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Golden Globes, Emmy statues to be assembled at new Grove facility



David Moritz, founder of Society Awards, stands near some of his company's products at his New York office. The business, which is building a facility in Grove, provides statues for the Golden Globes, the Emmys, the MTV Movie Awards and other high-profile awards shows. Courtesy

By KYLE ARNOLD World Staff Writer

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Correction: This story originally contained incomplete information on the manufacturing location of Society Awards' statues. The story has been corrected.

GROVE - An Oklahoma native is bringing some of Hollywood's most coveted hardware back home to be assembled.

New York-based Society Awards, which provides statues for the Golden Globes, the Emmys and the MTV Movie Awards, is building a 12,000-square-foot facility in Grove where it will assemble the high-end trophies.

The company's founder and CEO, David Moritz, attended Grove High School and looked to

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the northeastern Oklahoma city when he needed a place with ample warehouse space for his company.

"We do most of the award shows," Moritz said. "We usually assemble them, engrave them or add the names, then send them out to the winners."



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The building is expected to be completed in early August and could be providing trophies for next year's awards ceremonies in the coming months. Initially it will have four employees.

Society Awards has 12 employees at its New York City headquarters, where it designs and assembles custom trophies for entertainment industry events, including "Dancing with the Stars," the American Music Awards and the MTV Music Video Awards.

In 2007, Society Awards redesigned the Golden Globes awards to make the statues "sturdier and more visually appealing," the Hollywood Foreign Press Association said, and the firm performed similar work for MTV's iconic Music Video Awards Moon Man statuette in 2008.

The statues are manufactured in China and the United States, and finishing touches are applied before they're distributed to awards show organizers.

For the awards shows themselves, winners are given blank trophies and can keep them and get them engraved later. But usually, Moritz said, they give the trophy back and are sent a finished product later by Society Awards.

Many of the statuettes are made from precious metals, crystal and marble; the Golden Globes statues feature 24-karat gold plating.

Moritz graduated from Grove High School in 1999 after moving from New Jersey. He went to law school in New York and started practicing entertainment law, where he noticed a need in the awards business. He founded Society Awards five years ago.

His first big deal was a redesign contract with the Golden Globes, followed by agreements

to make statuettes for other award ceremonies.

Moritz looked to Grove when his company needed more space and said he also wanted a location with more convenient access to the entire nation. He considered other areas, such as Chicago, but Moritz said he came across five acres of land in Grove and a favorable loan from the Bank of Grove to construct the building.

"The city really seemed to welcome us, and it seems like they're excited that we're coming," he said.

Moritz said he will always keep New York as the firm's headquarters because of the exposure and convenience of being in an entertainment capital, but the new Grove facility will provide nice options.

"We'll have a retreat once or twice a year down in Oklahoma," he said. "We can spend some time out shooting or on the lake - the things you can't do in New York."

Society Awards

Product: Entertainment industry awards

Headquarters: New York

New facility: Grove

Employees: Four in Grove, 12 in New York

Founder, CEO: David Moritz

Original Print Headline: And the winner is

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