

Where
the past
is present

DETROIT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

SPRING 2016

MAKING HISTORY

A QUARTERLY GUIDE TO EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, TOURS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Above: DPTV President and CEO Rich Homberg with Society Executive Director and CEO Bob Bury on January 21, 2016. Below: Scenes from a panel discussion featuring members of the Detroit Journalism Cooperative that followed the partnership announcement.



Celebrating a New Partnership

On Thursday, January 21 the Detroit Historical Society and Detroit Public Television (DPTV) announced a very exciting partnership! In a press conference that was livestreamed from the Detroit Historical Museum's *Allee Gallery of Culture*, DPTV announced that they are moving a senior team of editorial staff members into approximately 1,100 square feet of newly renovated space on the museum's third floor. This staff will produce live and recorded programming in the museum's galleries and public spaces, allowing DPTV to expand its already robust coverage of the city under its One Detroit initiative. (Learn more about One Detroit at dptv.com/onedetroit.) In turn, the Society will be able to utilize DPTV's broadcast and online platforms to bring additional awareness to exhibitions and programs – and complement and enhance the reach and impact of our *Detroit 67: Looking Back to MOVE FORWARD* project.

This is a groundbreaking and mutually beneficial partnership. The Society team is excited to interact with DPTV staff on a daily basis and to enjoy the increased exposure that comes with originating local programming from our unique exhibit spaces. The offices will serve as a vital base for both organizations as we convene conversations with leaders and citizens about the revitalization of Detroit and visualizing the city's future.

Read more about our partnership, including a recording of the announcement press conference and the panel discussion that followed at detroithistorical.org/about-us/dptv-partnership. Also watch for the museum as a backdrop in upcoming public television broadcasts—DPTV's *MIWeek* and *American Black Journal* have already filmed here!

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MAKING HISTORY is the official quarterly newsletter of the Detroit Historical Society, published each winter, spring, summer and fall.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Bob Bury

Detroit 67: Looking Back to MOVE FORWARD....Moving Forward!

This spring promises to be an exciting and transformative season for the Detroit Historical Society, as we launch many of the community programming and outreach initiatives that are part of our *Detroit 67: Looking Back MOVE FORWARD* community engagement project. As we announced last year, *Detroit 67* is a major multi-year effort that will feature diverse voices, programs and exhibitions that bridge gaps in understanding Detroit's past. The 50th commemoration of Detroit's historic summer of civil unrest occurs in 2017 and presents a unique opportunity for all of us to recall and reflect on what we have learned over the past five decades—how we got here, where we are now and, importantly, where we are headed. To ensure that our project represents the perspectives of the entire region, we are working closely with many community partners in the arts, social services, race relations, business, academic and economic development sectors to understand our region's diverse and often difficult history, as a way to move us thoughtfully into a shared future.

As you will see in the following pages, one of our partners, the Detroit Public Theatre, is staging a performance of *Detroit '67* by Detroit native Dominique Morriseau in May. As part of this partnership, we will be collaborating to develop curriculum materials that will enable high school aged students to understand this pivotal time in our city's history, and how they can take an active role in shaping their city and region's future. Another of our core partners, Detroit Public Television, seen in our cover story, is also actively engaged in our community outreach through our video oral history project. Look for the announcement of other new partnerships with a diverse range of individuals and organizations from across metro Detroit in the weeks and months ahead.

We believe that those of us in the arts and cultural sector can and should play an active role in the revitalization of Detroit and we invite you to join us!

Share your recollections of Detroit fifty years ago by visiting **detroit1967.org** or by calling our story hotline at 313.885.1967. With an understanding of our collective past, we can inform and inspire a promising future.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bury
Executive Director & CEO

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS



The Storytellers Festival Returns on Sunday, April 10!

Metro Detroit is wonderfully diverse and full of unique stories. Whether you are curious about the cultural history of our great city or interested in the art of storytelling, we invite you to join us for our third annual Storytellers Festival at the Detroit Historical Museum on **Sunday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

During the Storyteller's Festival, representatives from several of Detroit's ethnic communities will share their heritage through storytelling and traditional song and dance, highlighting their customs and unique storytelling traditions.

