

From the Block to the Boardroom: New Series at Booker's Restaurant and Bar Celebrates Second Chance Month

*Former Inmates-Turned Entrepreneurs
Darrell Alston of Bungee Oblečení &
Muhammad Abdul-Hadi of Down
North Pizza Guest Speakers at Booker's
April 2nd and 30th*

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES,
March 31, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ --
April is National [Second Chance](#) Month,
which recognizes the importance of
helping individuals
and communities across the country in
supporting the safe and successful
[reentry](#) of thousands of

men and women released from prison each year. As part of a new dinner and lecture series,
which shares the same title as Booker's Restaurant & Bar co-owner Tracey Syphax's book:

“

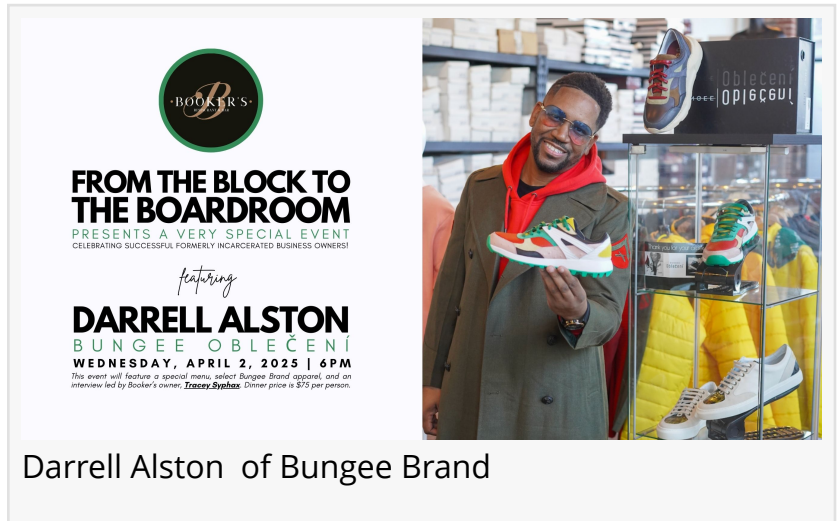
“Darrell and Muhammad both have amazing stories that included overcoming tremendous obstacles to get where they are, and I'm extremely excited to provide them with a platform to tell their stories”

Tracey Syphax

“From the Block to the Boardroom,” Booker's in West Philadelphia will spotlight the journeys of two formerly incarcerated Philadelphians who are grabbing headlines for their inspirational journeys.

The dinner series kicks off Wednesday, April 2 at 6 p.m. with Bungee Oblečení CEO Darrell Alston, who spent more than 11 years in prison on drug charges after a successful career in hip-hop. He used that time behind bars to sketch designs for shoes which would eventually lead to his luxury sneaker and apparel brand, Bungee Oblečení.

Shortly after launching his company in 2019 Alston was featured on The Today Show, Inside Edition and his products were sold at Foot Locker and luxury clothing retailer Neiman Marcus. Alston will sell merchandise and sign



autographs at the event. Tickets for the 4-course dinner are \$75 per person (plus tax and gratuity). View the entire menu and book reservations at <https://bookersrestaurantandbar.com/>.

On Wednesday, April 30, Booker's hosts James Beard Leadership Award winner Muhammad Abdul-Hadi, the founder of Down North Pizza, a mission-driven, award-winning pizza spot in

Strawberry Mansion. "Our aim is to help erase employment barriers faced by formerly incarcerated men and women by providing culinary career opportunities," said Abdul-Hadi. He exclusively hires formerly incarcerated people and serves up pizzas with a purpose by providing crucial resources such as housing options and mental health support to help reduce recidivism. Muhammed recently published a cookbook entitled *We the Pizza: Slangin Pies and Savin Lives*, which offers recipes for the tender, crispy-edged, square-cut, sauce-on-top pies that are Down North's signature menu item, and provides historical information about incarceration in the U.S.

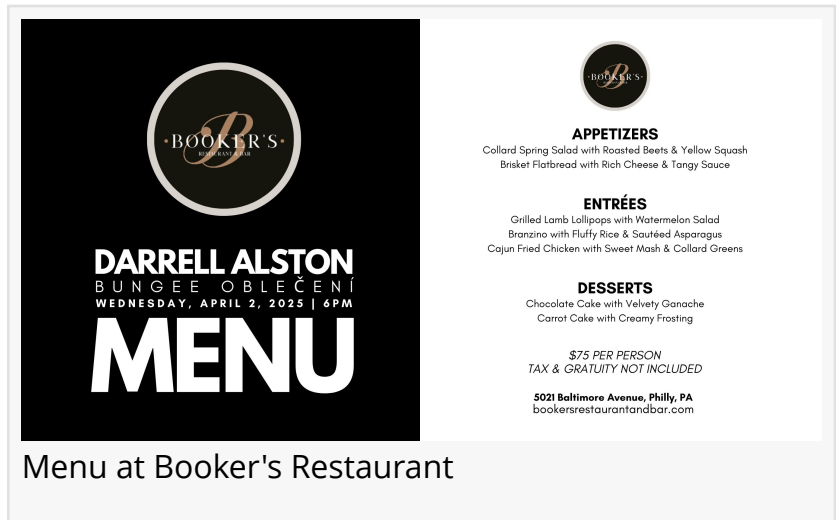
along with empowering stories from Down North's formerly incarcerated staff. The dinner will include pizzas, of course, as well a collection of menu items from Booker's menu. The dinner costs \$75 per person (plus tax and gratuity) and can be booked at <https://bookersrestaurantandbar.com/>.

Tracey Syphax, author/[entrepreneur](#)/president/ceo of Phax Group LLC, a multi-million dollar real estate development company that purchased Booker's in 2023 with his wife Cheri, will lead the discussions. It's an issue that is close to his heart as Syphax was formerly incarcerated in his youth, and now is a recognized voice in reentry advocacy and leads many educational seminars and entrepreneurial workshops for reentering citizens.

"I spend a ton of my time assisting incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people regularly, and most of these folks have incredible potential that just hasn't been realized yet," said Syphax.

"Darrell and Muhammad both have amazing stories that included overcoming tremendous obstacles to get where they are, and I'm extremely excited to provide them with a platform to tell

their stories over a delicious dinner featuring some of our most popular dishes at Booker's. These events will be emotional, inspirational, and heartfelt, and I cannot wait to share the pain, joy, love, and tears with our special guests."



Menu at Booker's Restaurant

Located at 5021 Baltimore Avenue in West Philadelphia, Booker's Restaurant & Bar serves upscale comfort food with a Southern flair. The restaurant is open daily for brunch from 10 a.m.

to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 10 p.m. To make reservations or learn more, please visit <https://bookersrestaurantandbar.com>.

Cheri Syphax

Phax Marketing Solutions

510-541-7736

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Other](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/798721980>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.