

Local Community Business - Asking For Help To Open Doors



Grand Rapids, Michigan Jun 8, 2023 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - For more than 10 years, the building on the corner of Division and Delaware, once a shining pinnacle and legacy of thriving businesses, sat blighted as an eye sore boarded with broken windows, gang signs, and graffiti. That did not stop Jessica Ann Tyson from seeing the potential of making the investment in the inner city when she was offered to be a tenant. She dreamed bigger and asked for more stake in the game. The owners thought about how they

could share the broader vision of family legacy and what intentional part they could do as a family business to help try to close the wealth gap. With less than even 1% of minorities owning commercial business property, they offered Tyson what she calls ‘a handsome deal’.

At the Detroit Regional Chambers Detroit Policy Conference Charity Dean, the founder, and CEO of the Metro Detroit Black Business Alliance stated in an interview with [BridgeDetroit](#) Engagement Director [Orlando Bailey](#) “that less than 10% of the businesses downtown (Detroit) are Black-owned and less than 2% of the buildings are Black-owned downtown in a city that is over 75% Black.” Grand Rapids has only a 19% Black population.

For over 6 years, The Candied Yam, Delightful Southern Cuisine has built its reputation on delicious, fresh delightful southern cuisine. It built its foundation on community involvement, employment opportunities for youth, seniors, veterans, and hope for second-chance citizens.

With a major investment of 1.4 million to date, renovation is close to being complete. But, the owner of The Candied Yam, is making a serious plea and asking the community for help with more resources to cross the finish line to open the doors to assist in bringing a long awaited change to the neighborhood. Loyal customers and community stakeholders will help to seal the deal to help make a real difference that will instantly make an impact that will be scene, noticed and felt.

“Everyone has been asking when we will open our doors. I wish I could say tomorrow, but that is not the way it works. Projects like this cost money. And, much more than initially planned for in a post COVID world. There were many other expenses associated with the project than initially planned. Every single person, business and organization can partner in a special way to help get over the finish line. Once pass this hurdle, we can continue to be that committed community place that is there for not just every day but also special occasions creating more positive memories at 932.”

Tyson says she will not do a go fund because part of the money will not help towards the goal, but rather be given to fees. She promises that every dollar raised will go towards opening the doors.

The address of 932 S. Division, inner city of Grand Rapids, MI is the future home of the second location of The Candied Yam, Delightful Southern Cuisine & Event Venue.

The donation process is easy, quick and takes less than 30 seconds online or through a QR code. 100% of every dollar will help and be invested into opening the doors of 932 S. Division.

<https://thecandiedyamgr.com/932-campaign>

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Source : The Candied Yam

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