

For Immediate Release

Belfast Community Co-op Announces Ground Breaking Ceremony for Much Anticipated Store Renovation on May 15, 2023 at 1PM

Belfast, Maine, May 1, 2023 - Work on the beloved downtown location where the Belfast Community Co-op has been open for business for the last 30 years, will begin May 15, 2023 and last through the year. Working with our partners Warren Construction Group and Woodhull Architects, the design team is comprised of professionals with experience designing and building retail businesses and will stage construction so that the Co-op remains open throughout the process.

The project includes many of the improvements that will be seen at 123 High Street and have been requested by Co-op Owners for years. We will be adding 33% more retail space, expanding our bulk section to nearly double the current size, and creating a new home for our curbside program, Shop For Me. We are updating and expanding our production kitchen, allowing us to offer new menu items and bringing back our beloved community cafe. We will be replacing decades worth of deferred infrastructure including electrical, plumbing, and HVAC, as well as introducing a vertical lift system to assist in efficiently transporting product. Reinvestment in the health, safety, and security of our shoppers and workers is our highest priority.

General Manager Doug Johnson commented, "There have been so many talented people working on this project over the years, from workers to Directors to our community partners. I am thrilled that we are going to be able to deliver on the promise that we made to offer a thriving, just, and sustainable local food economy for decades to come. We are building a brighter future for the Belfast Community Co-op." "We have aligned ourselves around a mantra of "Owned by you, Food for all" and that sentiment is woven throughout this project. We want everyone to feel that they belong when they walk through our doors."

Woodhull (formally Caleb Johnson Studio) and Warren Construction have been working with the Belfast Community Co-op since 2019 to develop different design solutions to help the Co-op's vision to further its positive impact on the community. The renovations for the Co-op are all meant to enhance customer experience and satisfaction and re-position the building for future generations of patrons to come. The renovations place an emphasis on natural materials and natural light, including a new glass-filled cafe addition, to improve client and employee well-being as well as highlight the quality products and prepared foods that the Co-op has to offer. Also, a curbside addition allows a new feature that softens pressure from the limited floor area and parking of the existing building and site. A new merchandising layout designed by National Co-op Grocers (NCG) increases product visibility and improves customer flow. Patrick Boothe from Woodhull stated, "It has been a refreshing joy working with the Co-op and seeing firsthand their commitment to the community to which they serve. We are excited to see all the planning over the last couple of years come to life!"

Located in the heart of downtown, the Belfast Community Co-op is a full service market that has been serving our area since 1976. Everyone is welcome to shop at the Co-op: it is our mission and our pleasure to bring locally-sourced, reasonably priced, organic and natural products to all. Visit us at 123 High Street in the heart of Downtown Belfast. Open daily 8am-8pm! Call us at 207-338-2532 and find out more about us online at www.belfast.coop.

Owned by you. Food for all.

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Attached:

- Belfast Community Co-op Logo
- Belfast Community Co-op Store Front