

The Register-Guard

Back to its yummy roots: Cafe Yumm! returning to 5th Street Public Market

By [Anna Glavash](#)

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The restaurant, which has more than 20 restaurants, also will be closing its Broadway eatery.

Devotees of Cafe Yumm! who mourned the impending closure of the Eugene-based chain's Broadway eatery will be happy to know that another Cafe Yumm! will soon open not far away.

The Fifth Street Market, the original home of Cafe Yumm!, will house a new location in its under construction expansion project, property owner Obie Companies announced last week.

"It amazes me that we now have over 20 restaurants across three states, and it's wonderful to return to the place where it all began. Mark and I opened the first, small Café Yumm! restaurant inside the 5th Street Public Market in 1997," said Café Yumm! co-founder Mary Ann Beauchamp, in a news release.

According to a [timeline](#) on Cafe Yumm's website, its signature Yumm! sauce and Yumm! bowls were developing a following even before that, when Mary Anne Beauchamp debuted them at her Wild Rose Food Company in 1993 inside the original Fifth Street Market. That location later became the first Cafe Yumm!.

Between then and now, the company went on to open 23 locations across Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Its Broadway cafe is slated to [eventually close](#) when the property's landlord completes its sale, but for now, the plan is for it to stay open as long as possible, said Marne Dunder, director of communications.

Once the Fifth Street location opens, employees of the Broadway location will have six area restaurants to relocate to if they choose, said Dunder.

The market expansion is expected to open in fall of 2020. Cafe Yumm! will occupy a space on the ground floor along the 200-foot, open-air, covered walkway known as "market alley." The alley will run between the new market building to the south and the Gordon Lofts apartments to the north, and will connect Pearl Street at its east end and the new Gordon Hotel to the west.

Cafe Yumm! will have the third door on the alley's north side, below the apartments, after Handel's Ice Cream on the corner and Heritage Distilling Co. next to it, said Irene Alltucker, director of real estate at Obie Companies, which is building the expansion.

"The synergy and the energy we're creating is evident in what's coming together and how this is all developing," Alltucker said. "We're creating an environment here, so I think that's wonderful ... I think it just speaks highly of Fifth Street Market, in that Cafe Yumm! started out here so many years ago and now they're coming back."

Cafe Yumm! co-owner Mark Beauchamp echoed Alltucker's sentiments.

"Opening a restaurant in the new Market Building is a fantastic opportunity to once again be in the heart of Eugene. We see the expansion project as an inspirational vision of how our downtown community can become a true urban village," Beauchamp said in the release.

Obie Companies has [signed Nike](#) as the development's anchor tenant, which will occupy the biggest retail space in the market building across the alley from the food and drink businesses. There are three to four other spaces similar in size to those being leased to Cafe Yumm, Heritage and Handel's, plus eight smaller spaces available in "maker's alley" intended for craftspeople, Alltucker said.

As for whether additional food and drink tenants would be added to the mix, Alltucker said “I think we’re going to look for a couple more, but it may vary in size in that some may be in smaller spaces. We might have one more larger space that’s a winery. We’re trying to work out that perfect balance” between retail, food and drink, she said.

Editor’s note: An earlier verison of this story misstated the company’s anticipated timeline for closure of its Broadway restaurant. The story also incorrectly stated the number of area locations employees of the closing store could transfer to.

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