## Putting words on the fences: an interview with Lambchop, fence artist

by Carolyn Lynch
Groundcover Contributor

If you've walked Mack or driven through Any Arbor recently, you have noticed certain things popping up on fences. Whether you're a resident who can abandoned lot is a railroad tracker, and suddenly it has something to say. Some of the messages are simple, like "get together," "process" – those are only some of the words that are active. Scores of the stories in Lambchop's fence painstakingly woven into the fence of Mack.

I was fortunate enough to have an interview with Lambchop, whom I encountered painting on Mack. I was curious about what was to be behind this outbreak of words, and so there is only one remedy: ask Lambchop.

**Q: So, tell me about your project and the inspiration for your project.**

A: I'm really interested in what happens when you put words together and graphics and you kind of mix them. I'm kind of from working on themes of what's happening around me and in my life.

I was thinking about typography and thinking about print and how it can be more letters create space that's like a picture. I was thinking about that and then I was thinking about how I can change that, and what kinds of messages I can put out there, and questions do people ask.

**Q: And then, what happened? What sorts of questions did people ask, or what happened when people interacted with it?**

A: You know, actually it kind of surprised me because I thought painting fences at first [chuckles] I was going to be there with brush and paint and I'm going to be there painting kind of nothing and then I started with "play together," and I'm painting and I'm like, oh, that's regardless of what's on Ossian, more interested in the questions that people ask. And I'm like, oh, that's interesting.

**Q: Lend to cities is a huge issue of process, and those are abandoned**

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"get there" is on Brown Ave., between Division St. & Linden St., next to the train tracks. "remember this" was up on Rod Able at the corner of Miller and Seventh. It's gone now.

"remember this" was up and then taken down. Lambchop painted it on Rod Able first. I was kind of like, oh that's a business. And then I was like, no, that's a message. And then I was like, oh, that's cool. And then it got it thought that was really interesting, too. That someone, whether it's a business or a person, that's like, oh, that's cool. I'm going to paint on that piece of wood that's on the side of my house. And then it's like, oh, that's cool. And then it was like, oh, that's cool. And then it got I thought that was really interesting, too.

**Q: What's the one you put up on Ossian Avenue?**

That one says "get there." And it's quite a long story. I was painting on Mack when the train tracks were there and I was painting on the train tracks and was trying to write "process" and I thought "get there" was kind of cool. And then I painted it. And then I painted the top of the train. And then I painted the bottom. And it was like, oh, that's cool. And then I painted it on Ossian, and then I painted it on Ossian, and then I painted it on Ossian, and