



A Home for HATCH!

On February 26th, 2007, The Hamtramck City Council unanimously voted to approve a resolution that grants “Hatch: A Hamtramck Arts Collective” a one-year site option on the former Hamtramck Police Station for the selling price of one dollar. (The mayor quipped, “The art center formerly known as the police station.”)

"This is exciting both for Hatch and for Hamtramck, which will reap the benefits of having an art center. It is a positive message that Hamtramck is a progressive city that takes bold moves to support art and culture." said Christopher Schneider, president and founder of Hatch.

The building was originally built as a dormitory for nuns who worked at the hospital across the street. The hospital is now Hamtramck City Hall and the current residence of the Hamtramck Police Department.

Hatch plans to use the building to exhibit artwork from local, national and international artists, representing the rich cultural diversity that already exists in Hamtramck. It will also have an art space open to the community equipped with a darkroom, a kiln, a printing press and more. The building will house 12 artist studios for rent and a gift shop stocked with goods made by local artists. If it can find the funding, it will also develop a technology center for education, computer design and videography.

The building has been unoccupied for over three years and needs a new roof and several internal repairs. Hatch has estimated that it will need to raise \$150,000 in funds to renovate the building to make it operable. Hatch has one year to raise the capital and decide if it wishes to exercise its option to purchase the building for one dollar.

Hatch will be applying for grants and hosting fundraising events. It is open to new members and volunteers, as well as donations to help start rehabilitating the building.

Formed in April 2006, Hatch is the brainchild of Hatch president Christopher Schneider and Erik Tungate, Hamtramck’s former Director of Community & Economic Development. They saw a need for an artist community that would promote Hamtramck in a positive way. Artists could pool their resources to challenge each other and reach out to the greater community. For More information, Please visit: www.hatchart.org or contact Christopher Schneider at: schneider@hatchart.org or call 313-808-0154."