Throughout the day, you will hear stories about Detroit's dynamic innovators of past and present, the everyday people who overcame obstacles to make a difference in Detroit and our region. Explore creative ways to share your own stories through crafts and activities, or attend a storytelling workshop. This free program is ideal for families looking for a fun way to explore the diversity and rich cultural traditions that make up Detroit!

Spring Into Belle Isle Family Day at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum

With our family day occurring the same day as the 11th annual Belle Isle Spring Into Nature 5k Run/Walk to benefit the Aquarium, Belle Isle has family-friendly activities lined up all day on **Saturday, April 30!** Our third annual Spring Into Belle Isle Family Day will feature free activities and make-and-take crafts from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, as well as the chance to participate in a Belle Isle Road Rally. (Please see [facebook.com/belleislerun](https://www.facebook.com/belleislerun) if you want to participate in the 5k!)

Are you ready to visit a variety of interesting attractions and learn more about the past—and present—of Belle Isle Park? From **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, attendees can participate in the Belle Isle Road Rally, meeting in the Dossin's Gothic Room as home base. Families, couples or small groups of friends can work together to solve clues related to key locations on Belle Isle. Then, they'll travel to the locations to find answers to a few questions. Unlike a scavenger hunt, the road rally is not timed and relies on earning points. The road rally takes a minimum of one hour to complete. Groups will not be sent out after 2 p.m., but completed road rally information will be accepted until 4 p.m. All teams that participate will earn a prize.



A Week of Celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of Vernors!

Vernors is the oldest continuously produced soda pop in the United States. Begun in Detroit in 1866, it's older than Coke, Pepsi, Faygo—everyone. This June, the Society and the Vernor's Ginger Ale Collectors Club will have a 150th Anniversary celebration unlike any other!

The celebration will run **June 5–11, 2016**. There will be a special Vernors display all week at the Detroit Historical Museum. In addition, local restaurants will offer unique menu items using Vernors as one of the ingredients, and we are lighting Detroit green and yellow! Check detroithistorical.org as the event approaches for participating restaurants and buildings you should keep an eye on for special lighting, including the anniversary message planned for the COBO Center marquee.

On **Friday, June 10**, join the Detroit Experience Factory for a bus tour to discover Detroit's best ginger beers, drinks and concoctions. You'll visit three locations, where you'll not only try extraordinary ginger creations but also drive by some historic Vernors-related spots and connect with some of the people, places and projects doing great things in Detroit today. Tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members and available at detroithistorical.org or by calling 313.833.1801.

The main event, our **Vernors 150th Anniversary Party**, will be held on **Saturday, June 11** at the Detroit Historical Museum. Activities will include:

- A Vernors-themed poker run from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** (see page 10 for more information and ways to register)
- A Vernors history presentation from **1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
- A book signing for *Vernor's Ginger Ale* by author Keith Wunderlich at **2:30 p.m.**
- A screening of *Detroit Remember When: Made in the Motor City* at **3 p.m.**
- A world record attempt for the most Vernors drinkers at **4:30 p.m.**

Vernors floats, cream ales and Boston Coolers will be for sale at the museum from 1 to 4 p.m. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a historic marker to commemorate the oldest soda pop in America: **Vernors!**



Now Open in the Booth-Wilkinson Gallery

Fashion D.Fined: the past, present and future of Detroit fashion

Designer Profile: Myrna Segura



One of the current Detroit designers featured in **Fashion D. Fined**, Myrna Segura divides her talents between two passions: lobbying for her local community and creating fashion. Segura began designing clothes for her dolls when she was a child, and her mother nurtured her talent by teaching her to make patterns, select and cut fabrics and sew by hand and machine. These passions led her to an education in fashion design and merchandising at the Monterrey Center for Advanced Design Studies in Monterrey, Mexico, and into a career in fashion design and manufacturing in Mexico before she moved to Detroit in 1996.

During her 15+ years in Detroit, Segura has immersed herself in commercial revitalization work in Southwest Detroit. Working with the city of Detroit's Mayor's Office of Commercial Revitalization, the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation and the Southwest Detroit Business Association (where she is currently Director of Business District Development), she has leveraged nearly 1 million

dollars in public and private investments for improvements in commercial areas in Southwest Detroit, helped to plan and promote numerous successful cultural awareness events and offered bilingual small business technical assistance to Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs.

