



## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD RECOGNIZING  
DIVERSITY IN ITS COMMUNITY GALLERY PARTNERSHIPS**

***Long-running, exhibition-based outreach program receives the Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)***

**DETROIT-** Since 2006, the Detroit Historical Society has partnered with 50+ Detroit-area historical, educational and community organizations to tell their own stories in its innovative Community Gallery program at the Detroit Historical Museum. These dynamic displays and the museum's unique collaborative model have just been awarded the **2020 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)**, the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history. The award will be presented in a virtual ceremony in September.

Community Gallery displays are created by local organizations in partnership with the Society. The museum's professional staff supports each project with design, interpretation and production expertise and assistance. The resulting exhibitions are open to the public for several months at a time and often include complementary programming, like the museum's popular Third Thursday Speaker Series.

The award specifically recognized the Detroit Historical Society for the diversity of its partnerships. In 2019, the Community Gallery hosted exhibitions on the Detroit Sound Conservancy (partner: same); Corktown's early history (partners: the Corktown Experience and Wayne State University's Grosscup Museum of Anthropology); the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit's with the "Looking for America" art exhibition (partners: International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, CuriosityConnects.us and Global Detroit); the history and culture of Southwest Detroit (partner: Southwest Detroit Business Association); photographs of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Black Detroit (Partner: The Black Historic Sites Committee); and Detroit's LGBTQ+ history (partners: LGBTQ+ Detroit, Between the Lines and the Ruth Ellis Center). The program has seen such high demand that a second gallery space was recently added to accommodate more partners annually.

"We are honored to receive such a prestigious award," said Detroit Historical Society President and CEO Elana Rugh. "To be recognized for the diversity of our partnerships and our work to lift up the stories of Detroit's wonderful community organizations is particularly affirming during this time as we sharpen our commitment to ensure that *all* of Detroit's stories are represented in our museums."

**Now on display in the Community Gallery:** *100 Years of Music, Magic and Community: Orchestra Hall* (with the DSO), extended due to museum closure through Fall 2020. Community Gallery exhibitions are free with general admission to the museum.

Past Community Gallery partners have also included: Friends of Detroit's Chinatown, Focus: HOPE, Great Lakes Council of Boy Scouts of America, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Selfridge Air National Guard Base Museum, the Detroit Artists Market, Pewabic Pottery, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit School of Rock and Pop, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

**The American Association for State and Local History** is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, and maintains numerous affinity communities and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training in-person workshops, and online training.

**The Detroit Historical Society** is a private, nonprofit organization located in Midtown, the heart of Detroit's cultural center. Founded in 1921, its mission is to tell Detroit's stories and why they matter. Today, the Society operates the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In addition, the Society is responsible for the conservation and preservation of more than 250,000 artifacts that represent three centuries of our region's rich history. Through its museum exhibits, school tour programs, community-based programs and history-themed outreach efforts, the Society serves more than 150,000 people annually. For more information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).

**The Detroit Historical Museum** is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit. The Museum is currently closed due to COVID-19 but parking in the Museum's lot is available via automated parking kiosk. Historical content and virtual tours and exhibits are available at [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org). Permanent exhibits include the famous *Streets of Old Detroit*, the *Allesee Gallery of Culture*, *Kid Rock Music Lab*, *Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad*, *Detroit: The "Arsenal of Democracy,"* the *Gallery of Innovation*, *Frontiers to Factories*, *America's Motor City* and *The Glancy Trains*.

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