

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Monday, September 12, 2016

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## **DCRA Announces &pizza's Owner as Entrée DC Keynote**

*Michael Lastoria Joins Diverse List of Local Businesses Highlighted at Event*

**Washington, D.C.** –The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) announced today that &pizza's Michael Lastoria will serve as the keynote speaker for this year's Entrée DC Food and Drink Forum. Lastoria will join a diverse group of successful local businesses highlighted at this year's event, including Danielle Vogel (Glen's Garden Market) who will also provide remarks during the opening session.

Entrée DC is a free event offered to current or aspiring entrepreneurs interested in opening or growing a food service business in the District of Columbia. It is part of Mayor Muriel Bowser's inaugural "202Creates," a citywide effort launching in September to showcase the District's diverse and vibrant creative economy. Through an array of events, 202Creates will promote the artists, makers, and entrepreneurs who contribute to the District's thriving creative industries.

Held on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Entrée DC will include breakout sessions on industry best practices, marketing advice, how to get financing, what to do when entering a lease, food trucks, and market trends. Attendees will also get an opportunity to network with hundreds of other current and aspiring food service entrepreneurs.

**"In September, we're recognizing the incredible entrepreneurs in DC as part of 202 Creates. I can think of no better way to participate than through Entrée DC," said DCRA Director Melinda Bolling. "Successful local businesses are helping aspiring ones to start or grow a business—and add to what 202 Creates."**

Businesses participating as speakers at this year's event include restaurateurs, caterers, fast casual operators, restaurant startup incubators, and distilleries. The participants are:

- Michael Lastoria, &pizza
- Danielle Vogel, Glen's Garden Market
- Richard Shannon, Horace & Dickie's
- Dionea Reeder, Cheers @ The Big Chair
- Al Goldberg, Mess Hall
- Angel Anderson, The Spice Suite
- Horatio Davis, Capitol Hill Crab Cakes
- Jocelyne DeHaas, Tryst Restaurant Group
- Mike Lenard, TaKorean
- Pia Carusone, Republic Restoratives
- Aiden Baptiste-Boissiere, Aiden's Cuisine

The event is hosted by DCRA's [Small Business Resource Center](#) (SBRC). Throughout the year, SBRC provides workshops, symposiums, and one-on-one counseling to businesses in the District. In 2015, SBRC held 71 workshops and conducted nearly 700 one-on-one counseling sessions.

Individuals can register at [www.dcaentreedc.com](http://www.dcaentreedc.com).

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