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Big River Pizza breaks ground in Lowertown's Lofts at Farmers Market space

SAINT PAUL – Lowertown's newest restaurant broke ground this week in the main floor commercial space of the Lofts at Farmers Market.

“We couldn't be more excited to be starting construction here, within feet of the Farmers Market,” Steve Lott, owner and chef of Big River Pizza, said. “We are thrilled to be opening our first brick-and-mortar store in an area with so much activity and vitality. We are so glad to continue to call Saint Paul home.”

Big River Pizza's foodtruck-to-restaurant story is one that has become more and more common across the Twin Cities. Nearly five years ago, Big River Pizza started as an “Italian oven on wheels” serving wood-fired, artisan pizzas at local farmers markets and outdoor music and art festivals. The restaurant will continue its commitment to using locally-grown ingredients at its new location.

“I'm thrilled to have both another employer and another great food venue downtown,” Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said. “Big River Pizza is the perfect restaurant for that space, and a phenomenal addition to the Lowertown neighborhood.”

As owners of the building, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Saint Paul will be leasing and providing \$180,000 to finish building out the commercial space. As part of the building's overall construction budget, these funds will be used for permanent improvements – such as bathrooms, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems. The total restaurant construction is expected to cost \$304,000.

The restaurant expects to be open for business by early summer, and will employ 10-15 people.

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