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Plans for Encore's fourth apartment building unveiled

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ENCORE

Eileen Pope, senior vice president for community development banking at Bank of America, presents information about Tempo at a community meeting on July 29.

TAMPA - More than 60 people came this week to see the unveiling of Tempo, the fourth apartment building planned for Encore. Architects with St. Petersburg-based Bessolo Design Group showed off their proposed design for the multi-family apartment complex at a community gathering Tuesday at The Ella, an apartment building for seniors that opened last year at Encore. Encore is a planned mixed-use, mixed-income community that replaces Central Park Village, a 1950s-era public housing complex torn down in 2007. It is a \$425-\$450 million project north of downtown along Cass Street, Nebraska Avenue and Central Avenue. "We really think we have something here that is unique," said architect Kevin Bessolo. The Tampa Housing Authority and the Banc of America Community Development Corp. together are building the \$41 million project. The design includes a four-story parking garage with seven floors of apartments wrapped around it. It is intended to evoke the musical history of the area as well as the architectural characteristics of nearby St. James Episcopal Church. The 90-year-old sanctuary is slated for conversion to a black history museum. Encore is in the heart of what once was a thriving business and entertainment district along Central Avenue where Ray Charles recorded and Ella Fitzgerald performed. Amenities at the 203-unit Tempo complex include a swimming pool with outdoor theater, a two-story clubhouse with a fitness center, community space, a kitchen, a library, a computer center and game rooms, a WiFi cafe, multi-purpose rooms, a non-denominational chapel, music rehearsal rooms and exhibit space. Apartments with one to four bedrooms will be for families, individuals and couples. Rents will range from less than \$400 a month to more than \$1,300 a month. On the ground floor there will be apartments with porches. "We really want to encourage interaction and community involvement," Bessolo said. The complex will meet energy-efficient, environmentally friendly building guidelines. The complex will take about 15 months to build with an expected construction start in 2014, said Eileen Pope, senior vice president for community development banking at Bank of America. ksteele@tampatrib.com (813) 259-7652