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C3 Presents buys Austin nightclub in long-awaited deal

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The popular Emo's East nightclub sold to C3 Presents LLC Monday night for an undisclosed amount of money. Austin impresario Frank Hendrix sold the brand and its assets to the national event titan after weeks of negotiations and would-be closings that fell apart at the last minute.

The sale closed finally and was confirmed by Chris Skyles, a principal of **SkylesBayne** Co., who handled the complex deal. Though Skyles specializes in tenant representation, he's had a longstanding relationship with Hendrix, selling other real estate over the years.

The club is located at 2015 E. Riverside Drive. The 15,000-square-foot building was not part of the sale, but instead the deal included the transfer of a long-term lease, which was approved by the landowners, Skyles said.

"This is undoubtedly the hardest deal I have ever worked on," he said.

Hendrix was recently in the news announcing that the popular Antone's music club in downtown Austin would be moving around the corner from Emo's East. He cited parking as a major issue with the downtown site.

It is unknown whether Hendrix is just a spokesman for Antone's or a part owner in that enterprise. It's also unknown what his future plans are now that he's sold Emo's East. The venue originally opened in Houston as a punk rock bar in the late 1980s. It expanded to Austin in the early 1990s, and for many years was located at East Sixth Street and Red River. Skyles sold that property for Hendrix several years ago, when a larger space with better acoustics became a priority.

C3 Presents also has been in the news lately. The company, which organizes the Austin City Limits Music Festival and Lollapalooza among many events, was in charge of President Barack Obama's inauguration in Washington, D.C. last month. C3 Presents is the third largest event promoter in the country behind Live Nation and AEG Live.