

Cultural Cuisine Inspires No. 1 Rating

Beloved and raved about for its unique blend of spices and cultural cuisine, Chez Dodo is a Mauritian cuisine food cart based downtown at 427 S.W. Stark St. Business owner and chef Shyamal Ghanraj Dausoa is reknown for his famous samosas, a cornerstone of Mauritian street food.

The popular food cart was Yelp's listed #1 best reviewed location in town for several years running, and continues to be one of Portland's most-recommended food carts.

"Mauritius is a small and fascinating island off the Southwest coast of Madagascar," explains Dausoa. "This slice of paradise was at one point home to the now extinct Dodo bird and is famous for its sandy white beaches, aqua-blue seas and luxurious hotels. What is most unique and interesting about the island is the traditional food which takes inspiration from African, French, Indian, Chinese, and Creole cuisines."

Chez Dodo is open Monday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Friday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Orders can be placed over the phone by calling 503-270-9258 or online at chezdododpx.net.



Chef Shyamal Ghanraj Dausoa with Debbie, a loyal customer who swears by Chez Dodo's food.

Livability grants for communities of color

The Portland Development Commission is accepting applications for projects that foster vibrant and healthy neighborhoods and improve the prosperity of area residents through its Community Livability Grant program.

Funding of nearly \$1.1 million is available for community-based organizations for projects located within the Gateway Regional Center, Interstate Corridor, Lents Town Center, or Central Eastside urban renewal areas, or the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood.

Applications are due by Friday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m.

Grants will be awarded through a competitive process for property improvements that add, expand, or upgrade physical space that benefits the broader community.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, neighborhood and business associations, and neighborhood groups.

Priority will be given to projects that benefit communities of color or people with low in-

comes and that promote widely shared prosperity.

Such projects would, for example, support wealth creation opportunities for small business owners, improve access to jobs and workforce development services, honor and enhance the neighborhood's cultural diversity and history, or deliver a community asset tailored to the community's expressed priorities and opportunities.

PDC first introduced the Community Livability Grant program in 2006.

Since then, the agency has awarded \$3.67 million in grants to more than 50 projects, including the Portland Mercado, Earl Boyles Early Learning Neighborhood Center, Arbor Lodge Urban Farm, SE Works, Bless Field at New Columbia, Harper's Playground, Community Warehouse, and Albina Green.

For more information about the program, contact Carol Herzberg, senior program manager at PDC, 503-823-3276 or herzberg@pdc.us.

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