

Hundreds celebrate downtown Schnucks opening

St. Louis Business Journal - by [Kelsey Volkmann](#)

Hundreds of people packed into a new gleaming **Schnucks** that officially opened Tuesday as the **only full-service grocery store in downtown** St. Louis.

“This is really a store designed for the loft dwellers and the daytime business population,” said Scott Schnuck, chief executive of **Schnuck Markets Inc.**

Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, St. Louis Deputy Mayor Barbara Geisman, Board of Alderman President Lewis Reed and Comptroller Darlene Green also attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Geisman called the store opening a “real milestone for the city” that expands the street-level retail downtown. As a downtown resident, “I look forward to shopping here and eating better as a result,” she said.

Officially called Culinaria — A Schnucks Market, the family-owned grocery store chain’s new urban concept is 21,000 square feet on the first level and 6,000 square feet on the mezzanine — less than half the size of a typical Schnucks grocery store. It boasts wine tasting, a **Kaldi’s** coffee bar, downtown’s first pharmacy, tables and chairs, prepared meals and a salad bar for the downtown lunch crowd.

The store employs 70 workers but managers brought in more from other locations to serve Tuesday’s crowds.

St. Louis-based **Legacy Building Group**, led by owner Todd Weaver, constructed the \$7 million supermarket, which will be run by **general manager** Tom Collora Jr.

Just minutes after Schnuck cut the ribbon, Shuranda Brookfield, who works for **AT&T**, wasted no time picking up some detergent and a salad for lunch.

“With a 4-year-old daughter, I’ll be able to save time by shopping on my lunch break,” she said. “I’m excited.”

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