

Project for Empty Space has Upgraded its Flagship Studios & Expanded in Downtown Newark!



*Building Mural: "Work and Serve the Hour, Lift as We Climb"
Artist: Noelle Lorraine Williams
Image Credit: NDD*

Project for Empty Space (PES) received a \$1.0 million [Activation, Revitalization and Transformation \(ART\)](#) grant from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority in February 2024 - the second sizable grant it received to expand its operations in Newark! The NDD discussed the grant funding uses and PES's current programs with co-directors Jasmine Wahi and Rebecca Jampol. PES put the funds to work by expanding at 800 Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson Boulevard (formerly 800 Broad Street), and building out their space at 110 Edison Place ([Ironsides Newark](#)). PES will [reopen](#) its doors and showcase the upgrades on September 10th.

On the corner of Edison Place at 800 Mayor Gibson Boulevard, PES has artist studios on the second and third floors—totaling 30,000 square feet. The grant funding has enabled them to expand into a 4,000 square foot storefront on Edison Place. PES now has storefront access to its operations in what was the original Newsreel Theatre in the building, which has been renovated into an art gallery.

The location at Ironside Newark is on Mulberry Commons and includes a patio. In addition, Katherine’s Restaurant and Brewery is opening in an adjacent patio location, adding an attractive art and entertainment feature to Ironside Newark. The location of Katherine’s clearly is targeting the crowd drawn to the Prudential Center at the other end of Mulberry Commons.

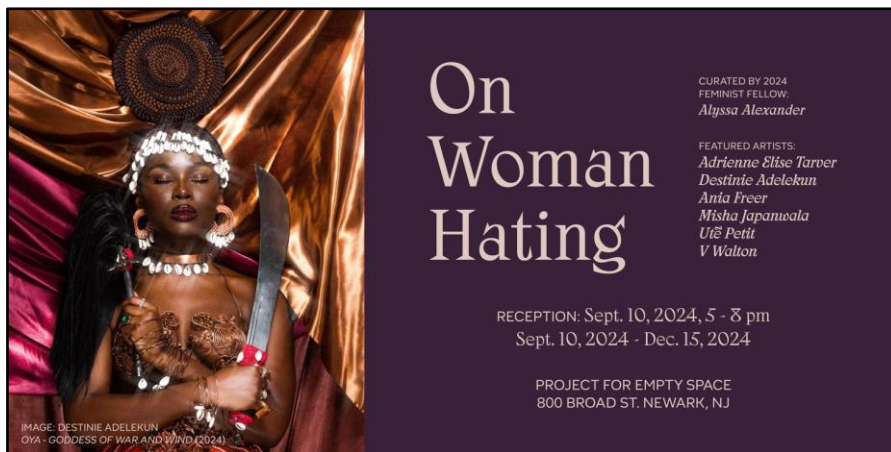
The PES spaces bookend Edison Place, with the Prudential Center and Championship Plaza in between—enhancing its presence and artistic fabric in downtown Newark. There is too much going on at PES for us to run through it all, but here are our highlights:

PES Reopens its Doors on September 10th

After a year-long renovation PES will reopen its doors. At 4:00 pm Ms. Wahi and Ms. Jampol will kick off the reopening of the spaces with a ribbon cutting and director remarks at Championship Plaza, followed by receptions at all three locations between 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

PES will feature three new exhibits at each location:

- **800 Mayor Gibson Boulevard** - *On Woman Hating* featured by PES 2024 feminist FUTURE fellow Alyssa Alexander, which includes six non-binary feminine artists
- **Ironside Newark** - *Trains Busses and the Four C’s* by PES 2023-2025 Artist in Residence Azikiwe Mohammed
- **Championship Plaza** - **Body Freedom for Every(Body)** PES’s mobile exhibit featuring programs and works by artists focused on body autonomy

