



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE: DowntownDC BID to Host Outdoor Dining Experience

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Join the DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) on Friday, Sept. 25 for the opening of the “DowntownDC Dine Out on 8th Street” destination, weekend “streatery” in support of downtown’s hospitality industry. The streatery will operate every Friday from 5:00pm – 10:00pm and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00pm – 10pm and will help local restaurants expand their outdoor dining capacity during a five weekend-long destination dining experience.

“DowntownDC Dine Out on 8th Street” will run from Friday, Sept. 25 through Sunday, Oct. 25. It will be located on 8th Street between H & K Streets Northwest.

The streatery enables participating restaurants to expand beyond their facility’s usual parameters into temporary lane and road closures that facilitate well-ventilated, safe dining options that adhere to the District’s social distancing requirements during Phase Two of the city’s re-opening strategy.

“The health of DowntownDC’s hospitality industry lies at the heart of DowntownDC’s success,” said BID President and CEO Neil Albert. “We know that restaurants have suffered tremendously during the public health crisis, and we want to give them the best opportunities to survive the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to be working with local restaurants and city officials to offer a unique dining experience that will allow DowntownDC restaurants to safely serve diners and reunite them with the amazing flavors of our community.”

The multi-restaurant, pop-up dining room will be a table-service, reservation-based format. Diners should make reservations directly with participating restaurants, either ahead of time or onsite. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced, and masks must be worn when not eating or drinking. Table capacity is limited to a maximum of 6 people.

Diners will have the option to enjoy a wide array of cuisines from DowntownDC restaurants. Featured restaurants include Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar, Olivia, Modena, and Cranes. Thanks to a partnership with the DMV Food Truck Association, a new collection of four food trucks from among the association’s over one hundred members will take part in the streatery each week, serving their freshly prepared meals to seated diners. Participating food trucks include Puddin’ and Pepe by José Andrés.

“We were looking for a way to emulate the success of streateries in other cities as a dining destination and as a job generator,” said Cuba Libre Restaurant & Rum Bar CEO Barry Gutin. “Generally, such outdoor dining rooms are set directly in front of a group of restaurants on a street already known as a dining destination, but downtown restaurants are generally not bunched together, so we needed to artificially create the critical mass of restaurant experiences necessary to attract diners from throughout the Washington DC metro area.”

Diners will be able to select from tasting menus, limited or full a la carte selections and specialty offerings, depending upon the restaurant.

“DowntownDC Dine Out on 8th is an amazing opportunity to bring business back downtown. With the offices around our neighborhood being mostly empty, business has been very slow,” said Cranes chef and partner Pepe Moncayo. “We’re very happy to be a part of this initiative as it allows us to bring back members of our team who desperately need work.”

“DowntownDC Dine Out on 8th Street” is largely made possible through the financial contributions of its sponsors—Bacardi Limited and PepsiCo Incorporated.

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About the DowntownDC BID

The DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) was founded in 1997 and is a private non-profit organization that provides capital improvements, resources and research that keep the BID area clean, safe, economically and environmentally strong and accessible. The DowntownDC BID is a catalyst, facilitator and thought leader in diversifying the economy, promoting public/private partnerships and enhancing the DowntownDC experience for all. This special district, where property owners have agreed to tax themselves to fund services, encompasses a 138-block area of approximately 520 properties from Massachusetts Avenue on the north to Constitution Avenue on the south, and from Louisiana Avenue on the east to 16th Street on the west. For more information, visit DowntownDC.org or follow us on Twitter [@downtowndcbid](https://twitter.com/downtowndcbid).

