



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 3, 2008

CONTACT: Lisa O'Connor, Publicom  
517.487.3700  
Deb Wedley, Gillespie Group  
517.333.4123

**NEW DEVELOPMENT SET TO ROLL OUT THE  
RED CARPET FOR THE FILM INDUSTRY**

*Gillespie Group and Ahptic Film & Digital Partner To Create City Center Studios*

LANSING, Mich. - Lights...camera...action...As part of an overall plan to continue the development and growth of mid-Michigan, plans to build an expansive new film studio in downtown Lansing were announced today by Gillespie Group and Ahptic Film & Digital. The venture, called City Center Studios, is a partnership between the two entities as well as a collaborative effort to bring government, education and business together to create a one-of-a-kind facility for Michigan's burgeoning film industry.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm recently signed into law legislation designed to grow the film industry in Michigan. The aggressive film incentive program is intended to increase the number of productions filmed on location in Michigan, attract production facilities, grow industry activities that support film production, create jobs and train workers for those jobs.

"Across the country and around the world the film industry is a multi-billion dollar industry," said Granholm. "The industry's investment in Michigan will create a new industry and new jobs. We're pleased to welcome City Center Studios and its jobs to Michigan."

As Michigan's Capital City, Lansing is the perfect site for the proposed City Center Studios project. The urban environment has amenities that make it easy and enjoyable to live, work and play – all within walking distance.

"For several years now we've been working hard to transform Lansing into one of the great Midwestern capital cities," Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said. "This project could put Lansing, Michigan in the middle of the national film industry and create hundreds of jobs at the same time. That's a very exciting prospect for our city, our region and the entire state."

"We don't have exact numbers on the additional people we'll need to hire, but we estimate it will be around 20 full-time positions with an additional 100-to-300 high-paying freelance positions. This number could easily expand over time as the business is further developed," said Matt Martyn, executive producer, Ahptic Film & Digital.

-more-

## *City Center Studios, page 2*

The new facility will be located in downtown Lansing on Cedar Street between Michigan Avenue and Saginaw Highway.

“Gillespie Group is committed to the revitalization of downtown Lansing. With film crews, actors and other production people working in the city, retailers, restaurants, hotels and other peripheral businesses are sure to benefit, and the city will continue its trend of realizing a more active and vibrant downtown area,” said Patrick Gillespie, president of Gillespie Group.

Plans for the new 71,000-square-foot facility include:

- Two 24,000-square-foot stages
- Full stage services to include lighting and grip, camera rentals, sound and video services, heavy equipment rentals, storage space, expendables store, set construction, HVAC, security, stage managers, catering, wireless Internet, etc.
- Numerous production office amenities: conference and meeting rooms, wardrobe rooms, freight elevators, phones and high-speed internet, intercom system, copy services, mail drop, janitorial services, furniture rental, concierge services, etc.
- Post and screening facilities with 7,000-square-foot total ADR, Foley and re-recording stages, 4KDI color correction suites, 70-seat screening room with 4K projection on a 30-foot screen, full HD offline/online editorial suites, graphics/animation suites with shared high-speed storage
- Data connectivity directly connected to a metropolitan FiberOptic Gigabit Ethernet, connected to a Tier 1 Data Center for storing production work, secure telephone/intercom service that can be directly configured for specific projects in less than a day

In addition, the plan for City Center Studios includes the opportunity to provide a real life learning experience for students. Discussions are underway with local colleges to hold classes within the facility and offer internships for interested students.

“Both the Colleges of Communication Arts and Sciences and Arts and Letters at Michigan State University are excited about the opportunities that this level of production company provides the city, the state and our MSU students,” said Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon. “Faculty are anxious to explore opportunities for student involvement and creative collaborations.”

The legislation signed by Governor Granholm on April 7, 2008 spurred the creation of City Center Studios. Specifically, the new laws provide a 40 percent tax credit for producing films in Michigan, with an added 2 percent rebate for films produced in core communities, including Lansing.

“This project is one of the most tangible results of the recent film legislation enacted,” said Ken Droz, Manager of Creative and Communications, Michigan Film Office. “It creates the perfect confluence of elements required for film production, such as capital investment, infrastructure and the development of a talented, indigenous workforce.”

-more-

*City Center Studios, page 3*

Founded in 1994, Gillespie Group is a privately held real estate development and management company headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. Gillespie specializes in residential, commercial and mixed use developments and has ownership in more than 15 residential communities and over 600,000 square feet of commercial/mixed use space. Other downtown Lansing developments include Prudden Place Apartments and their 'Stadium District' which was named as the State of Michigan's *Large Community Redevelopment of the Year* in 2007.

Ahptic Film & Digital is a full-service production and post-production company, specializing in 35mm, HD and 4K formats. They have assisted in all capacities on more than 30 feature films. Commercial clients include Audi, Toyota, Dow Corning and VH1. Ahptic also produces music videos including Nelly Furtado's latest, "Do It," which reached #1 on MTV's TRL chart.

###