

# **Movie man brings his talent to Easthampton**

*By CATHERINE BAUM Staff Writer*

[Originally published on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 ]

EASTHAMPTON - Edward Check, art director for "Sex and the City: The Movie," may have big-city movie credentials to his name, but he has a pet project right here in Easthampton: the non-profit organization CitySpace.

Check founded CitySpace, based in the former Town Hall on Main Street, with Will Bundy, the developer of Eastworks, in 2006.

The two men had met around 2005 at a meeting at the Easthampton Council on Aging Enrichment Center, where business owners in the city were invited to hear about the Cultural Council's monthly meetings and work at the city's municipal building at 50 Payson Ave.

There was no dedicated space in which the Cultural Council could do its work, and there are many arts organizations in Easthampton, Check said.

"We don't have a phone or office at 50 Payson - everybody just kind of wings it," said Check, who was a volunteer on the Easthampton Cultural Council.

Following that meeting, Bundy and Check talked about using Easthampton's old Town Hall on Main Street, built in 1868, for the arts community.

As a former member of the Easthampton Cultural Council and someone familiar with groups like Easthampton City Arts and Art Walk, Check said he and Bundy believed "it would really be great if the public had one place to go to find out information about what's been happening."

"There's all these little scattered groups of people," Check said.

The goal of CitySpace is to provide an arts center while reducing the cost of the building's maintenance. Currently, CitySpace is working on adding Flywheel Arts Collective, a non-profit, volunteer-run arts collective.

"It is affordable, you do need space because you're an artist and it's here," Check said.