



Café Calaveras Brings Culture, Coffee, and Community to Seattle's Yesler Neighborhood

Latinx-owned coffee shop opens in Vulcan Real Estate's Batik

(Seattle, WA) September 1, 2025 — [Café Calaveras](#), a vibrant queer Latinx-owned coffee concept rooted in community, culture, and connection, is proud to announce the opening of its first brick-and-mortar café. The new location opens at [Vulcan Real Estate](#)'s Batik apartment building in the heart of Seattle's Yesler neighborhood.



What began two years ago as a pop-up with two tables, a tent, and borrowed supplies has grown into a full-scale café. “I started with nothing but heart,” says the founder, Clarissa Griego. “Everything I had came from my community, borrowed ice chests, donated coffee, and that sense of togetherness shaped everything I’ve built.” After moving to Seattle in 2017 from San Antonio, she entered the coffee world through Starbucks, then honed her craft at Ghost Alley Espresso in Pike Place Market, eventually becoming the shop’s first manager. That experience sparked her vision to create a space that celebrates Latinx culture and exceptional coffee.



Café Calaveras is named after the sugar skulls of Día de los Muertos and honors the deep symbolism of the holiday, a celebration of life, ancestry, and the spirit that connects us. Every detail of the café welcomes you in with bright colors, lush plants, cozy seating, and a feminine energy. “I wanted it to feel like walking into your cool tia’s kitchen—warm, joyful, and full of life,” said Clarissa. “For me, creating this space has felt deeply personal. Pouring my whole heart into all of the renovations, it feels as if I’m writing a long love letter to every Latina in Seattle that we belong here, we are honored, celebrated, and seen in full color.”

Menu highlights include Café de Olla, a spiced Mexican coffee brewed in a clay pot with cinnamon and brown sugar, and La Chingona, a bold cold brew topped with salted caramel cold foam. The expanded menu also features lattes, barrel-aged cold brews, and seasonal drinks, all with Latin-inspired flavor profiles and playful names.

The café’s journey has been shaped by local partners and organizations including Ventures Nonprofit, Friends of the Waterfront, SCORE, and Aqui Mercado. The logo was created by Stephanie Vasquez and Anthony Hernandez, and a full rebrand launches with the opening. The founder’s life partner, friends, and mentors have also been key in bringing the vision to life.

"Clarissa brings something truly special to Yesler," said Geralyn Vannoy, Director of Commercial Marketing and Leasing at Vulcan Real Estate. "Her vision, heart, and commitment to community shine through in every detail of Café Calaveras."

Located across from the Yesler Community Center, the new space is designed as a neighborhood hub—open, bright, and rooted in belonging. Café Calaveras opens just in time for coffee lovers’ favorite season, with fall sunlight streaming in, the espresso machine finally humming, and the smell of Café de Olla greeting every guest.



About Vulcan Real Estate

Through strategic acquisitions and innovative development, Seattle-based [Vulcan Real Estate](#) develops and manages a diversified portfolio of high-performing quality assets, including office, life sciences, residential and mixed-use projects.

The company's integrated team of real estate professionals offers a full range of development and portfolio management services from site selection and urban planning to build-to-suit construction, leasing, financing, and asset repositioning. Its real estate model is based on quality, sustainable development that builds new value across the entire community.

Since 2000, Vulcan Real Estate has invested \$6.7 billion developing 52 projects comprising 10.3 million square feet of commercial space and 4,245 residential units. Sixty percent of the development projects are located in South Lake Union, renowned as one of the largest urban redevelopment projects in the country. The company has 5.2 million square feet under management.

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