

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT: Lauren Parker, lauren.parker@berlinrosen.com

The Downtown SF Partnership Launches First Micro Grant Program to Support Local Restaurants and Downtown Economic Recovery

Eligible restaurants can apply for up to \$5,000 in funds to enhance their sidewalk and curbside dining spaces, create a more vibrant and active downtown

See application & eligibility details [here](#)

San Francisco, CA (April 5, 2023) - Today, The [Downtown SF Partnership \(DSFP\)](#), the community benefit district that oversees 43 blocks across San Francisco's Financial District and Jackson Square Historic District, announced the launch of the *Downtown Restaurant Recovery Outdoor Dining Micro Grant Program* – a micro grant program that will provide up to \$40,000 in funding to local eligible restaurants to enhance their sidewalk and curbside dining spaces. Building upon the City of San Francisco's 'Shared Spaces' program, and in line with other ongoing downtown economic recovery efforts, DSFP's micro grant program aims to create a more vibrant and active downtown San Francisco, stimulate the local economy by encouraging more patrons to dine downtown, and provide direct support for restaurants in the district who want to make outdoor aesthetic improvements but may not otherwise be able to afford them.

Restaurants within the boundaries of The Downtown SF Partnership's district that hold a Shared Spaces permit from the City & County of San Francisco, are eligible to apply for funding to purchase and install outdoor dining improvements including:

- Outdoor furniture
- Outdoor lighting
- Planting and planters
- Barriers/partitions
- Exterior murals

DSFP will provide matching grants of up to 50% of eligible project costs, up to \$5,000 of the total cost of eligible products and/or associated fees.

"The Downtown SF Partnership is committed to creating new opportunities for catalyzing growth and development in downtown. The restaurant industry plays an integral role in this, driving people back to the area and patronage of other local businesses," **said Robbie Silver, Executive Director of the Downtown SF Partnership.** "Investment to our local businesses is critical for the well-being of our

neighborhood and key to moving downtown away from being a mono-economy. We've seen how successful the city's Shared Spaces program is and are thrilled to not only build on these efforts with a new program to support the local restaurant community, but to also champion small, practical wins that ladder up to that ultimate goal of creating a thriving downtown."

"Those who are not business owners would be surprised at the cost of beautifying curbside dining, and it's wonderful that The Downtown SF Partnership is implementing a new way to alleviate the expense and help neighborhood businesses continue to evolve and transform into places where people want to gather again and again," **said Robin Abad-Ocubillo, Director of Shared Spaces, City of San Francisco.** "In our interactions with various restaurants across the city, it's clear that the Shared Spaces program was an essential part of keeping businesses alive amid the pandemic and even more so necessary as we look to increase activations and public presence in downtown. This micro grant opportunity is just another means of building upon this great work, and we encourage owners within district boundaries to participate."

The Downtown SF Partnership is an active and vital part of San Francisco's recovery, having championed efforts to enhance the downtown core for years. Currently, DSFP offers a number of key district services aimed at re-engaging the public with downtown, including but not limited to safety, cleanliness, and beautification efforts. DSFP aims to ensure local businesses are well-equipped to adapt to changing economic landscapes and understands that it requires creative and innovative thinking to drive foot traffic back to businesses Downtown. Creating supportive programs like these micro grants will help further these developments.

Additionally, over the last year, DSFP has focused on creating a sense of place and destination with event driven programming, set to drive populations downtown. In July 2022, DSFP, in partnership with San Francisco-based SITELAB urban studio, released a comprehensive [Public Realm Action Plan](#), outlining six replicable public realm concepts and pilot programs, leaning on urban design as a means of economic recovery for downtown SF.

The *Downtown Restaurant Recovery Outdoor Dining Micro Grant* application is open to qualifying businesses starting April 5, 2023, and will close on April 28, 2023. For more information visit the [application link](#) or contact the Downtown SF Partnership at (415) 634-2251.

###

About The Downtown SF Partnership

The Downtown SF Partnership is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization with a mission to lead the way in building a thriving downtown where business gets done and people feel welcome, come to explore, and make memories. Developed by a coalition of property and business owners, The Downtown SF Partnership is a community benefit district and provides services to 43-blocks in two of the oldest continuous business districts in San Francisco, Financial District and Jackson Square. These services include cleaning, safety, district identity and promotion, and public space activations. For more

information visit www.downtownsf.org. Follow The Downtown SF on Facebook (@sfdowntown), Instagram and Twitter (@sf_downtown) and LinkedIn (Downtown SF).