

CITY TO JAZZ THINGS UP

Hepcats – hell yeah, there were hipsters around before the current bunch arrived – should mark early to mid-June in their calendars. That’s when Doo-Bop Jazz Bar plans to launch its new 435sq m venue at 101 Edward St in Brisbane city.

The venture’s owner is James Stevens, chief executive of Go To Court Lawyers.

The double-storey digs will operate at street level as a jazz cafe by day and a piano bar by night, with a traditional live performance basement jazz bar downstairs. Jazz lovers can look forward to some late nights as well as dinner and a show, with 3am earmarked as closing time.

“The whole atmosphere will be sophisticated, yet Queensland,” Stevens says. “Not elitist – casual, but with that jazz feel.”

Stevens has been visiting clubs around the world as research and says Brisbane has plenty in common with New Orleans, the spiritual home of jazz.

“It’s a river city and has a subtropical climate, there are a lot of similarities,” he says. “We want to promote less of a Melbourne jazz club feel and foster more of a Queensland identity.”

The hunt is on for a chef to head the kitchen, but Stevens says the food will be casual and very tasty. It may also tap into the Italian/New Orleans connection.