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Next Phase of the Ground Floor Growth Initiative to bring grocery, restaurant to Downtown Columbus

Phase II of the City-sponsored Ground Floor Growth Initiative includes two new businesses

(Columbus, OH) – The next phase of Ground Floor Growth businesses will include Dos Hermanos and Toro Meat Market, which are expected to open in fall 2025 in the Gay Street District of Downtown Columbus.

An initiative led by Columbus City Councilmember Nicholas J. Bankston alongside Downtown Columbus, Inc. and the Columbus Empowerment Corporation, [Ground Floor Growth](#) is designed to uplift small, local, minority- and women-owned businesses in the community.

“With over 13,000 residents now calling Downtown home, we must ensure they have access to everyday necessities, quality food, and spaces that feel like home. Toro Meat Market moving into a residential conversion project speaks directly to that need. It reflects our vision of a Downtown that isn’t just a place people work—it’s where they live, grow and thrive,” said Councilmember Nicholas J. Bankston.

“We’re building a reflective Downtown—one that represents the soul of Columbus. And the soul of this city is diverse. It’s resilient. It’s a melting pot of culture, creativity, and innovation. This is the Columbus Way. There is no unity without community. The Ground Floor Growth Initiative is making sure that as our city grows, our communities—and the people in them—are centered in that growth.”

Toro Meat Market will be opening its fifth location at 150 E. Gay St. on the ground floor of the Continental Tower—a major office-to-residential conversion in the heart of the Gay Street District. This new location will offer a gourmet market experience that blends culture, convenience, and community. Known for its high-quality meats and specialty products imported from Central America and Mexico, this new location will also offer prepared foods, a full-service bakery, fresh produce, essential household items, coffee shop and bar.

“More than just a butcher or a market, this is going to be our most dynamic location yet, bringing bold flavor, fresh ingredients, and a welcoming atmosphere to the Downtown Columbus community,” said Fernando Alcauter, president of Toro Meat Market. “We want this to be a neighborhood hub—where residents and visitors can shop, eat and gather all in one vibrant location.”

With a well-established presence around Downtown at locations like Columbus Commons during Food Truck Food Court, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and the North Market, Dos Hermanos will bring their authentic Mexican cuisine to the heart of Downtown Columbus with a permanent store at 16 N. High St., which is slated to open this fall. After starting with a single food truck, Dos Hermanos has grown to be a fan-favorite brand in Central Ohio, offering authentic Mexican cuisine, inspired by Oaxaca, including tacos, enchiladas, burritos and more.

"Dos Hermanos is thrilled to open our doors in the heart of downtown Columbus, an area full of energy, creativity and culture," said Dos Hermanos Owner & CEO, Lisa Gutierrez. "We're proud to contribute to the local culinary scene and look forward to serving both longtime residents and new visitors."

The Ground Floor Growth Program was a direct outcome from the 2022 Downtown Strategic Plan, where the community asked for more retail reflective of the rich diversity of Columbus to better serve residents and workers in the neighborhood.

"When there are synergies with our small businesses, it just makes everything click," said Downtown Columbus, Inc. President Amy Taylor. "The community asked for a wider variety of retail offerings and more places to pick up everyday essentials. Dos Hermanos and Toro Meat Market help fill the needs of a fast-growing residential neighborhood, while providing a great amenity to a growing Downtown workforce."

The Ground Floor Growth Initiative was designed to provide opportunities for small businesses by filling vacant ground floor retail space in the Gay Street District, further transforming Downtown into a diverse marketplace. The program will ultimately support up to 10 emerging businesses by offering resources including rent discounts and technical assistance, ensuring their success as they become integral parts of the Downtown Columbus community.

Not only will the initial businesses in the program be walkable to one another but will also complement the many long-standing Downtown businesses that have thrived in this area, filling in key gaps in the Downtown retail landscape.

These two businesses will complement Phase I businesses, Three Bites Bakery, Black Kahawa Coffee, Quality Wellness Performance & Coaching and Restalgic Atelier, to occupy vacant ground floor retail spaces and add diverse offerings for Downtown residents, workers and visitors.

Ground Floor Growth Businesses:

- Three Bites Bakery and Little Cat Boba
 - 12 E. Broad St. | Opened August 2024
- Black Kahawa Coffee Roastery + Bar
 - 2 E. Broad St. | Opened December 2025
- Evolverie Clothing
 - 107 N. High St. | Opened March 2025
- Quality Wellness Performance & Coaching
 - 117 N. High St. | Opened April 2025
- Restalgic Atelier
 - 83 N. High St. | Opening Summer 2025
- Toro Meat Market
 - 150 E. Gay St. | Opening Fall 2025
- Dos Hermanos
 - 16 N. High St. | Opening Fall 2025

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ABOUT CITY OF COLUMBUS

The City of Columbus is the 14th largest city in the United States, with a population of 892,533 residents. The Columbus economy is balanced with a combination of education, technology, government, research, insurance and health care entities as major employers within the City. Columbus is gaining nationwide recognition for its booming downtown, historic neighborhoods, arts and sporting districts, open attitude, and a noticeably affordable quality of life. Under the leadership of Andrew J. Ginther, the City of Columbus has been named "America's Opportunity City." By banding together with labor, business, faith, and community leaders in every neighborhood to expand equity and promote prosperity, Mayor Ginther is committed to making Columbus the very best community in the country.

ABOUT DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS, INC.

Downtown Columbus, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead city-changing projects and collaborations that improve the connectivity, livability, and inclusivity of the Downtown Columbus experience. Downtown Columbus, Inc. drives development and progress of the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan, working across sectors toward the vision for Downtown Columbus to become a neighborhood of connected, people-first urban districts that can be enjoyed by all. Learn more at downtowncolumbus.com.

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