Kingston 11—Oakland, CA

CDFI Helps Pop-Up Restaurant Establish Permanent Location

Chef Nigel Jones has traveled the world eating and learning about different delicacies. In 2009, he turned his passion for food into plans for a restaurant. He and his business partner wanted to launch a Jamaican-fusion restaurant. But banks wouldn’t provide necessary start up capital because Nigel lacked formal experience running a restaurant. CDFI Main Street Launch (MSL) decided to take the risk, providing Nigel a $120,000 loan. The risk paid off: today, Kingston Kitchen 11, Oakland’s only Jamaican restaurant, is thriving.  

(Story published: 2014)

“If we’re thankful that organizations are around to help folks move their business forward. MSL set us up for success.”

Nigel Jones
Owner, Kingston 11

Impact

- Created 35 full-time and part-time positions
- Earned Michelin Guide’s Most Recommended Restaurant designation in 2016