



Photo by Alice Keeney

Julie Simuang and Laura Cannon are in the espresso lane.

The friends met over an espresso machine at Local Market and Coffee. Julie was the manager and dished on her dream to own a coffeehouse. Laura, then assistant manager at the Governor’s House Inn, became a regular and the two eventually became business partners. They’ve bonded over how-to books, finances, and faith in their vision: The Orange Spot. It reflects a café haven Julie found in Thailand, heightened by *cha yen*, a Thai tea. “It was my orange drink, and when I had a bad day, I kept saying ‘I just need to go to my orange spot.’ That’s what people look for when they go to a coffee shop—a spot for themselves.” That spot surfaces this spring, bringing Lowcountry products—plus *cha yen*—to Park Circle. “We want people to feel like, when they’re around us, they can be who they are and say what they feel, and all we want to do is just serve them coffee and tea.”