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For over 20 years, a building sat vacant on East Lake Street in Minneapolis. After many years of business, this awesome feat of construction closed its doors in 1994. It was an active site that contained the renowned Sears, Roebuck, and Company Warehouse and Store. A property known as a beacon of opportunity was now desolate and abandoned.

Today, with the help of many supporters, the building is open and ready for business! In 2006, the Midtown Global Market became tenants of this historical location. This unique market includes several small businesses that have brought energy and new life to this area. These establishments have great satisfaction in serving their communities and bringing customers excellent products and services.

If you have never visited the Midtown Global Market, I recommend that you check it out soon. It is a fun place to visit and behold something new. For me, the Midtown Global Market experience reminded me of my time going to the Minnesota State Fair—without the added entrance fee. This Market has an abundance of food choices and many things to notice.

**Food**

If you are tired of the same old foods, the Market will have many food varieties to satisfy your “adventurous appetite.” There are tasty foods with from a diversity of ethnic cuisines, including Middle Eastern, Korean, Moroccan and Cambodian. There are also many interesting menu options for you to try, including “The McFly” from Taco Cat and camel burgers from Safari Express.

If you prefer familiar foods, the Market has many delights for you. Andy’s Garage has burgers, sandwiches and wraps. There are also many healthy choices available. For instance, Fresco’s Pasta Bar has a great salad selection. If you love breakfast, La Loma, known for their tamales, has an all-day breakfast menu. There are also many value meal options. Los Ocampo, for instance, has daily specials for the weekdays.

The Midtown Global Market also features meals from award-winning restaurateurs. Jakeeno’s Pizza and Pasta received a recognition certificate in the Market for their soup. Restaurants, such as Manny’s Tortas, had articles in well-known publications including the *Star Tribune* and the *Best of the Twin Cities*.

**Treats**

If you have a “sweet tooth,” the Market has many delicious treats for you. The Salty Tart Bakery has cakes, cookies, cupcakes and their “World Famous Coconut Macaroons.” Grand Italian Ice and Custard gets great reviews for their homemade ice cream. Pham’s Rice Bowl provides an assortment of bubble teas. If you are a coffee fanatic, the Market has Mapps Coffee and Tea.

**Grocery**

Once you are ready to leave, the Market sells items you can take home. The Produce Exchange stocks many organic foods and cleaning supplies. They also have fresh fruits and vegetables available. Holy Land Brand’s grocery has a meat showcase and an impressive menu selection. Grass Roots Gourmet carries food from local farms and the “best apple dip ever.” Most restaurants in the market had take-home products.

**Gifts and Souvenirs**

Valentine’s Day is coming soon. You might find that special gift at the Midtown Global Market. The Market has jewelry, crafts, pottery, bags, sunglasses and much more. Rituals is a cosmetics store with natural beauty products and soaps. The Art Shoppe displays many paintings and photographs.

There is also global merchandise. Simba Craftware sells authentic home decorations by African Artists. There are also clothing items from various cultures. For instance, there are Tibetan dresses, Native American tops and fashions from East Africa. Viewing these items will help you learn and appreciate the diversity of Minnesota.

**Things to do and see**

The Market is known for their events and happenings. For the Chinese New Year, there was a Lion Dance Performance. There are also live music performances at various times of the year. Various artists and writing groups have presentations in the Market. There are contests and programs for the children.

If you are looking for something to do or a new place to go, the Midtown Global Market is a great destination. The place has a great atmosphere with appealing lights and colors. It is a great place for a meal and conversations with friend and family. There are plenty of interesting things to look at; including Eastlake Craft Brewery’s brewing process and Hot Indian Food’s diagram for Bollywood Dancing Techniques. You can also get green tips from Do it Green! from their educational kiosk.

The Midtown Global Market is at 920 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Free parking is available on the street. Ramp users can receive one hour of free parking when they make a purchase from the Market and validate their ticket. The Market is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Sundays, the Market is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Some businesses have extended hours. For more information, please visit their website www.midtownglobalmarket.org.