

## Sydney small bars boom

LOCAL NEWS 6 JUL 10 @ 12:16PM BY AIMEE SCOTT



Berta Restaurant.

Sydney's small bar revolution is on a roll, with yet another bar opening after receiving funding under Sydney Council's Laneway Development Program.

Berta Restaurant and Bar was awarded a matched cash grant to open in Alberta St, one of the 48 forgotten laneways the council wants to reinvigorate.

The creation of Vini owner Andrew Cibej, with O Tama Carey as head chef, Berta is already making its mark on the Sydney scene.

This follows the recent success of projects such as Grasshopper in Temperance Lane and Small Bar on Erskine St.

"As part of Sustainable Sydney 2030, the City is committed to enlivening laneways, which helps to create a more vibrant city centre," Lord Mayor Clover Moore said.

"Sydneyiders have really embraced the small bar scene, with more than 25 popular small bars now operating in the City of Sydney local government area.

"These businesses have been so successful in activating our city and CBD laneways that we are also looking for other fine grain businesses like galleries, coffee shops and boutiques to move into these forgotten spaces."

The City of Sydney established its Laneways Business Development program in 2008 to provide matched cash funding and mentoring and training opportunities for new businesses wanting to set up in laneways.

Small Bar was Sydney's first laneway bar, opening in December 2008 after receiving a matched cash grant from the council.

Since then, the Laneways Business Development program has received more than 100 inquiries from people interested in establishing their own small scale, innovative businesses in the CBD.

Aimee Scott

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE SMALL BAR

A new category of Best Small Bar has been added to the City of Sydney Business Awards this year.

The prize is open to any small bar in the City of Sydney local government area, whose primary function is selling alcoholic beverages, with a capacity 120 patrons or less.

The City of Sydney Business Awards honour the best small businesses in 20 categories, including cafes and restaurants, retail beauty, health care and fitness, specialty retail, tourism, IT, education and environmental businesses. There are about \$25,000 in prizes to be won.

Eligible businesses include those with less than 200 full-time employees within the Sydney local government area. Nominations and voting in the City of Sydney Small Business Awards close on July 30 and can be made at [www.sydneybusinessawards.com](http://www.sydneybusinessawards.com).

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