

Rogers Park Food Co-op

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For immediate release:

Rogers Park Food Co-op Announces Feasibility in Four Chicago Neighborhoods

ROGERS PARK, IL – July 31, 2017 -

On the outdoor patio of Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon, Chicago, a third of the Rogers Park Food Co-op's owners gathered to enjoy each other's company over hor d'oeuvres and to discuss the results of the start-up's Preliminary Market and Feasibility Assessment and Forecast. According to the market study, the community in the area is supportive of a full-service, fresh, international cooperative market.

"Our owners were excited to hear that a cooperative grocery store will serve the needs of our community and expand the market for fresh food produced by our local farmers and food artisans," said Mary Meyer, a founder of the co-op and Vice President of the Board of Directors.

The study reported that the food co-op would be feasible in any one of the four tested neighborhoods, all on the northern end of Chicago: Rogers Park, Edgewater, West Ridge, and South Evanston. When it is up and running, the co-op will be a multimillion-dollar, community-owned enterprise supporting local area businesses and investments. The Rogers Park Food Co-op can expect to capture 2.5 percent of the retail food market and hire an estimated 60 direct employees.

Professional market studies are essential in determining the economic impact, sales forecast and general product department offerings of a food cooperative start-up. Keith Wicks & Associates (KWA), recommended by the non-profit organization Food Co-op Initiative, performed the market study, drawing on more than 40 years of experience in retail design, construction, operations, and strategic planning in the supermarket industry. They were selected based on their ongoing work with other non-traditional food co-ops, including those in Flint, MI, and Greensboro, NC, in addition to their work with natural supermarkets serving Hispanic communities.

"I was overwhelmed by the immense support and positive energy I felt throughout the evening. This was my first RPF event, and I loved having the opportunity to hear many owners' personal stories about how they got involved with the co-op. It is obvious that our owners care deeply about our community, and I feel energized by their collective drive to continue increasing ownership," said Rachel Lertzman, the co-op's Outreach Coordinator.

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The food cooperative has more upcoming events planned for this summer, including an event open to the public at Jarvis Square Pottery, 1443 W Jarvis, on August 10th at 7pm. There will be live music and a variety of local food from local businesses, no tickets required.

More information about the Rogers Park Food Co-op and their upcoming events is available at <http://www.rogersparkfoodcoop.com> or by emailing info@rpfc.coop.

About the Rogers Park Food Co-op

Incorporated in May of 2014, the Rogers Park Food Co-op is currently at 240 owners and continues to grow its membership. It will be a community-owned cooperative grocery store and a vital link in the local food system, offering food education programs, serving as a gathering place for the community, and fostering strong ties among the many diverse cultures of Rogers Park.

Because food co-ops are locally owned, they generally source many of their products from local farmers and food purveyors. Doing so keeps money spent on groceries in the local economy. Food co-ops often hire more employees than corporate supermarkets, which is good for the local economy as well. By becoming an owner or shopping at the Rogers Park Food Co-op, residents can help strengthen the local economy and support a sustainable, healthy food system.

About Uncommon Ground

Uncommon Ground, owned by Helen and Michael Cameron, has been driving the farm-to-table movement in Chicago for over 20 years. With their MOSA-certified organic rooftop farm and Greenstar Brewing, the first certified organic brewery in the state of Illinois, they are among the greenest restaurants in the city.

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