



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2017

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Common Grounds Café to Host Grand Opening in Arizona State Capitol Museum

Managed by DES Business Enterprise Program Operator

PHOENIX – In honor of Arizona’s 105th birthday, a new coffee shop is celebrating its grand opening in the museum wing of the Arizona State Capitol on Statehood Day. Common Grounds and Kahala Coffee Traders will host a Grand Opening Celebration tomorrow, Tuesday, February 14th, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10am.

The café is operated by [Business Enterprise Program](#) (BEP) Operator, Darrin Warrilow. BEP is a program within the DES Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) that offers legally blind persons the opportunity to become independent entrepreneurs capable of achieving their fullest potential through self-employment. Warrilow manages the franchise as a BEP operator. He also oversees the operation located in the basement of the State Capitol tower, as well as vending machines across the Capitol campus.

“It’s always rewarding to see someone DES has been able to help achieve career success,” said DES Interim Director Henry Darwin. “Mr. Warrilow’s new venture is testament to the opportunities provided via the Business Enterprise Program.”

The café was opened per a collaborative agreement among the State Legislature, the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA), the Department of Economic Security (DES) Business Enterprise Program (BEP), and the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office, which manages the State Capitol Museum.

“This was a long project and we’re thrilled to have Kahala Coffee Traders at Common Grounds at the Capitol Museum,” said Secretary of State Michele Reagan. “We designed the space to accommodate grabbing a quick coffee to go, sit and work on your laptop or have a meeting. We are very proud to show off our iconic building and museum to people stopping in for a cup of coffee.”

Common Grounds will be serving small drinks for \$1.05 all day, in honor of Arizona’s 105th birthday.

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