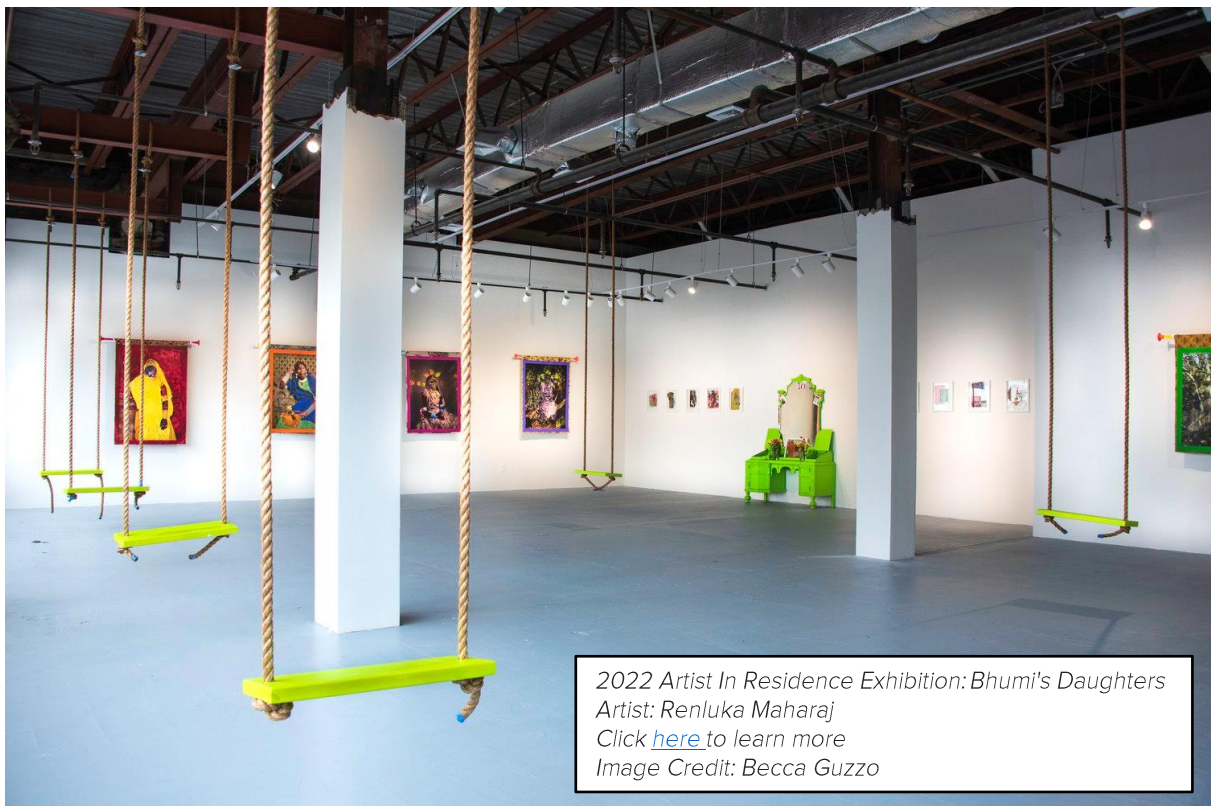


PES Studios

At their flagship location at 800 Mayor Gibson Boulevard, PES houses over 40 artists studios and shared spaces. The studios are between 200 square feet and 500 square feet. The PES platform is based on providing a community where artists work to provide equitable social engagement. In addition to the studios, the new ground-floor gallery is available for the community.

Newsreel Theatre - Storefront Gallery

Newark is full of architectural character, including buildings that include vintage theater space. The Newsreel Theatre dates to the 1930s where the renovated gallery space retains some of the theatre's original architectural features. Unfortunately, renovated theater space is not the norm downtown where Newark's historic theater's have fallen into disuse. Not so for the Newsreel Theatre, which has seen an artistic rebirth as a PES gallery!



2022 Artist In Residence Exhibition: *Bhumi's Daughters*
Artist: Renluka Maharaj
Click [here](#) to learn more
Image Credit: Becca Guzzo

Ironside Newark Studio

Centered at a key location in close proximity to Newark Penn Station, Ironside Newark is a historic warehouse converted into a state-of-the-art mixed use office building, attracting key office tenants such as Mars Wrigley and McKinsey and Co. The building has traditional storefront retail on the first floor at Edison Place. The [second floor](#) of the building (the rear) is on grade with Mulberry Commons. PES's space here includes a patio area on Mulberry Commons (see photo below).

