



La Diosa – Illinois SBDC at NORBIC



When Charlie Trotters Chicago restaurant closed in 2012, Chef Laura Martinez found herself job hunting. Interviews were hard to come by and opportunities failed to arise, so she decided to take matters into her own hands and open her own restaurant. She started with the name, La Diosa.

Through her local SBDC, Chef found assistance with business planning, micro lending, licensing, media relations and site location. The result was over \$40K in funding and the January 2015 opening of La Diosa at 2308 N. Clark St. in Chicago. Apparently, the first blind Chef to open her own restaurant in the country.

Now, almost a year and a half later, La Diosa is still going strong and last month Chef Martinez joined renowned sommelier Alpana Singh and “Check Please” host Catherine De Orio to accept an “Outstanding Women in the Culinary Arts” award at the Daley Center in Chicago.

During her acceptance speech, Chef Martinez took time to thank her AIM/Norbic SBDC advisor from the podium. The SBDC at AIM/Norbic continues to work closely with Chef Laura Martinez and La Diosa.