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Daryl Kunik Announces Principals of TOPO

Leaders in Austin commercial real estate join Kunik to focus on creating spaces that enhance the community

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AUSTIN, TX (May 23, 2022) – Daryl Kunik, principal and founder of full-service commercial real estate development company TOPO, today announced his partnership with [Kim Shipman](#) and [John Morran](#), both long-time leaders in Austin’s business community. Each partner brings decades of relevant experience to the group and, together with Kunik, shares a passion for growing Austin authentically.

Formerly known as Central Austin Management Group, Kunik and the TOPO team have developed dozens of commercial projects in the Austin area and beyond, including Springdale General and Canopy, and are poised for major growth in the coming years.

“Partnering with Kim and John was key to implementing TOPO’s current and future growth,” said Daryl Kunik, Founder and Principal of TOPO. “Kim and John are consummate professionals with decades of experience and exceptional track records, but they also share a fierce passion for Austin – what it was and what we envision it to be decades from now. It is that shared history and united mission – to develop and manage commercial properties that grow, reflect, and enhance the community – that will help us successfully navigate the city’s real estate challenges and provide creative solutions.”

Kim Shipman has worked alongside Kunik as CFO of Central Austin Management Group since 2014, where she navigated Kunik’s portfolio of business and real estate holdings, including Uchi and Loro restaurant concepts, as well as the development of signature projects, including Springdale General. With deep transaction and financial executive experience with companies ranging from PriceWaterhouseCoopers to CapStar, ClearChannel, and DMX, Shipman brings invaluable leadership and organizational skills to TOPO. As a Principal of TOPO, Shipman will focus on the firm’s path for growth, whether pursuing acquisitions, identifying development partners, or leading many of the organizational efforts on execution.

“It’s incredibly gratifying to be involved in the success of so many tenants’ businesses and to be a part of a solutions-oriented approach to real estate,” said Shipman.

John Morran joins TOPO, bringing almost thirty years of multi-faceted commercial real estate experience to the group. Morran met Kunik while both were studying at the University of Texas at Austin’s McComb’s School of Business, and the two remained friends and professional confidants. While Morran began his career with Cencor Realty, the development arm of The Weitzman Group, he committed much of his career to commercial mortgage and real estate investment. Years dedicated to loan origination and servicing include leadership roles at Keystone Mortgage and GMAC Commercial Mortgage. In 2006, Morran and Jim Lemos co-founded Texas Realty Capital, which was purchased by NorthMarq in 2019, where he led the Austin office as managing director until joining TOPO last month.

“While I’ve greatly enjoyed my role in the commercial real estate industry, it has largely been as an intermediary, with little control over the end development,” said John Morran, Principal, TOPO. He continued, “As a principal in TOPO, I now have the opportunity to envision and create opportunities that are both authentic – and important – to the market.”

TOPO is currently developing one of their biggest projects to date, a mixed-use project at the intersection of 183 and Walnut Creek, which was recently approved by city council. The name TOPO is a nod to the word “topography” and how they view the challenges or obstacles presented by a site as opportunities to spark ingenuity and creativity.

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About TOPO

Our name is a nod to TOPOgraphy because we embrace the challenges of a site and turn obstacles into opportunities. We are a full-service commercial real estate development company based in Austin, TX, that develops dynamic properties that are additive to and reflective of the communities in which they are located. We believe that responsible growth means creating spaces that both grow our community and pay tribute to its roots. Our team works with best-in-class architects, tenants, and partners who share our passion for creating destinations for getting started, for thriving and for having fun.

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