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Article: Midtown Global Market: Growing Immigrant Enterprises and New Communities

Marketplaces around the world have served for much of human history as meeting grounds of people across race, class, and from places far and wide. Some have a widely varied mix of patrons; some have a global mix of vendors and products. However, few purposefully combine these while supporting entrepreneurial efforts by a global mix of vendors and blend them daily with cultural activities that represent diverse cultures as a neighborhood revitalization strategy.

This presentation illustrates cultural, economic, and ultimately political bridge-building and empowerment taking place at the Midtown Global Market (MGM) in Minneapolis, USA. This eclectic year-round, indoor marketplace opened in 2006 and boasts 50 businesses operated by entrepreneurs who originate from 16 countries. It draws over 1.5 million visitors each year and employs almost 500 people. Ongoing exhibits of local artists, live music 3 to 5 days per week, and over 25 large-scale events each year connect the eclectic mix of cultures that are part of the market and surrounding neighborhoods.

Personal Information

Tom Borrup, Ph.D. consults with cities, foundations, and nonprofits integrating arts, economic development, urban planning and design, civic engagement, and public space animation. He serves as Director of Graduate Studies for the University of Minnesota's Masters in Arts and Cultural Leadership and teaches Cultural Planning for Drexel University.