In 2009, however, Segura felt compelled to return to fashion design. She and her fiancé, sculptor Mark Beltchenko, founded Art & Fashion Metropolitan Detroit, a collective aiming to inspire, support and showcase the work of local and international artists and designers. She says, "My work in Southwest Detroit and in the nonprofit field had prepared me to take the next step." Of Detroit's place in fashion, Segura says, "The **Fashion D.Fined** exhibit is great example of the exceptional art work, craftsmanship and fashion creations that Detroit offers to the world. I love the diversity, creativity, vibrancy and opportunities that exist for designers and all types of entrepreneurs in the city of Detroit."

Segura's pieces in **Fashion D.Fined** were inspired by art icon Frida Kahlo. Segura says of Kahlo, "She was vibrant, strong and resilient, a great example for Detroiters and all who face constant challenges in life. I am inspired by strong women with unique senses of style and strong personalities who have created trends through history."

Through her fusion of fashion, art and community, Segura will continue to be a transformative force in Detroit. She says, "I have a strong need to continue designing, creating, engaging, collaborating and taking the next steps in order to officially establish and grow my fashion design and manufacturing business in Detroit. My next goal is to launch a small collection during the coming fall-winter. Stay tuned!"

See **Fashion D.Fined** in the Booth-Wilkinson Gallery at the Detroit Historical Museum through December 31, 2016.

Start The Presses: 50 YEARS OF THE Fifth Estate

Now Open in the Allesee Gallery of Culture

Start the Presses: 50 Years of the Fifth Estate

This exhibition celebrates 50 years of the **Fifth Estate**, which is still being published. It highlights the publication's contributions

to local media, with a particular focus on its founding and early years. It also features key individuals who made their marks both during and after working for the paper. The exhibit concludes with a nod to the paper's legacy, as seen in the plethora of present day independent publications.

Now Open in the Automotive Showplace

The Stout Scarab Is Back!

One of the most significant automobiles in the Society's collection, the Scarab, created by engineering genius William B. Stout in 1935, has many revolutionary features. Compared with other cars of its time, the Scarab offered lots of interior space with flexible seating options—arguably Detroit's first "mini-van." Rear engine placement and a light "exoskeleton" allowed the Scarab to sport a lower profile than its contemporaries. And its aerodynamic design was complemented by modern visual styling.



Supported by the
MotorCities National
Heritage Area



Now Open in the Community Gallery through April 3, 2016

America's Broadcasting Pioneer: WGPR-TV 62



Explore the headline-making history of WGPR-TV 62 in this new exhibit! When Channel 62 went on

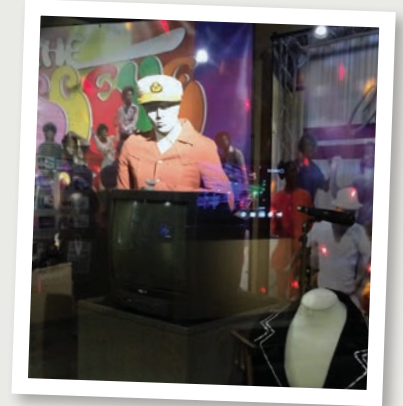
the air in Detroit on September 20, 1975, it became the first African American-owned and operated television station in the United States.

Artifacts, videos, pictures and graphic images showcase the people and history of both TV 62 and 107.5 FM, the radio station that operated concurrently at the studios of 3146 East Jefferson. Displays feature "The Scene"—a popular dance show hosted by Nat Morris—and discover the influence that legendary DJ the Electrifying Mojo had with recording artists from Prince to George

Clinton.

America's Broadcasting Pioneer: WGPR-TV 62

centers around several key themes: The Founding Pioneers, Original Programming, Career Springboard, National Success Stories and a Historical Timeline. It also explores how Dr. William V. Banks, a prominent Detroit businessman, lawyer and ordained minister, made his broadcasting dreams real by founding both 107.5 FM and TV 62.



Opens April 16, 2016 in the Community Gallery

Motown Black & White



Motown Black & White is a refreshing and intimate look at Motown from the perspective of its iconic PR man and the Hitsville teens that became his friends. It is based on the 2011 book, *Hype & Soul: Behind the Scenes at Motown* and the forthcoming *High On Soul: Tell Me It's Just a Rumor Berry*, both written by the late Al Abrams.

