

Press Release

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***Pub Operator Chosen for the Bar at WEDI's Downtown Bazaar --
Newest Incubator for the Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)***

April 19, 2023. Joe Joy has been selected as the operator for the bar at the Downtown Bazaar in Buffalo's Theater District. Lulu's Pub will be the first bar WEDI has incubated in since establishing its West Side Bazaar small business incubator on Grant Street in 2011.

The West Side Bazaar was closed by a fire on September 20, 2022 leaving 11 incubating entrepreneurs without a place of business. In January 007 Chinese graduated to its own brick and mortar space in Hamburg, NY, where it is thriving.

Formerly at the West Side Bazaar, Abyssina Ethiopian Cuisine, Nile River Restaurant and Pattaya Street Food will now be in the Downtown Bazaar. Pinoy Boi (Filipino food) is joining them at Downtown Bazaar. The 5th and final restaurant space is filled, that new restaurateur's opening date is forthcoming. West Side Bazaar retailers Asian Boutique (formerly Gadget Bazaar) and Flavia's Business are also re-establishing at Downtown Bazaar.

"WEDI is excited to be part of the downtown post-pandemic revival," said Executive Director Carolynn Welch. "We expect to be busy with returned office workers, theater goers and theater staffs, and all the people who know us and seek our delicious, memorable food and retail."

In a competitive bidding process, Joy was selected because he is incubating his small business, just as the restaurants and retail shopkeepers are.

Lulu's will occupy the 51-foot bar at the 617 Main Street entrance of the 9,000-square-foot space that was the Expo Market food hall until the pandemic closed it in March 2020. The bar boasts 24 taps, seating for 20, and an outside seating area on Main Street.

The Downtown Bazaar is temporarily closed due to deficiencies in the fire suppression system that the building's landlord is remedying.

Lulu's planned offerings are still being formed, as is his opening date which depends on the issue of his liquor licence.

VISION

All residents of Western New York can succeed and thrive in a culturally inclusive community.

MISSION

WEDI strengthens communities through a continuum of educational and financial resources, removing systemic barriers to economic equity for all Western New Yorkers.