



LISSA BREWER/THE ASTORIAN

The Astoria Sunday Market has returned to the streets of downtown.

Astoria Sunday Market back in season

By **ABBEY McDONALD**
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The Astoria Sunday Market is back, bringing more vendors and more accessibility than in years prior.

Shelby Meyers, the market's manager, said the market will have live music every week, and will look more like the market did before the pandemic began.

"Last year around this time we thought we were getting near the end of the pandemic, and it wasn't the case," Meyers said. "So once again sort of coming around and really feeling more refreshed this year and more comfortable diving

in and being present at an event with the community and welcoming visitors."

The market will gather downtown weekly now through early October.

This year, the market has expanded its food access programs by joining Double Up Food Bucks, a state program which matches every dollar spent with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, commonly known as SNAP, up to \$20. The market began accepting Electronic Benefits Transfer cards last July, and its users spent \$3,518 at the market last year.

"It's really exciting and something that a lot of farmers markets in Oregon do," Meyers said. "And we're really excited to join that and just

bring more. Bring a larger customer base and bring more income and strengths to our farm vendors as well."

Meyers said vendors this year will be a more balanced mix of packaged food, fresh food, produce, arts and crafts.

There are several new vendors joining, including Antojos Salvadoreña, a new booth serving Salvadorian food.

Owner Louisa Escobar said a friend who sells candles and soaps at the market convinced her to sign up.

"It's been our goal to start something here in our community that brings out our culture, and I love cooking," Escobar said. "I am looking for-

ward to meeting our community and letting them see what our culture is."

Another new addition, the Farm Food Incubation Booth, will be available to support vendors who are interested in joining the market as full time vendors.

Brooke McClain, owner of Barking Dog Farms, is managing the incubation booth. She said she is looking forward to supporting newer and smaller businesses.

"I think there is a greater understanding and awareness of accessibility of fresh food, and food that is grown closer to home, and also just the importance of eating fresh for health in general," McClain said.