Al Abrams was the young, unknown and untried Jewish teen who became Motown's legendary press officer. The "Sound of Young America" was first heard on the streets of

Detroit. It was Abrams' job to "put the hype in the hit" and write the copy that created Motown's stage stars.

The Hitsville teens became part of Motown in 1959 and worked with Abrams to immortalize their diversity in friendship and music. This exhibition embraces their story through rarely seen and some never-before-seen photographs. Their teamwork and strong Detroit roots created a music genre that continues to mesmerize the world today.

Motown Black & White will roll out the red carpet with an opening event at the Detroit Historical Museum on **Thursday, April 21**. Stay tuned for more details!

COLLECTIONS CORNER



Now Open on the Second Floor Collections Corner

This year's Collections Corner exhibition showcases our incredible collection of toys from the early 20th century through the 1970s.

Now Open in the America's Motor City Showcase

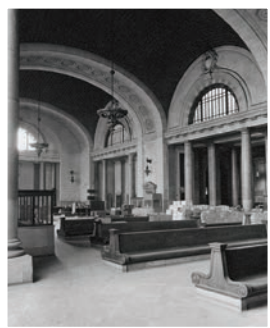
Fruehauf: The First Name in Transportation

The Fruehauf Trailer Company revolutionized the transportation industry with the invention of the semi-trailer in 1914.

This exhibition shows how Fruehauf became pioneers in continental transportation by suggesting the road as a viable alternative to rail and bringing efficient shipping from the farm to the factory loading dock. Developed in partnership with the Fruehauf Trailer Historical Society.

Now Open in the Detroit Artists Showcase through August 14, 2016

Documenting Detroit: Architecture



From 1972 to 1984, the Detroit Historical Museum partnered with the Center for Creative Studies (now the College for Creative Studies) to create **Documenting Detroit**. Students explored aspects of documentary photography using the people and landscape of Detroit as their subjects. Many of the photographs

were exhibited at the museum, and all became part of the Detroit Historical Society Collection.

With a focus on architecture, the pieces in this exhibition have a strong aesthetic appeal that speaks to the artistic and creative vision of instructor Bill Rauhauser's teachings and the students' personal perspectives. The intervening decades give these snapshots of the city additional depth and clarity, enhancing their captivating appeal.

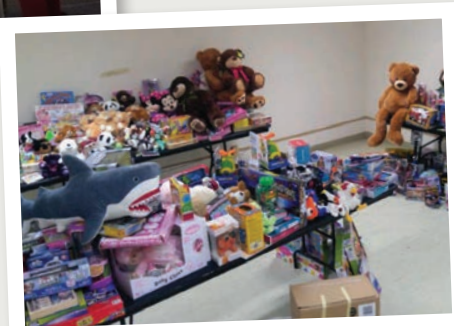
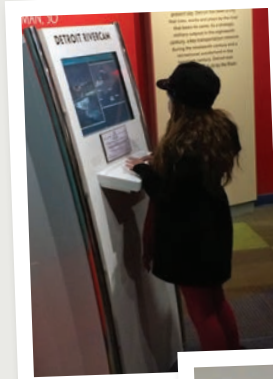


A Record-Setting Belle Isle Holiday Stroll

The 2015 Belle Isle Holiday Stroll was one for the record books at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In three hours on Friday, December 15, we welcomed about 2,000 visitors—ten times our attendance from the previous year! Attendees took advantage of the unseasonably warm evening to explore the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Belle Isle Aquarium and the Dossin, all of which were open with festive holiday programming during special evening hours. At the Dossin, guests enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies, coloring activities, crafts and a memorable meet and greet with Super Grover from *Sesame Street Live*.



We also collected many, many generous donations for our holiday Toys for Tots drive on the night of the Belle Isle Holiday Stroll. When combined with donations made at the Detroit Historical Museum, the final tally for our holiday drive was 453 toys (shown at right)! We thank everyone who made such generous donations for Metro Detroit's deserving kids.



In the Richard and Jane Manoogian Ship Model Showplace The Details Are Amazing!

