

Atlanta Unsheltered

News & views on politics, media & the environment

Cityscape: Highland at Sampson

July 22, 2009 by Jeanne Bonner
Filed under: SMART GROWTH



Maybe it seems like I think everything is broken in Atlanta.

Au contraire. Some things have been fixed. Like this corner of the **Old Fourth Ward** (Highland Ave. at Sampson St.).

This area of town has received a lot of press in the past year, and understandably so. It's a fun part of town and is home to some great bars and restaurants.

But there are lots of bars and restaurants that are popular in Atlanta. I pick this one because **P'Cheen** is one of

the few that has a crowd outside of it — not just inside — until late into the night.

And I mean a crowd above and beyond the people sitting at the tables on the sidewalk patio. Taxis will pull up one after another, and the **people-watching** is among the best in the city (Note to the people who rank people-watching spots: Hartsfield is not unique. It's a given that an airport has good people-watching).

My interest here isn't a restaurant review; it's what parts of the city organically produce **foot traffic**, and what combinations of streetscaping, location and amenities create places people want to linger.

What the folks at P'Cheen have done — and it includes good DJs, interesting food, a great location in the groundfloor of an apartment building — it works and I suggest it's a model for any entrepreneur who is looking to open a bar or restaurant in this town.

Drive around Atlanta. Where do you see a crowd outside of a place at midnight?