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Spalding County's Participation in Georgia's PSAP

Public Service Apprenticeship Program Overview

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Senate Bill 497

- Georgia's Public Service Apprenticeship Program (PSAP)
 - The program supports public service employers in developing registered apprenticeship programs. Spalding County was selected through a competitive application process to receive up to \$5,000 per apprentice, funded by the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG).



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We Partnered with Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC)

This collaboration enables apprentices to combine real-world work experience with classroom learning at SCTC



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Spalding County's 2024 Team

- Three firefighters are participating as the first apprentices:
 - Kevin Hollums and Dunsten Miller: EMT Certification program
 - Randy Ponder: Paramedic Certification program
- All continue their regular county jobs while attending SCTC and upon completion:
 - Hollums and Miller will be certified EMTs
 - Ponder will be a certified paramedic

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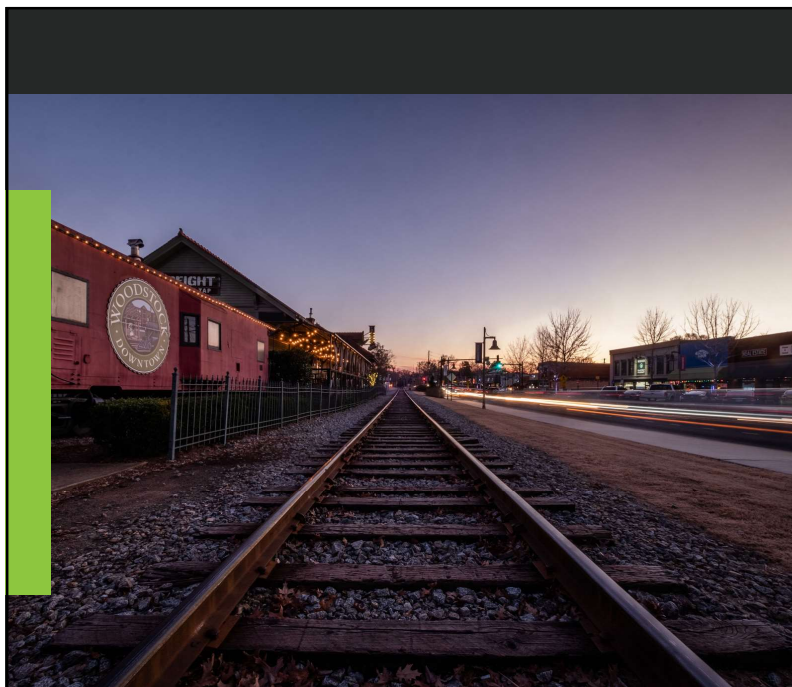
What's Next?

- Planned expansions include:
 - Additional EMT and Paramedic programs
 - Advanced training specializations for other county roles
- Goal: Develop a skilled workforce and provide career advancement opportunities for employees

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CONTEXT

ECON DEV IN WOODSTOCK

- City department with 5 FT employees + 3 PT brand ambassadors
- Responsible for:
 - Citywide Econ Dev
 - Municipal Communications
 - Employees loaned as staff through IGA for:
 - Downtown Development Authority
 - Visit Woodstock GA (CVB) (501c6)
 - IN WDSK, Inc. (501c6)

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Why a Maker Space



PRIVATE CO-WORK

Several privately owned professional co-work spaces around town



THE CIRCUIT

Woodstock ED partnership with Cherokee County ED + Chat Tech College for co-work small business incubator on Woodstock campus



EXISTING MAKERS

Built-in maker community hosting their own events and participating in local craft, art + farmer's markets

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MAKER OR ARTIST?

Local arts center + Woodstock GA/DDA partner is building a visual arts center with opportunity for artists.



