

PDXbizwomen
COALITION

MEMBER PROFILE



ANNE WEAVER

CEO AND CO-OWNER, ELEPHANTS DELICATESSEN

When Anne Weaver began her tenure at Elephants Delicatessen in 1980, it was a charming food shop with a distinctively Portland personality. Over her 44-year journey with the company, she played a pivotal role in transforming the gourmet food pioneer into a diverse, multi-location business that proudly maintains its Oregon roots and buy-local ethos.

A Portland native and a Lewis and Clark College graduate, Anne's passion for fine food and wine predate her Elephants days, rooted in the legacy of her immigrant grandparents who established one of the first grocery stores and butcher shops in Beaverton during the mid-1900s.

Balancing tradition with innovation is a nuanced challenge, especially when sustaining a business over multiple decades. You must remain relevant to new generations of customers without alienating established customers. The same challenge applies to Elephants multi-generational workforce. It requires a blend of adaptability, strategic planning, and a commitment to preserving the company's core principles.

It's a tough balance to achieve but it has been deeply rewarding for Weaver who believes in nourishing the community with authentic, from-scratch food while embracing Oregon ingredients and Portland's character. For her, "Great local foods from scratch" isn't just Elephants' tagline; it's a pledge to their customers and community. (Over 90% of Elephants suppliers are located within 200 miles.)

Anne values the opportunity to grow a business that positively impacts the community. "We can showcase our values through our business and help the communities we are part of. To take our business role and integrate it with our commitment to being a good citizen. It allows you to be a change agent and lean into all those aspects that women, especially, care about."

In addition to community outreach, Anne has led Elephants' developments in sustainable business practices. Elephants Delicatessen became a certified B Corporation in 2015 and was twice honored with a B Corp "Best for the World" Changemakers award.

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