

RETAIL

Neiman Marcus executive departs for experiential retail

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Neiman Marcus SVP leaves after 28 years. Image credit: Neiman Marcus

By STAFF REPORTS

Department store chain Neiman Marcus is losing its senior vice president Ken Downing, who spent 28 years with the company, to an experiential retail group.

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The group behind famous malls such as the Mall of America and the upcoming American Dream super mall in New Jersey, Triple Five, has named Mr. Downing as its new chief creative officer. Mr. Downing has announced his departure from Neiman Marcus and will take his new position this summer.

New frontier

Triple Five Group is looking to ramp up its management as it undergoes significant changes, with the future opening of the American Dream retail complex in East Rutherford, NJ.

Department store chain Barneys New York is investing in the future New Jersey mall American Dream for its only flagship in the state.

Set to open later this year, American Dream will be located in the Meadowlands Complex and host luxury retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue and Herms in addition to a variety of theme parks. Barneys' location in the complex will act as its New Jersey flagship, complete with its iconic Freds at Barneys restaurant ([see story](#)).



Rendering of the American Dream complex in New Jersey. Image credit: Triple Five Group

"Ken's appointment as chief creative officer for Triple Five underscores our commitment to providing guests with the highest level of service and style," said Don Ghermezian, president of American Dream, in a statement. "He is one of the most well-known and well-respected executives in the luxury sector, and his leadership will only serve to strengthen our position of providing one-of-a-kind, world class destinations.

"Ken has a proven track record of working with designers and curating premiere consumer experiences mixing the best in fashion, art, culture and design," he said.

Mr. Downing leaves Neiman Marcus after joining in 1990, and becoming senior vice president and fashion director in 2006. He is responsible for many close relationships the retailer has developed with fashion designers throughout the industry.

"It has been a monumental experience being part of Neiman Marcus for so many years," Mr. Downing said to *Women's Wear Daily*. "The invaluable relationships I've forged with colleagues, brand partners and certainly my customers will always be something I cherish personally and professionally.

"As I take on the next chapter in an industry I have been proud to be a part of, I look forward to new challenges and experiences," he said.

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