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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Farming Comes to Historic Downtown Bryan

Local gardening enthusiasts interested in learning new and innovative ways to grow their own produce in urban spaces have a new resource in Historic Downtown Bryan. Advent GX, a tourism and economic development company, has partnered with the Downtown Bryan Association and Beautiful Abilities to bring a distributed urban farm to downtown. The Distributed Urban Farming Initiative(DUFi), is a program that is using local agriculture to support community and economic development by focusing on good food, good health and good growth in the local community.

The pilot demonstration garden is complete and open for special events and by appointment for community members to see what's growing and how unusual planting methods are being used to grow food in small places. Advent GX plans to expand DUFi to vacant and underused lots throughout downtown and is currently fundraising through kickstarter.com to cover the cost of resources needed for the expansion. Kickstarter is a funding platform that connects generous people with creative projects. The project funding goal is \$15,000 which must be raised within the 30 day campaign period that will end December 9th.

DUFi is part of Advent GX's approach to creating sustainable economic development solutions for communities by using innovation and entrepreneurship in support of cultural and heritage preservation. By partnering with existing organizations and creating gardens with multiple uses, Advent GX is building a model that can be replicated in other rural and underserved communities.

The DUFi approach makes use of underutilized or vacan lots by distributing gardens in, and around Historic Downtown Bryan. In doing so, Advent GX hopes to help preserve the character of downtown, offer a unique experience and provide easy access to information and demonstrations about growing healthy food. The first demonstration garden is located in the Garden Patio of the Federal Building where Advent GX owns and operated the Innovation Underground.

Once home to a United States Post Office, the Internal Revenue Service and the local Federal Bureau of Investigation office, the Federal Building has long been a part of the downtown experience. As downtown Bryan continues to transform and become an arts and cultural hub for the region, Advent GX is repurposing the Federal Building to support economic vitality. Advent GX established the Innovation Underground, a

privately owned business incubator housing local start-up companies, in the basement of the building. SEAD Gallery, is the centerpiece of the first floor experience and the Distributed Urban Farming Initiative (DUFi) pilot garden is located in the and around the exterior of the building.

To support the financial sustainability of the distributed gardens, Advent GX will lease the spaces as venues for meetings, receptions and special events.

The Downtown Bryan Association's mission is to revitalize and maintain the commercial and aesthetic viability of the historic district of Downtown Bryan.

Beautiful Abilities is a start-up company located in the Innovation Underground that provides a network of sustainable services and resources for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Founded in 2004 as a spin-out from Texas A&M University, Advent GX is a tourism and economic development solutions provider with practices in economic analysis, innovation & entrepreneurship, tourism development, and marketing & creative services.

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