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## **Malone Commercial brokers sale of East Brown Cow property to local boutique**

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Portland, ME East Brown Cow and Malone Commercial Brokers are welcoming the arrival of Bella Funk, a local clothing and gift boutique, to Portland's historic Old Port. Bella Funk has signed a four-year lease for street-level retail at 43 Exchange St. The 1,717 s/f space is open to the public.

The lease was brokered by Pete Harrington of Malone Commercial Brokers.

Founded by New Hampshire natives and sisters, Katie Stafford and Stefanie Moody, Bella Funk established its first boutique in Littleton, New Hampshire, in 2006. The boutique quickly gained recognition and popularity for its commitment to quality pieces and its spotlight on local artisans. Bella Funk offers a carefully curated collection of women's clothing, accessories, beauty, and gifts for those embracing a creative lifestyle. Bella Funk takes pride in featuring small-batch, handmade works made locally and domestically, fostering a sense of community and connection with the surrounding art scene.

East Brown Cow has owned and managed 43 Exchange St. since acquiring the property in 2022. Known as the Preble Block II, the building was constructed in 1867 by the Preble family and features unique architectural details - including a mansard roof with dormers and semicircular pediments, pseudo three-centered arch windows, a brick façade and a granite, cast-iron and wood paneled storefront.

"The historic space at 43 Exchange St. is a perfect fit for Bella Funk's second storefront," said Katie Stafford, co-founder of Bella Funk. "Portland's Old Port is not only inviting, but vibrant and full of energy, and embodies the essence of our brand. We look forward to becoming a staple in the Old Port's retail community for years to come, showcasing the work of local artisans, and providing customers with high-quality, creative pieces."

"We look forward to welcoming Bella Funk to the Old Port this month," said Tim Soley, president and CEO of East Brown Cow. "43 Exchange St. is a building rich with local history, and we are thrilled to introduce a local boutique that honors and showcases Maine artisans. East Brown Cow is committed to bringing thoughtfully curated storefronts to Portland's Old Port, and Bella Funk's presence will continue to add to Portland's thriving retail scene."

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