

LAZY CAT LOUNGE

## Cats, coffee, and community

Long-awaited cat cafe unveils its space on Merrimack Street



Yang, one of the resident felines at the Lazy Cat Lounge, relaxes by the window of Lowell's first-ever cat cafe at 177 Merrimack St. The cafe, where visitors can sip coffee and interact with adoptable cats, celebrated its ribbon-cutting on March 6, 2025.

AARON CURTIS — LOWELL SUN



A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the grand opening of the Lazy Cat Lounge at 177 Merrimack St. in Lowell. The space gives visitors a chance to sip coffee, nibble pastries, and mingle with adoptable cats. AARON CURTIS — LOWELL SUN

BY AARON CURTIS

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LOWELL >> Cat lovers, rejoice. Lowell's first-ever cat cafe, the Lazy Cat Lounge, has officially opened its doors at 177 Merrimack St.

Brandi Jong, the visionary behind the Lazy Cat Lounge, anticipated a modest ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday to mark the cafe's opening. Instead, the event was packed wall-to-wall with supporters. As Mayor Dan Rourke said while presenting Jong with a citation recognizing the business from the Lowell City Council: "Everybody loves cats."

The Lazy Cat Lounge offers a space where visitors can enjoy coffee and snacks while spending time with adoptable cats. The cafe is divided into two sections. The first features a retail area with locally brewed coffees, a selection of beverages, and baked goods and other snacks supplied by local vendors.

The second section is a haven for feline enthusiasts — a space where cats can roam freely and interact with guests. The cat space, which has a viewing window, is designed with a Victorian library or sitting room theme, enhanced with “catified” touches, including climbing structures, scratching posts, and napping spots.

Visitors can pay a fee to enter the room and hang out with the cats. Only people aged 8 and older will be permitted to enter the room.

Jong, described during Thursday’s grand opening by Ani Vong, of Community Teamwork Inc., as “the hardest-working cat lady in Lowell,” has dedicated approximately 20 years to volunteering at the Lowell Humane Society. The Lowell Humane Society and other rescue organizations in the region will provide adoptable cats for the cafe.

Jong said the plan is to have eight cats at the cafe at a time, though she is permitted to house up to 11. At the grand opening, six cats were present, including the Jong family’s orange cats, Carl and Kevin, who were just visiting for the opening weekend.

Joining them are four other cats — Ying, Yang, Gilda, and Sugar Plum — who had come to the cafe after being rescued from an “overwhelmed community member,” Jong said. Jong noted that she is considering adopting the four rescues to make them permanent residents of the cafe.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the sidewalk outside the cafe, which drew cheers from the crowd, Jong appeared to grow emotional as she was embraced by her husband, Larry, and her daughter, Samantha.

“Small businesses are the heartbeat of our community,” Vong said during the ceremony. “Everyone here cares deeply about Lowell, so please continue to support Brandi and all the other businesses.”

For more information about the Lazy Cat Lounge, visit [lazycatlounge Lowell.com](http://lazycatlounge Lowell.com).

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