Donner Lofts is a mixed-use development that combines workforce efficiency studios and 1-bedroom apartments with ground-floor commercial retail space in downtown San Jose. Twenty units are reserved for the formerly homeless who receive extensive supportive services. Donner Lofts started construction in late 2014 and welcomed residents in summer 2016.

Located on the site of the former Donner-Houghton estate, a City Landmark until its demolition after a fire in 2007, the community is named in honor of Eliza Donner, a surviving member of the Donner Party. Living up to its namesake, Donner Lofts transforms a blighted corner lot near City Hall into high-quality housing and retail shops that enhances the neighborhood. The community’s well-appointed apartments provides stable homes that are affordable to its residents – many of whom hold jobs that are critically important to a thriving downtown community. Donner Lofts achieved LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is the winner of a Structures Award for Best Affordable Residential Project from the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

Residents of Donner Lofts receive a full suite of on site amenities as well as robust services and programs, coordinated by MidPen Services in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Department of Behavioral Health Services. Donner Lofts meets downtown San Jose’s need for small-unit affordable housing, along with the overwhelming need for permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals.

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