

DINE AFTER DARK
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PRESS RELEASE

Dine After Dark

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For Immediate Release

DINE AFTER DARK CANCELS 2020 SEASON DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS

Washington, D.C. – In light of the current public health concerns surrounding the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and the United States’ Centers for Disease Control’s most [recent recommendations](#) that all upcoming events for the next eight weeks be postponed or cancelled, Dine After Dark has decided to cancel its upcoming season and celebration of Ramadan, which was scheduled to begin April 23, 2020.

“We are incredibly disappointed to have to cancel our sophomore season, but we recognize the seriousness of this unprecedented public health emergency and are taking the necessary steps to responsibly protect the health and safety of our Member Businesses, our customers, and our entire global community,” says Dine After Dark’s President & Founder, Katherine Ashworth Brandt.

The nonprofit organization, which celebrated its first season in 2019, encourages restaurants in the Washington, D.C. metro-area to extend daily business hours during the Islamic holiday month of Ramadan in order to offer more late-night and early-morning dining options to Muslim customers who observe traditional holiday fasting during daylight hours. Dine After Dark’s 2020 season was scheduled to begin at the start of Ramadan next month and, until today, had been accepting new membership applications from businesses interested in participating. Already slated to “Dine After Dark” this Ramadan were returning members [Busboys and Poets](#) and [Martha’s Table](#), which both participated in the initiative last year, and new addition [City Kabob and Curry House](#), with locations in D.C. and Arlington, Virginia.

The mission to build inclusive communities through better business had also been getting help this year from a team of students at Georgetown University’s [DCivitas](#), who provided strategic support to Dine After Dark after hand-picking the organization as one of their partners for the 2019-20 academic school year. Brandt says this made the decision to cancel the season that much tougher because, “These wonderful students worked so hard on our behalf to help make Dine After Dark’s second season a success, and we obviously hoped they would get to see the fruits of their labor and their positive impact on the community this Ramadan.”

While the organization’s celebrations for this Ramadan have been cancelled, enthusiasm for the movement continues to grow and Brandt says she looks forward to inviting even more customers to “Dine After Dark” next year in 2021, in D.C. and all across the country.

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For additional information, contact Katherine Ashworth Brandt, President & Founder of Dine After Dark, at (202) 599-0651 or kbrandt@dineafterdark.org.