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July 15, 2021

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PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR DOWNTOWN RESTAURANTS WITH RESTAURANT RECOVERY GRANTS

- **LATEST PROGRAM AWARDS OVER \$291K IN RECOVERY GRANTS TO 37 RESTAURANTS**
- **GRANTS WILL BE USED FOR HIRING INCENTIVES, PAYROLL, RENT, MARKETING, AND MORE**
- **GRANTS HELP RESTAURANTS SEVERELY IMPACTED BY COVID19 PANDEMIC TO REBOUND**

Downtown Pittsburgh – The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership today shared details of **Restaurant Recovery Grants** it has distributed, which will bring to a close the Richard King Mellon Foundation restaurant recovery funding the organization received in December 2020, with additional support from the City of Pittsburgh, an anonymous donor and other individual and corporate contributions.

The grant program is the latest the PDP developed over the last year to support independently owned Downtown restaurants severely impacted by the pandemic. These efforts ranged from a Shelter Support Initiative, which provided 9,000 meals from three Downtown restaurants to shelter residents 7 days a week through mid-March, to the Downtown Community Takeout, in partnership with 412 Rescue, which allowed the PDP to purchase 1225 meals per week from 10 Downtown restaurants and serve almost 71,000 meals to individuals experiencing food insecurity. Running for over 6 months, these cornerstone programs generated more than \$630,000 in economic impact for the restaurant community. The PDP also introduced several other supportive initiatives including the Valentines themed 'Spread the Love' campaign, 'Good Eats Downtown', which offered 25% off participating restaurants Downtown on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in April, as well as the ongoing '[Good Eats Outdoors](#)' campaign which promotes the outdoor dining options currently available at over 30 Downtown restaurants.

The new grant program provides 37 Downtown restaurants with funding, which range in amounts from \$3.5K to \$17K, with an average grant award of almost \$8K. The total amount of grants distributed to restaurants was \$291,300.

The restaurants submitted applications in May, providing information on the impact of the pandemic on their business, as well as exactly how they planned to utilize grant awards. The PDP based the awards on pre-pandemic revenue levels and distributed the funds earlier this month.

The PDP noted that the grants awarded would be used for such things as; employee recruitment/ hiring incentives, payroll, rent and physical improvements, marketing/advertising, outdoor dining installations/enhancements, online platform development, safety and PPE, delivery service, as well as operating or service delivery innovations.

Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the PDP noted the critical nature of continuing to support the Downtown restaurant industry; “While we are seeing a strong recovery in the making, the pandemic has had a significant impact on this critical industry. The restaurant community has played an important role in bringing people into Downtown and enhancing the vibrancy of our streets, from outdoor dining to live music, these are the things that encourage guests from near and far to visit. The trickle-down effects of their health and well-being is enormous.”

“The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership resolved early in the pandemic that they were not going to stand idly by while our Downtown restaurants were decimated by the pandemic,” said Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. “The Foundation has supported their efforts eagerly – because the people who work in our Downtown restaurants deserve the help. And because all of us need our restaurants to succeed.”

The Pittsburgh restaurant industry has been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and disproportionately so in Downtown Pittsburgh, as businesses have seen customers dwindle to 10-15% of 2019 numbers. This represents an estimated \$29 million loss in total revenue – a 75% decline in 2020 – in just the restaurants that received grants through this program. Economic growth in the Downtown restaurant scene had been significant pre-pandemic, but Covid19 permanently shuttered several Downtown restaurants, and created dire circumstances for others that could impact Downtown for years to come. The grant program provides a financial buffer for restaurants, supporting their ongoing rebound and recovery.

“The PDP has been able to find creative ways to, not only help Pittsburgh’s restaurant industry, but also to provide incentives for people to visit downtown again, and help the less fortunate,” said Melissa Maffei, General Manager and Event Coordinator at Talia, a Downtown restaurant serving modern Italian cuisine on William Penn Way. “These programs have had such a great impact in revitalizing our community, and because of their efforts we have been able to retain our staff and continue to serve our guests and neighbors.”

Lucas Piatt, President of Piatt Sotheby’s International Realty and Chairman of the PDP Board, expressed his appreciation to the Richard King Mellon Foundation for providing the grant at such a critical time, stating, “the Richard King Mellon Foundation recognized that the PDP would provide the framework and planning for critical actions that would both amplify impact and sustain our Downtown restaurants at a vital moment. We’re incredibly grateful for their commitment to our Downtown businesses, and for the trust they placed in the PDP to execute.”

A complete list of restaurants offering outdoor dining options Downtown, is available [here](#). To stay up to date all Summer on live music and performances at the Allegheny Overlook, Market Square, Penn Avenue, as well as other events and attractions, go to DowntownPittsburgh.com, or find the PDP on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @DowntownPitt.

RESTAURANTS RECEIVING GRANT AWARDS

1. Alihan's Mediterranean Cuisine
2. Arepittas LLC
3. August Henry’s Inc
4. Bae Bae's Cafe
5. Bae Bae's Kitchen
6. Boulevard Deli
7. Christos Mediterranean Grille
8. Eadie's Market and Catering
9. Emerson's
10. Gaucho Parrilla Argentina

11. gi-jin
12. HARRIS Grill
13. Joe and Pie Café and Pizza
14. Las Velas Mexican Restaurant
15. Mamma Lucia Pizzeria
16. Market Street Grocery
17. Millie's Homemade
18. Mitchell's Bar & Grill
19. Palmyra
20. Penn Society
21. Proper Brick Oven & Tap Room
22. Redbeard's on Sixth Sports Bar & Grill
23. Rosewater Middle Eastern Grill
24. Sammy's Famous Corned Beef
25. Scarpino
26. SFBC Pittsburgh, LLC.
27. Sienna Mercato
28. Sree's Foods
29. Standard Market & Pint House
30. tākō
31. Talia
32. The Apollo Cafe
33. The Simple Greek
34. The Speckled Egg
35. The Warren Bar and Burrow
36. Vallozzi's Pittsburgh
37. Yuzu Kitchen

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook

