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About the Fire

The West Side Bazaar (WSB) currently at 25 Grant Street had an accidental fire on September 20 at 6:30 AM. No one was in the WSB at the time, and no one was hurt.

The fire, water, and smoke damage is significant. News outlets have speculated about the financial damage, but we do not have an accurate, official estimate yet. Insurance adjusters are working to determine a cost estimate that will inform how we move forward.

About Our Community

For most, the Bazaar is their primary source of income and how they sustain themselves and their families. 11 businesses were completely wiped out. Few have emergency resources or reserves for times like these.

Our staff is assessing how best to help each individual business owner make the best plan for themselves and their individual businesses, navigate insurance claims, and execute paperwork. Almost every business owner came to Bazaar that day to see the damages and to support one another. The businesses at the Bazaar created a natural community hub -- customers, neighbors, and supporters have rallied to offer support in many forms.

About Our Plans

We await information from our and the business owners' insurers. Only with an accurate picture of what must happen to restore the building can we assess how to move forward to rebuild.

In the meantime, we are vetting possible locations for our chefs and shop owners across the city -- everything from church kitchens, to shuttered restaurants, to restaurants offering guest spots for a chef. We know customers want to patronize WSB businesses to help our owners get back on their feet.

There is information about WSB owners and fire aftermath planning on our website and daily on social media.

About Fundraising & Our Donors

As of Sept. 27, 359 new donations from first-time donors have poured in from Maine to Missouri, New Jersey to Toronto. The majority are modest – \$10, \$25, \$50 denominations and almost all are first time donors.

The Capital Campaign for the new West Side Bazaar at 1432 Niagara Street continues in earnest. It is essential WEDI build a modern Bazaar that fulfills our goals of having a true cultural hub with room for more businesses, more customers, and more programming.

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