The Detroit Historical Society is home to one of the largest collections of ship models in the country. Most of the more than 150 models are five or six decades old, while at least one is 160 years old. The ship models represent 300 years of North American fresh water maritime history. In many cases, the models themselves are historic; in other cases they represent significant examples of technological advances that powered social and economic aspects of the region's history.

Among the ship models on display in Aaron DeRoy Hall are artifacts representing the ships *Greater Detroit* and *Greater Buffalo* (pictured at left). Created as a builder's model prior to construction, this piece is one of the most magnificent Great Lakes ship models in a public collection. Cut-away sections open the vessel's cabins to viewing...and the details are amazing!

Now Open in the Robert M. Dossin Gallery through July 31, 2016

Guardians of the Great Lakes



Since the arrival of Europeans, the Great Lakes have been navigated by ships and sailors in the service of their nations. *Guardians of the Great Lakes* highlights the vital role played by the men and women of the sea services, whether involved in military action or making the waterways safer for other mariners.

2016 will be a special year for the sea services. Detroit is the planned site of commissioning celebrations for the United States Navy's latest high-tech vessel, the *USS Detroit*. In recognition, a portion of this exhibition highlights Navy vessels that have carried the names of *Detroit* and *Michigan*.

Produced in partnership with the Metropolitan Detroit Council of the Navy League of the United States.



Dig into the Dossin on May 7!

Be sure to save the date for our annual spring fundraising gala at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 6 p.m.!**

You saw the plans for the exciting outdoor improvements to the Dossin in the last issue of *Making History*. Now help us imagine the changes that will reinvigorate the Dossin grounds over the next two years! Enjoy refreshing cocktails, a strolling dinner and top-notch entertainment as we “dig into” the Dossin and celebrate our groundbreaking outdoor enrichment campaign.

For additional details, advance tickets and sponsorship information, please contact Jennifer DeWall at 313.833.4143 or jenniferd@detroithistorical.org.



Thank You to Dossin Supporters Camille Jayne and David Beddow!

After years of coordinating their annual giving, Society Trustee Camille Jayne and business colleague David Beddow (pictured at left) recently co-founded the Daville Foundation to formalize their support of charitable causes, with a focus on education and children. Jayne has worked closely with the Society as a current Trustee, serving on the board’s marketing,

development and fundraising committees. She is also a co-chair of the *Detroit 67: Looking Back to MOVE FORWARD* committee.

In December, Jayne passed on her excitement to Beddow when he was in town to attend the 2015 Society Ball at the historic Packard Plant. The day after the Ball, the two toured the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum. “After that, he was sold,” Jayne says. “David is a history buff and a Navy enthusiast. When he saw the Dossin’s amazing commitment to preserving maritime history, he saw the potential in our gift.”

Jayne and Beddow are excited to help lead the charge to bring the Dossin’s exterior improvements to life. Enhanced grounds and new amenities will make the museum’s outdoor space more welcoming to visitors and open it up to new uses. “We both loved seeing the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor. Helping to showcase these artifacts and ultimately allowing more people to see them is very exciting for us,” Beddow added.

Dossin Great Lakes Museum conceptual landscape rendering showing an enhanced river walk area at the water’s edge, refreshed paving, lighting and landscaping. The plan also features a new outdoor event space adjacent to DeRoy Hall and a nautical-themed play structure in front of the building.

As president of The Jayne Group management consulting, Jayne specializes in corporate turnarounds, strategic and operational planning, marketing and branding. She previously was President & CEO of The Community House nonprofit in Birmingham, Michigan, and Chairman & CEO of publically traded Universal Electronics, Inc. in Southern California, leading the financial turnarounds of both companies. Jayne honed her experience in product development and corporate advertising across several industries. David Beddow has almost fifty years of experience in broadcasting, satellite, cable and feature film production, technology and management. Beddow operates his own company, Technology Equity Associates, and is CTO of Digiboo, LLC as well as serving on the Bitcentral Board. A native of Florida, he currently lives in Dallas, Texas.

You can support the outdoor improvements at the Dossin by making your own gift! Contact Kristin Rossi, Director of Development, at kristinr@detroithistorical.org or 313.833.1980 for more information.