PES is an original tenant in the storefronts on Mulberry Commons with its studio here. We view the PES studio here as not only expanding PES reach for its artist community, but also as a solid amenity for the office users in Ironside Newark and the adjacent Gateway Newark office complex. Amenities for employees have become a key component to attract office tenants, as companies have adopted a hybrid business model. It's no longer just enough to provide quality office space.




Hard Hat Tour: PES Artists, Board Members, and Stakeholders
Image Credit: Redens "Rex" Desrosiers



Image Credit: NDD

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM



AZIKIWE MOHAMMED
TRAINS, BUSES & THE 4 C'S

RECEPTION:
SEPT. 10, 2024, 5 - 8 PM
EXHIBITION DATES:
SEPT. 10, 2024 - DEC. 15, 2024

LOCATION:
PROJECT FOR EMPTY SPACE
IRONSIDE, 110 EDISON PL.
NEWARK, NJ, 07102



IMAGE: AZIKIWE MOHAMMED
LOOKING FOR WORK #3 (2024)

Artist in Residence

The PES Artist in Residence program is in its eighth cycle. It is an annual program and centered on artists who are engaged in social involvement to benefit not only the artist, but their audience as well. Artists in the 2023-2025 cycle include Azikiwe Mohammed, Daphne Arthur, Helena Metaferia, and Layqua Nuna Yawar.


In addition to its \$1.0 million NJEDA grant, PES received a \$1.5 million grant in 2023 from the Mellon Foundation. Funding from this grant has enabled PES to support twice as many artists in the program. The artists are funded for a two-year residence program at 800 Mayor Gibson Boulevard.

PES Futures

With their initial roots in New York City, PES reestablished an operation at 128 Baxter Street located in Chinatown with its PES Futures studio. This enables their Newark based artist community to exhibit their work across the river.

Body Freedom for Every(Body)

The last studio we will discuss is PES studio on wheels - Body Freedom for Every(Body). It's a 27-foot box truck that is touring the nation from September to December 2024. Core to their inclusive mission, the tour features "Reproductive Justice, Queer Justice, and Trans Joy". The exhibit will be at Championship Plaza on September 10th.



**BODY
FREEDOM
FOR
EVERY(BODY)**

NEWARK

AT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAZA IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF METRO NJ

SEPTEMBER
10, 2024

232 MARKET
ST, NEWARK, NJ

Planned
Parenthood

PROJECT
FOR
SPACE

bodyfreedomforeverybody.org @bodyfreedomforeverybody @ppmnj

IMAGE: HELINA METAFERIA
HEADDRESS 10 (2024)

About PES

Project for Empty Space is a woman run femme-powered People of the Global Majority/BIPOC, Queer, and unapologetically radical ecosystem for creatives.

For additional information on PES's artist lineup and programs, visit its Internet site at www.projectforemptyspace.org.

PES also has a site on Bloomberg Connects. The App is available at www.bloombergconnects.org or visit your cell phone App Store and type **Project for Empty Space** in the App's search window for the PES site.



Currently on View: *Body Freedom For Every(Body)*
PES FUTURES at 128 Baxter St., NYC
Click [here](#) to learn more
Image Credit: Carlos Hernandez

Newark Downtown District

About the NDD:

The Newark Downtown District (NDD), Newark's special improvement district (SID) of the central business area, is a privately funded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to enhancing cleanliness, safety, and beautification in Downtown Newark, while preserving and enriching culture, commerce, and community.

NDD works hard to enrich the quality of life for those who live, labor, and leisure in Newark by providing supplemental cleaning and quality of life services, as well as physical improvements, horticulture, marketing, and event programs. These efforts make downtown Newark attractive to residents, businesses, students, tourists, and visitors.

The NDD is funded through a special assessment on district commercial and residential properties and is overseen by a Board of Trustees consisting of business and property owners within the District, representatives of non-profit organizations, as well as municipal officials and staff.

The NDD defines downtown Newark as the area generally bounded by I280 to the north, the Passaic River and the New Jersey Transit and AMTRAK rail to the east, Poinier Street to the south, and University Avenue, Washington Street, and Pennsylvania Avenue to the west. The adjacent map shows the specific boundaries as defined by the NDD. Property statistics in this report represent properties in the NDD special improvement district.

