

Gumbo Social Story

History

Dontaye Ball (also known as Mr. Gumbo) is the chef and owner of [Gumbo Social](#).

Since 2018, Gumbo Social has been serving build-your-own gumbo, po'boys, and more classic soul food at the [Outer Sunset Farmers Market & Mercantile](#) on Sundays, and at the [Ferry Plaza Farmers Market](#) on Saturdays in San Francisco.

The pop-up has also been known to appear at special events including the Portola Music Festival, Berrison Street Fair, Harmonic Brewery, and the Crawfish & Catfish Festival in Sacramento.

Besides getting [great reviews from guests](#), Gumbo Social has also been featured in [Forbes](#) and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) and on [The Kelly Clarkson Show](#).

The Restaurant

In late 2022, Dontaye secured the keys to Gumbo Social's first [brick and mortar restaurant location](#) at 5176 3rd St. in the heart of the Bayview, San Francisco. He and his team ran a [successfully funded Kickstarter campaign](#) to help with startup costs.

Chef Ball has since established Gumbo

Social as the premier place to get incredible gumbo in San Francisco earning a [4.8 star rating on Google](#).

The [grand opening date for Gumbo Social](#) was June 3, 2023. Gumbo Social is now fully operational and open weekly Mon-Tues from 11 AM to 3 PM and Wed-Sat from 11 AM to 8 PM.

The menu is based on the original [pop-up menu](#), but Chef Ball regularly brings new items to the table such as his sea burger, a dish made popular in the 80s and 90s by a local restaurant named Tiktoks. Chef Ball also uses connections with the farmers market vendors to bring an array of seasonal, local vegetables to the menu such as a watermelon salad and a beet salad.

"We're excited to have a place where the community can come on a daily basis instead of waiting for us to pop up at a farmers market or event," says Dontaye Ball, Chef Owner of Gumbo Social. "I'm grateful to Marcel Banks, owner of Frisco Fried, for paving the way and making this possible."

About Dontaye

Dontaye Ball, also known as Mr. Gumbo, is the chef-owner of Gumbo Social, a San Francisco-based restaurant specializing in gumbo and soul food since 2018. He is from San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. Earning his Culinary Arts Degree from San Francisco City College and completing his



internship at Delfina restaurant, today Chef Ball believes that Gumbo is the most important food to American culture.

When Mr. Gumbo isn't cooking his award winning gumbo, he is raising his teenage twin sons and baby daughter and serving as President of the Bayview Merchants Association and as Delegate for the Bayview Council of District Merchants Association in San Francisco.

Team

The Gumbo Social team is largely made of family members although the team will continue to expand with the addition of the restaurant. The current team includes:

- Dontaye Ball - chef & owner
- Dontaye Jr. - Dontaye's son, "The Gumbo Man," fulfills all gumbo orders at the market.
- Ziontaye - Dontaye's son, "Mr. Everything," po'boy and breakfast sandwich expert and supports with anything that's needed.
- Jasmine - Dontaye's sister, moral support, and operations leadership.
- Tye - Dontaye's sister, breakfast sandwich expert and grill master.
- Eoin - Dontaye's nephew, social media manager, and provides excellent guest service at our events and pop-ups.

- Dara - Dontaye's nephew, Mr. everything junior, supports out wherever needed.
- Rocio - Dontaye's good friend from culinary school, honorary family member, front-of-the house support, and catering guru
- Kamael - Family member and events and social media idea queen
- King Larry and Laila - niece and nephew rockstars and lovers of pork belly and gumbo
- Quanisha - Catering and special events manager and menu coordinator
- Naomi - A good friend and marketing strategist
- Anna - Videography and editing with Step One Films
- Caitlyn - Idea generator and production support with Step One Films
- En2Action - Our broader community family, brings Gumbo Social great opportunities and resources en2action.org
- Kahja -Special event curator, owner of Kay in the Bay and host of the As Told By podcast

Learn more at gumbosocial.com and on Instagram [@gumbosocial](https://www.instagram.com/gumbosocial)