TYPICAL MAKER SPACE

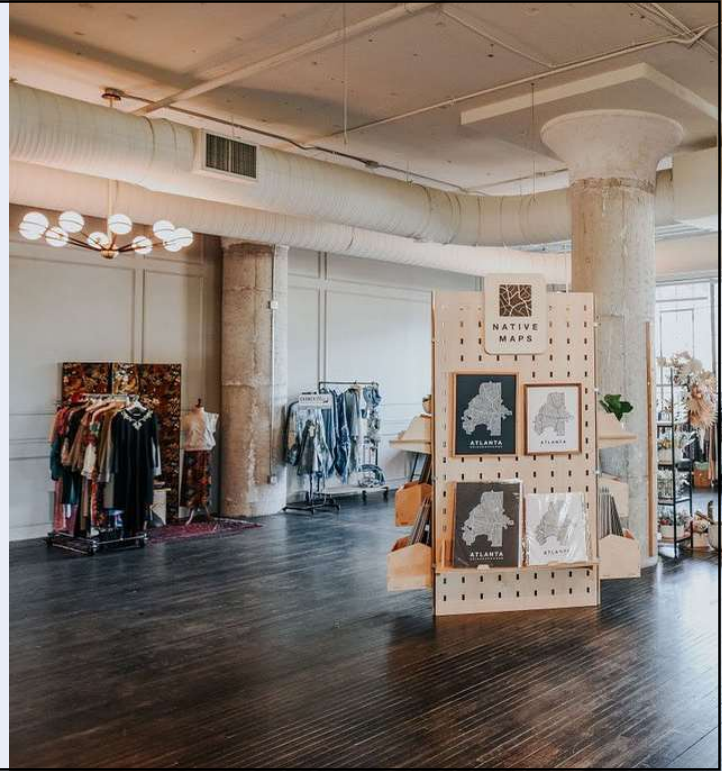
More industrial in nature, manufacturing/experimental based business development.
This was our initial concept.

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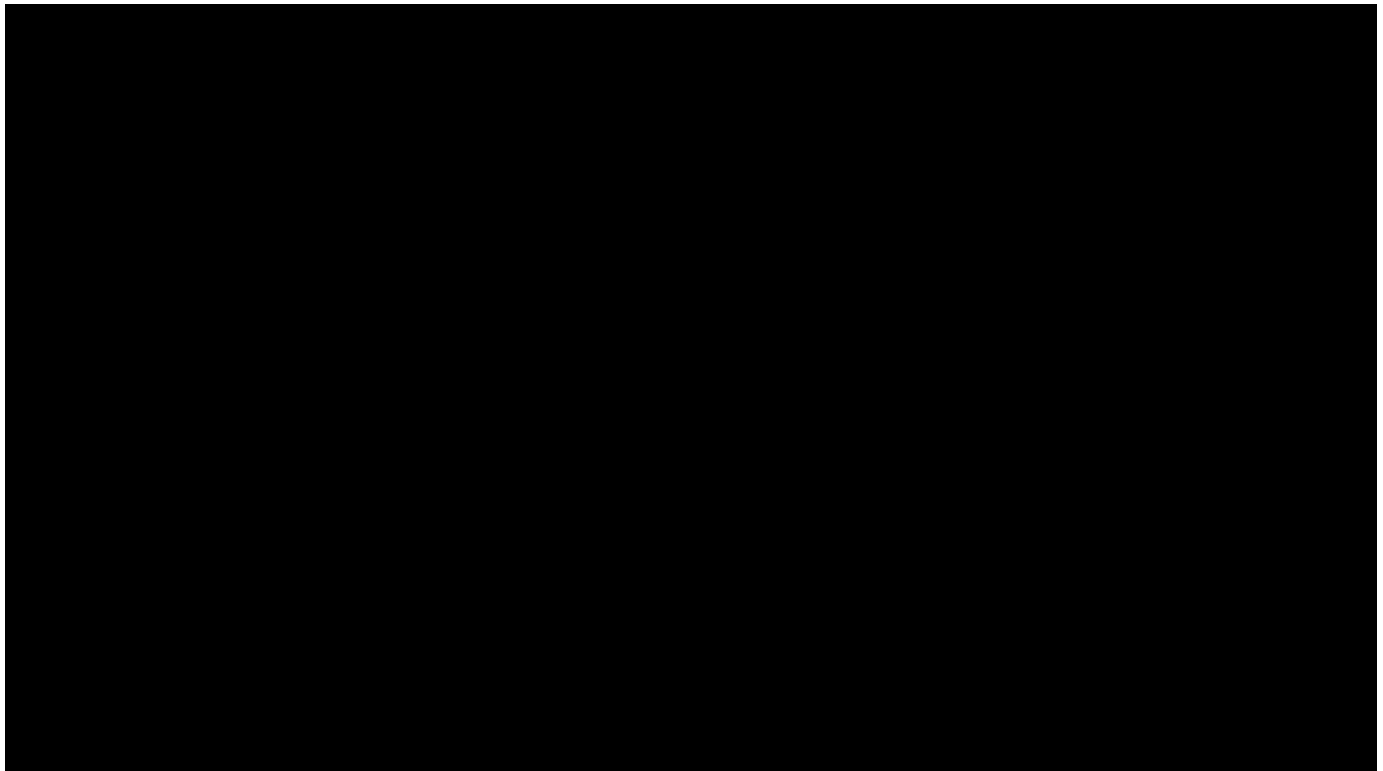
JUST COPY IT

