

BUSINESS IS GROWING ON WESTMINSTER IN DOWNCITY

WHO: KAREN BEEBE
WHAT: MODERN LOVE SHOES
WHERE: 220 WESTMINSTER ST.
PROVIDENCE, RI, 02903
WHEN: OCTOBER, 2010

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Creative independent retailer finds her business is growing in Downcity, Providence.

A shoe store for the modern woman, called Modern Love, is coming this fall to Westminster Street.

Owned by Karen Beebe, the same entrepreneur who opened the successful Queen of Hearts four years ago, this new business is a sign that a local small-business person can not only survive, but also grow Downcity, despite the state's tough economy.

As a trendy complement to Queen of Hearts at 222 Westminster, Modern Love is scheduled to open next door at 220 Westminster in early October; and it will have not only shoes for sale, but also handbags, jewelry, hats, gloves, hosiery and socks.

"People come in all the time asking where they can get shoes," Beebe said. "So why not provide a place where they can get them? I feel it will bring more people to town."

Everything about the store, from the look, to the brands – such as the more stylish and unusual Seychelles, DC, Irregular Choice and Poetic License, Nicole and Frye – "will be modern," she said. "I have some lines that are vintage inspired and also some that are cutting edge."

Beebe, a self-taught seamstress who produces her own clothing line, Lucille, from her studio at Queen of Hearts, has lived in Providence for 12 years. And she says there's nowhere else in the city or the state that she'd rather be.

"I think there's a misconception businesses can't survive downtown, but that's not true, if you understand who the customers are and what they want," she said. "I love it downtown. I feel the businesses support one another too, and I don't think you can find that in just any community. We're all for each other and have each other's back. That alone makes me want to continue to be here."

Beebe's latest enterprise is not the only new business for downtown this year. Three others, a soap shop; Sura, the well-established sushi and Korean restaurant; and a nightclub on Eddy Street, are also coming.

To find out more, and for up to date Downcity information please visit www.indowncity.com/news.