



Patronicity | CASE STUDY

POPPS EMPORIUM

Public Spaces, Community Places | Hamtramck, Michigan



THE PROJECT

Popps Packing is an artist-run neighborhood-based nonprofit organization in the Detroit-Hamtramck area founded in 2008 by husband and wife artists, Faina Lerman and Graem Whyte. Expanding upon their mission through community feedback, Popps Packing aims to create impactful arts programming and foster cultural exchange between local and international artist communities.

The Popps Emporium project began in 2012 when the organization bought a blighted storefront with an attached house to extend their existing programming. Using the Public Spaces, Community Places crowdgranting program from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Emporium was transformed from a blighted property to an active community art space. The building has created a residency space, a community gallery, and a tool lending library. Popps Emporium serves as a community resource for the sharing of goods, skills, and experiences, while offering a platform for community engagement, creating new connections and neighborly good will.



“As an organization, the work we do is about placekeeping, there is already people and place here. The fact that we live here and we are trying to honor and salvage what existed has cemented our work in placekeeping. We wanted to make art more accessible and create a space that was special and not alien, but welcoming.”

Faina Lerman, Executive Director
of Popps Packing

THE IMPACT



**161
PATRONS**



**\$30,664
CROWDFUNDING
RAISE**



**\$30,000
CROWDGRANTING
MATCH**

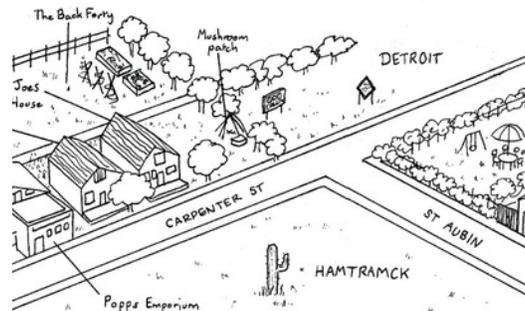


**\$125,000
LEVERAGED
FUNDING**

Popps Emporium has become home to the East Davidson Village Block Club meetings, an international artists residency, tool lending library, and a pop-up community art school called the Ceramics School.

Popps Packing also puts on a summer camp for the neighborhood in the backlots behind the Emporium. Camp Carpenter is a week-long outdoor adventure camp for children ages 7-14 set in and around Popps Packing's buildings, art installations, and green spaces. Campers work alongside professional artists to design, build and create the elements of their own imaginative worlds and to construct the physical structures of the camp facility.

Children learn to use basic hand tools, take their designs from idea to reality, collaborate across age groups, and tell imaginative stories through theater games and role playing — all while contributing to the betterment of the Detroit-Hamtramck community through the construction of a lasting play space for all.



**PUBLIC SPACES
COMMUNITY PLACES**

Public Spaces Community Places (PSCP) is our crowdgranting partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). This crowdgranting initiative provides matching grant funds to eligible projects that improve public space in the state of Michigan. Projects can receive a matching grant of up to \$50,000 if they reach their crowdfunding goal. Learn more about the program and apply at www.patronicity.com/puremichigan.