SPRING 2016

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

\$20 Detroit Historical Society members • \$30 Guests (unless otherwise noted)

Sponsored by  DTE Energy Foundation

Tickets for upcoming Behind the Scenes and Historic Houses of Worship tours will be available to all members starting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. You will be able to purchase tickets at detroithistorical.org or by phone at 313.833.1801. No tickets will be sold before this time. Public registration for any remaining tickets begins March 29.

Current members with an active email address will receive an email reminder when tickets become available online. If you would like to be sure your membership has not expired or share an updated email address, please contact Sean Clyne at 313.833.0158 or seanc@detroithistorical.org.

Behind the Scenes Tours may involve physically challenging environments that require walking long distances, standing for extended periods and climbing stairs. Please call 313.833.1801 to confirm physical requirements for specific tours if concerned.

Tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1-2 weeks after payment is received. Tours typically last 90 minutes to two hours. No refunds or tour credits will be given.

John King Used & Rare Books APRIL 2 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

In 1983, John K. King purchased the giant, abandoned, four-story Advance Glove factory building at 901 West Lafayette in downtown Detroit. Within a few years, King was utilizing all four floors of the building for his retail concern, filling the basement to overflowing with duplicates and books waiting to be processed. He also bought the office building behind his store, the old Otis Elevator building, and set up his offices and rare book room upstairs there. And in the basement? More books. It never ends! This tour will allow you a glimpse into a booklover's dream and the opportunity to see select items in the rare book room and annex.



Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch APRIL 7 • 10–11:30 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Thursday tour

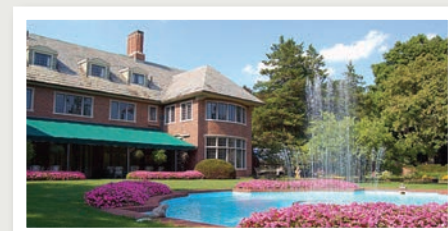
The Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is the only branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Founded in 1927, the bank was originally located at 160 W. Fort Street, although it has since relocated to a building in Detroit's Eastern Market Historic District. Sitting on 17 acres of land, the \$80-million, 220,000-square-foot building is one of the most secure and heavily guarded structures in the city of Detroit. The Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve is one of the largest single repositories of currency in the United States and is responsible for destroying old money, sending out new money to banks, inspecting currency for counterfeit bills and conducting extensive economic analyses. It also ensures that banks comply with regulatory requirements.

Frank Lloyd Wright Affleck House APRIL 9 • 10–11 A.M.

\$30 members/\$40 guests

The Affleck House was the first Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house to be built in the metropolitan Detroit area and represents one of the finest examples in the world of the architect's Usonian style. Designed to exist in harmony with the home's site and nature, it was part of Wright's attempt to meet the need for low-cost housing for the average American. The house was placed on the Michigan Register of Historic Places in 1978 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, and the Michigan Society of Architects includes it among Michigan's 50 most significant structures. The house was donated to Lawrence Technological University in 1978 for use as a teaching resource for the University's College of Architecture and Design faculty and students.

** This home is not handicap accessible, and the tour includes several steps and some uneven ground.*



Applewood APRIL 16 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Applewood was built in 1916 as a gentleman's farm for the Charles Stewart Mott family and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The home and grounds encompass approximately 34 acres in Flint that include an orchard with 29 varieties of heritage apples and 18 acres

that are extensively landscaped. The original gatehouse, barn and chicken coop complete the estate.

Ruth Mott generously gave Applewood to the Ruth Mott Foundation, bestowing full responsibility for the estate upon her passing in 1999. Rooted in the Mott legacy of philanthropy, Applewood continues to embody the family's commitment to the community by hosting community events on the grounds of the estate.

Beaumont Art Collection APRIL 22 • 10 A.M.–11:30 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

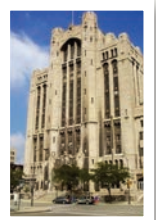
Special Friday Tour

More and more frequently, people are coming to believe that artwork can help reduce pain or anxiety and even help those with illnesses heal faster. Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak is one location that has embraced this philosophy for its patients, and this tour will provide you the opportunity to traverse the hospital's corridors and learn about its various pieces on display.

