



## The Retort Preferred Caterers & Inclusive Business Policy

Our venue prioritizes events that advance equity, access, arts, culture, and community impact, welcoming nonprofits, artists, community groups, and mission-aligned partners while reserving the right to decline events that pose safety, legal, or operational concerns. We encourage the use of **inclusive businesses** among our preferred caterers—defined as enterprises owned by individuals from groups that have historically faced barriers to economic opportunity, including racial and ethnic minorities, women, veterans, and LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurs—to support equitable access to opportunities and provide a diverse selection of high-quality food and beverage services.

While clients may choose to work with other vendors, all external vendors must comply with the venue's policies and guidelines, carry appropriate licenses and insurance, and be approved in advance by venue management. This ensures that all services meet our standards for safety, professionalism, and alignment with The Diatribe's mission and values.

### Food, Drink & Vendor Policy

Renter may provide food and beverages for their event either by bringing their own or by using a caterer from The Diatribe/The Retort's preferred list. Recommended caterers are local, women-, veteran-, LGBTQIA+-, and minority-owned businesses, and selecting them supports community economic development and our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

#### Guidelines:

##### 1. Self-Provided Food:

- Renters may bring their own food and are responsible for setup, service, and cleanup.
- All food must comply with local health and safety regulations.

##### 2. Preferred Caterers & Vendors:

- Renters are encouraged to select from The Diatribe/The Retort's approved list of local, women-, veteran-, LGBTQIA+-, and minority-owned caterers.
- Caterers and other vendors must provide proof of insurance and comply with all venue rules, including setup, service, and cleanup standards.
- Vendors must adhere to Michigan laws for alcohol service, if applicable, including licensing and age restrictions.
- All vendors must coordinate with venue staff prior to the event to ensure safe access, setup, and compliance with venue policies.



**3. Alcohol Service:**

- Alcohol service must follow the venue's alcohol guidelines, including licensing requirements, service limits, and age restrictions.
- Renters remain responsible for all aspects of alcohol distribution, guest safety, and compliance with state law.

**4. Waste & Cleanup:**

- Renters and their vendors are responsible for proper disposal of all food, beverage, and packaging waste.
- The venue must be returned in good condition; any damage caused by vendors will be the responsibility of the renter.

This policy ensures a safe, inclusive, and community-focused event environment while supporting local, diverse, and historically underrepresented business owners and responsible vendor practices.

**We reserve the right to decline events that pose safety, legal, or operational concerns and/or events that don't align with the mission and values of The Diatribe.**

