

INDUSTRY NEWS > RETAILING & RESTAURANTS

## Alamo Drafthouse to open another Houston location

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Imperial Sugar Land's new \$160 million mixed-use development has landed its first a major tenant.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, an Austin-based dine-in movie theater, will open a nine-screen theater in the master-planned community's Imperial Market retail center, the Houston Chronicle reports.



An Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is slated to open in Imperial Mark in Imperial Sugar Land.... more LYNDSEY AGUILAR

Construction on Imperial Market is slated to begin in March, with an opening date set for the summer of 2017.

Much of the 275,000-square-foot retail center will be built in redeveloped historic structures, such as Imperial Sugar's old three-bay warehouse and sugar silos.

However, the theater will be part of the development's newly constructed buildings.

The project is being developed by James Murnane and Geoffrey Jones. It will also feature a 120-room Aloft Hotel, 86,400 square feet of offices and 275 luxury apartments to be developed by Houston-based Sueba USA Corp.

It will all be located in Houston-based Johnson Development Corp.'s masterplanned community Imperial Sugar Land, at Highway 6 and Highway 90A. Meanwhile, Alamo Drafthouse has plans for another Houston location in the upcoming Regent Square, which was put on hold for several years. The second phase of construction will likely begin soon, including the addition of the theater.

The Regent Square location was slated to be the theater's third location in Houston. Alamo Drafthouse currently has locations in Katy's Mason Park and in northwest Houston's Vintage Park.

Dine-in movie theaters are becoming the go-to entertainment trend in Houston, with locations sprouting up in Cypress, Friendswood, Katy, Webster and other areas.

The first luxury iPic Theater – which features pods of two enclosed and fully reclinable seats with blankets, pillows, storage and dining service – also opened in the River Oaks District this fall.

Click here to watch an interview with iPic's Jim Nowicki discussing the dine-in theater trend in Houston.