

Mike's East-West

Vicky Bayley - Mike Fennelly

Background Info

Vicky Bayley's previous restaurant ventures have included Artesia in Abita Springs, La., and 7 on Fulton in the New Orleans Warehouse District. She and Fennelly are also among the owners of Wabi Dumplings P-Town, a Pan-Asian restaurant in Provincetown, MA. Two additional partners, Colette Cisco and Kenny Lobell, are co-owners of Mike's East-West with Bayley and Fennelly.

Fennelly first gained national attention for his cooking skills in the late 1980s, when he was executive chef at Santacafé in Santa Fe, N.M. In 1989 he left New Mexico for New Orleans to join Bayley in developing Mike's on the Avenue. During Fennelly's tenure there the restaurant garnered a "superior" rating of five beans from The Times-Picayune, and Food & Wine magazine named him to its list of America's Top Ten Young Chefs.

By the time Mike's on the Avenue closed in 1999, Fennelly had moved to San Francisco, where he headed the kitchen at the restaurant Mecca. In 2002 he relocated to the island of Hawaii and became executive chef at Kaikodo, a top-rated restaurant in Hilo on the island's eastern coast.

Before Bayley and Fennelly opened Mike's on the Avenue in 1991 she was director of operations at the New Orleans Fair Grounds racetrack. Bayley also served on the Sugar Bowl Committee and was the first woman to chair the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to attract and manage sporting events that have a positive economic impact on the New Orleans area. She has served on the Mayor's Economic Development Committee and in 1995 was named New Orleans Businesswoman of the Year.

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