

Local 432 nearing re-open date, hosts Friday show

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By [Chad Swiatecki](#) | [Flint Journal](#)



File | The Flint Journal Young fans gather for the last night of concerts at Local 432 in March of 2005. The Local is reopening soon.

For the first show under the Flint Local 432 banner after a long hiatus, organizers of the all-ages concert venue decided to showcase the talents of one its most-tenured performers. So while Stephen Wisniewski might not look like an old timer — he's barely brushing into his mid-30s — the Empty Orchestra front man is something of a sage presence among Flint-area music fans.

"Stephen has pretty much an unbroken lineage from the very first days of the Local, from his days with Minefield Hopscotch through so many great bands and now with Empty Orchestra," said Joel Rash, founder and co-organizer of the Flint Local 432. "When it came time to start putting some shows together as we ready the new space, having him play was an easy choice."

Preview

- What: Flint Local 432 presents the Empty Orchestra record release show, with Shores, Crappy Future, and George Orwell and the Flying Typewriters

Friday's show is at downtown Flint's Lunch Studio cafe instead of the nearby but under-renovation Local. The show marks the beginning of a month of programming organized by the space to get its name back in the public as it inches toward moving back into a permanent home in January or February.

The series will feature live music as well as film forums, variety shows and arts workshops, all of which will exist as part of the programming schedule in the new space as Rash and other organizers try to make the Local an active arts space more than two or three nights a week, as it behaved for years as purely a concert venue.

- When: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2

- Where: The Lunch Studio, 444 S. Saginaw St., Flint

- Admission: \$5

Info:

flintlocal432.tumblr.com,
facebook.com/FlintLocal432

Wisniewski, a Flushing native and Flint resident, said he's looking forward to the show that will celebrate the release of his Americana-roots band's second album, "One More Time, All Together Now" and kick off activity again for the all-ages live music operation he began playing shows for nearly 20 years ago.

The Flint Local 432 opened in the early '90s as a venue for all-ages alternative, punk and heavy metal shows, operating out of a handful of downtown spaces, including the former Economy Building (now the Brown Sugar Cafe), part of what's now the Rowe Building and the now-closed Metropolis nightclub. It last operated in 2005 and is finishing renovations on a new 250-capacity space on Harrison Street near First Street.

"It feels fantastic to play a show that's for the Local and it will feel even better when we can do things in the new space when that gets done soon," Wisniewski said. "Getting it back open is something we've all been waiting years for, and there's so much history that goes along with having it there as a place where you know shows are going to take place consistently.

"It provides a center of gravity for bands because you might hear about random shows that are going on, something like a house party or something at a hall, but there's no one place where you know that all-ages shows are always going to be happening. For bands and music fans, that's huge."

With heavy construction on plumbing, electrical and ventilation completed, Local organizers are waiting to complete city inspections before they do final painting, construction of the stage, sound system installation and other finishing touches needed before opening. Rash said he hopes late January or February will see the space operating as a music venue first and then gradually expand its offerings, thanks to a recent grant that promotes collaborative arts programming.

"With the date to open kind of up in the air, we figured why not put on some stuff with the Local name on it and do it in a collaborative way with a downtown Flint business like the Lunch Studio, which was one of the first homes of the Local back when it was the Capitol Cafe," he said.

