













## **Proposed Bar & Venue**

Dark Star Art Bar LLC

756 East Washington Ave Madison, WI 53703

## **Proprietors**

Samuel D Johnson Josh Swentzel

## **Projected Opening**

May 1st 2023

Receipt of this document enters the recipient into an agreement that this document will only be viewed by parties previously approved previously by Josh Swentzel and Samuel D Johnson.

It is our ambition to open a live music venue, art gallery, and tavern in the property located at 756 East Washington Ave. just a few blocks from the Capital.

Originally Star Bar, this location has previously hosted a similar concept to ours in Dark Horse Art Bar.

In 2022 Samuel Johnson (as an employee) was actively involved in opening Dark Horse Art Bar. They featured monthly art shows, craft cocktails and live music throughout the week. Dark Horse Art Bar quickly grew in popularity with the Madison art and music scene. After only 8 months in operation they won the "Best Madison Gallery" title from Madison Magazine. Unfortunately, for reasons unrelated to the general state of the business and its increasing popularity, Dark Horse Art Bar has since closed.

While the focus of the business will be art exhibition and live music from local and national acts, we will also host regular events, including (but not limited to):

- Comedy
- Trivia
- Open Mic / Jam
- Gallery Nights
- Regular Art Openings either monthly or every 2 months

## Management and Experience

Dark Star Art Bar LLC is a joint venture by Samuel Johnson and Josh Swentzel with both individuals holding equal rights to the business.

Sam will handle all booking, promotion, marketing and communication as well as sound and A/V staffing.

Josh will handle service related systems, finances, payroll, staff scheduling, bartender and security training.

Samuel Johnson has been living in Madison since 1993. He holds a degree in graphic design and has been a professional artist, promoter and screen printer since 2003. He has designed posters for countless acts both locally and nationally known, such as: Ween, The Decemberists, Wilco, Blonde Redhead and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. In 2005, Sam opened Firecracker Studios, a gallery and design studio, in Madison, WI with fellow artist David Mueller. The studio was an instant hit showcasing local and national pop and underground artists. It was the only gallery of its kind in the Madison area. Firecracker existed in multiple forms until 2012. Sam also boasts extensive experience curating off-site art shows in settings ranging from nightclubs to restaurants. Sam has also held many customer service related positions.

Josh Swentzel has lived in Madison since 2007.

He has worked in dozens of varying service and event oriented establishments in the Madison area. In 2016 he bought the Ohio Tavern with two partners. Josh is now the sole owner of The Ohio Tavern, which has since received national attention for its food program. He is the co-owner of Star Liquor on Williamson Street as well as Woody & Anne's, a small tavern on the near east side.