



INTERNATIONAL  
DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION

## BACKING INTERNATIONAL SMALL RESTAURANTS

2023 GRANT AWARDEE HIGHLIGHT

### HAMA HOUSE

TOKYO, JAPAN

In 2023, [Hama House](#) was among five restaurants in Tokyo to be awarded 2 million yen as a part of the “Backing International Small Restaurants” grant program. More than a café, Hama House is a community space located just steps from the hustle and bustle of Nihonbashi Hamacho. The concept is considered a “living room in the city” or “third-space” for many people who live and work nearby.

Since opening in 2017, the vibrant glass-enclosed building has become a place where both tourists and locals are welcomed to have fun, engage and connect. The café offers guests expertly brewed coffee, and a chef’s menu of fresh seasonal, regional, and continental foods. The bright and modern spaces throughout are designed for quiet reading and study, workshops and education, collaborative work, socializing, and entertainment.

Hama House has used their grant funds to purchase essential kitchen equipment, and to enhance gathering spaces with speakers and projectors that better facilitate community events and clubs. Among other events, in November 2023 the café hosted “Hamacho Autumn Session”, a festival celebrated with autumn themed food, and fun activities for all ages. This special event included a collaboration with THINK&EAT, a web magazine devoted to reducing food waste.

Festivals, art exhibits, running groups, photography meetups, musical performances, and community cleanups are just a few of the opportunities available to visitors and residents. Hama House is a gathering place where community is at the core.



A “living room in the city”



Enhanced gathering spaces

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“Backing International Small Restaurants” is an International Downtown Association Foundation grant program, supported by American Express, aimed at boosting business for small, independent restaurants that demonstrate a positive impact on their community, and are owned by individuals from underrepresented and/or economically vulnerable groups.

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