods).

Abiitan has a full bar and restaurant open to the public, it's within easy walking distance of several Minneapolis attractions and amenities, and it has roughly 130 units available to seniors. Another feature is a woonerf, a roadway that will connect it to the Mississippi River parkway that is expected to be completed in 2019.



SUBMITTED BY ECUMEN

Several years ago, Ecumen wanted to build another facility. The senior living operator asked potential residents what they might like and the answer was pretty clear.

"It started with focus groups, [and the response was for something] in the Mill City area," said [Ben Taylor](#), spokesman for Ecumen. "So coming out of that [came] the concept of urban senior living."

For aging seniors, driving can be problematic, so the ability to walk to places for errands is appealing. Others like being able to walk to sporting events, countless restaurants, public transit and fine arts attractions that are downtown.

Carole and [Doug Baker Sr.](#) moved into Abiitan several weeks ago and enjoy the fact that they're not isolated, which can be a problem in suburban senior living facilities.

"Carole [has] a bunch of friends down here," Doug said. (Editor's note: The Bakers son is Ecolab Inc. CEO [Doug Baker Jr.](#))

Abiitan residents also have a variety of social activities available to them. Event coordinators arrange speakers on foreign arts and current events.

"This afternoon, a professor from [St. Catherine University is coming] to talk about China," said [Joyce Field](#), another resident who moved in several weeks ago. "Intellectually, I have found this place to be very good."

Abiitan, which is located at 428 S. Second St., has roughly 85 independent living units and 48 memory care units. The size of units range from studios to more than 2,000 square feet. About 30 spots are occupied.

Taylor said Ecumen hasn't marketed the building aggressively because the facility just opened, and getting all parts of the structure online was step one.

Prices are comparable with other Ecumen locations (roughly \$2,500 a month), but the refundable deposit isn't cheap — it ranges from \$80,000 to \$338,500.

While crime, especially at night, is an issue in parts of downtown, the Mill City neighborhood is relatively safe and the building is secured. Abiitan is also

Ecumen's only location with a full liquor license, which will help build a sense

of community since the bar is open to anyone.

"It's truly a unique concept," Taylor said. "Here, we knew with this location it really integrates [with the existing neighborhood]."

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