*CPGLCC President and CEO Harry Young connected with Adam Porter, Co-Founder of st@rtup, to talk entrepreneurship and LGBT Business in Central Pennsylvania, and to learn about the vibrant coworking community he and Adam Brackbill have created in Harrisburg.*

Harry Young: Your company is a bit unique in our region, and is designed around the way entrepreneurs do business today. Tell us about st@rtup and the service you provide the community.

Adam Porter: **st@rtup is Harrisburg's first coworking space. We offer our members an all-inclusive, flexible work environment to grow their businesses and networks.**

HY: The idea of a coworking space may not have been familiar to a lot of people in Harrisburg when you founded st@rtup, but in a little over four years, you’ve certainly changed the conversation around coworking in our region. What is one thing people still may not know about you or your business?

AP: **Besides running st@rtup, my co-founder, Adam Brackbill, owns a micro-creamery called [Urban Churn](https://urbanchurn.com/" \t "_blank) while I'm soon opening a neighborhood grocery in downtown Harrisburg called [Provisions](http://provisionshbg.com/" \t "_blank).**

HY: You are certainly no stranger to CPGLCC. How long have you been a member of the chamber, and what has membership meant to you?

AP: **We joined the Chamber a little over 4 years ago when we opened. We've found immense value in the connections we've made, whether finding service providers for our existing members or recruiting new members, like Mx2 Event Design.**

HY: How have you built a successful customer base?

AP: **Listening. Our members, who are growing small businesses themselves, have quickly changing needs and we need to be attentive and present to be able to fulfill our mission of helping them grow.**

HY: What advice would you give to individuals looking to start their own business?

AP: **Start. No matter how much you plan, there will always be an element of making it up as you go along, so why not get going now? Also, you needn't be the smartest person in the room, but you do have to work the hardest.**

HY: Why did you choose to start - and keep - your business in Central PA?

AP: **The way we work is changing so quickly, and Central PA is no different. We started here because we saw a need we thought we could meet. We stay here because we want to, for our small part, nurture that growth and help people realize that they, and their ideas, have value.**