

## **A Different Kind of Gathering Space**

Co-owners Stephanie Morgan and Audra Dzelili officially cut the ribbon on the space earlier this week, marking the culmination of a project they describe as “a long time coming.”

Speaking with TMJ4, the duo emphasized that their vision was to create a space that feels distinct from the typical bar atmosphere. By prioritizing an inclusive environment where guests can linger regardless of their choice of beverage, Morgan and Dzelili hope to foster a greater sense of connection among neighbors. Whether patrons are looking for a complex, spirit-forward cocktail or a sophisticated zero-proof drink, the menu is designed to cater to everyone at the table.

## **Revitalizing History**

The lounge is housed in a building over a century old, a historic structure that required an extensive transformation before it was ready to open its doors.

The renovation was made possible in part by a \$10,000 "Building Bridges" grant from Milwaukee County. These grants were specifically designed to reactivate vacant or underused storefronts, and in the case of Twelve29, the funds were vital for essential behind-the-scenes work. The infusion of capital allowed for a major overhaul, including updated plumbing, electrical systems, HVAC, and the installation of professional-grade bar equipment.

## **More Than Just a Lounge**

Beyond its nightly operations, Twelve29 is positioned to serve as a versatile event space for the South Milwaukee community. The owners have announced plans to host a variety of functions, including fundraisers, business meetings, bridal showers, and baby showers.

The opening celebration drew significant local support, with Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley and South Milwaukee Mayor Brett Briesemeister in attendance to welcome the new business. Residents have already voiced their enthusiasm, noting that the lounge provides a much-needed, welcoming option for the downtown district.

Twelve29 Lounge is open Wednesday through Sunday. For those looking for a place that bridges the gap between a high-end cocktail lounge and an accessible community center, this new spot on Milwaukee Avenue is officially open for business.