(with modifications of course)

- Space focused on retail production with workspaces
- Don't make it look like booths in an antique mall
- But:
 - Production space is the focus, retail is a bonus
 - Need businesses with goal of scaling, not crafting as a hobby
 - Goal is that they have little investment in overhead and can determine if their idea sinks, swims or pivots without going broke
 - Want them to make that decision in 12-18 months and get out
- So now we are searching for a needle in a haystack...an 'industrial' building in our main business district...there is one



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8636 MAIN STREET

- Previous retail space on main level (closed in early 2019) with unsafe upstairs. Building to the right just started construction.
- DDA began lease negotiations then, LL not comfortable with tenants in it due to construction impact from next door
- LL re-enforced second floor and made it habitable while vacant
- Lease went from 2.1k to 4.2k square feet, doubling rent
- DDA prioritized making the program work for the space committing income + reserve funds to do tenant improvements/cover operations until fully up and running



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MADE MERCANTILE IN 2024

WORKSPACE

Made Mercantile has hosted 40+ makers over 4 years.

80% Average
Occupancy

RETAIL

Made Mercantile generated around \$265K in retail sales in 2024.

At an 80/20 split, roughly \$53,000 was reinvested in the program and \$212,000 was earned by local, small business.

EDUCATION

Along with peer-to-peer mentoring, Made Mercantile hosts monthly educational sessions for members throughout the year.

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GATHER + BLOOM FLORAL BOUTIQUE

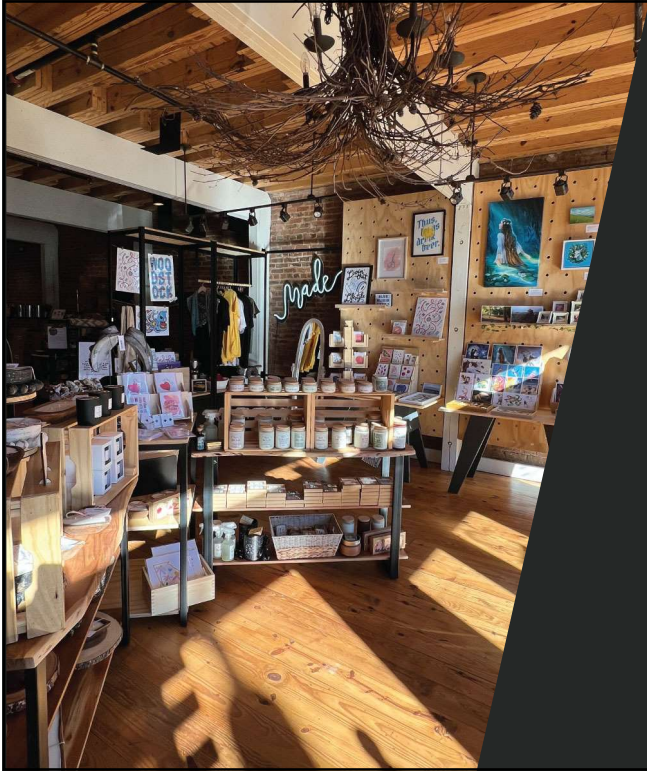
Maker was a part of Made Mercantile
for 8 months
(April - November)

Quickly outgrew the space.

Economic Development was able to help
locate her one block down on Historic
Mainstreet.

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REACH OUT



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