Masonic Temple APRIL 23 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Dedicated November 25, 1926, this 1037 room, 14-story building was unique among Masonic buildings because all of the various Masonic bodies were housed in the same structure. There are some twelve million cubic feet of space, making it the largest and most complex building of its kind in the world.



It includes seven Craft Lodge Rooms, each with different decorative treatments, the motifs of decoration being taken from the Egyptian, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Italian Renaissance, Byzantine, Gothic and Romanesque. This tour is your chance to explore a truly unique Detroit landmark.

SPRING 2016

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

\$20 Detroit Historical Society members • \$30 Guests (unless otherwise noted)

Sponsored by  DTE Energy Foundation

Addison Oaks – Buhl Estate APRIL 29 • 10 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

\$40 members/\$50 guests

Special Friday tour!

Includes lunch

In 1927, Lawrence D. and Cora Peck Buhl bought land in northern Oakland County and hired Robert O. Derrick to design their summer home. The finest materials, including hardwood floors, marble fireplaces, pewter sconces and imported stones were used in its construction. Dr. D.J. Boucher bought the land in 1965, first using the home as his residence and later establishing the Tudor Hills Gun Club and Game Preserve. When Dr. Boucher fell on hard times in 1969, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission acquired the property, now known as Addison County Park.

Detroit Boat Club APRIL 30 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Detroit Boat Club Crew was founded in 1839, making them the oldest continually operating rowing club in North America at 175



years. Commemorate this historic Detroit organization with a tour of their home since 1902, the Detroit Boat Club! Since 1996, the non-profit Friends of Detroit Rowing has been modestly refurbishing it in order

to maintain the stability of a structure so entrenched in the history of Detroit. After several earlier wooden boathouses had burned to the ground, the Club asked Alpheus W. Chittenden, an architect born in Detroit, to build a structure that could withstand fire. When the current boathouse was dedicated on August 4, 1902, it was the first reinforced concrete structure in the United States.

William E. Scripps Mansion MAY 7 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$30 members/\$40 guests

In 1926, William E. Scripps chose his talented brother-in-law, Clarence Day, to design his Norman revival house, completed in 1927. While built with modern steel and concrete structure, it was finished with traditional methods and materials. The house encompasses over 28,000 square feet in 67 rooms and includes 11 fireplaces. Within the house are elaborate woodwork, metalwork and stone and painted finishes, as well as Pewabic ceramic tile installations and stained glass inserts designed and fabricated by the Detroit Stained Glass Works.

The house is now owned by Guest House, whose mission is to provide the information, education, treatment and care needed to assure that clergy, men and women religious and seminarians suffering from alcoholism and other addictions have the best opportunity for quality recovery.

The Players Playhouse MAY 13 • 6:30–11 P.M.

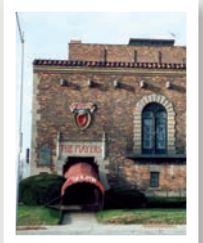
\$80 members/\$90 guests

Special Friday Evening Out!

Includes tour, dinner, and performances

If you have been looking for a reason to “dress to the nines,” this evening is for you! You will enjoy a tour of the historic Players Playhouse and dinner before the Players’ Spring Invitational performances of their most highly-acclaimed one-act plays from this theatre season. Following the Shakespearean tradition, all the roles will be played by men.

*After five attire for women and a dark business suit with tie for men is required.



Bayview Yacht Club MAY 21 • 10 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

\$30 members/\$40 guests

Includes lunch!

The Bayview Yacht Club was founded in 1915 by a handful of people with just one boat. Since its creation nearly 100 years ago, the Club has grown to boast over 1,000 members and is located inside a 5,000 square foot clubhouse, built in 1930. Join us as we tour the clubhouse and learn about the history of this “Shrine of Nautical Culture.”

(Schedule continues on next page)

Historic Houses of Worship Tours

Since 1972, the Historic Houses of Worship tours have acquainted metro Detroiters with the contributions religious institutions have made in the development of our community. These tours are sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society.

All tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and depart from and return to the Detroit Historical Museum. **The cost is \$40 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$50 for guests.** Your tour fee includes motor coach transportation with docent commentary, historical presentations at each tour stop, lunch and donations sent back to each location.

Member-only registration begins Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. You will be able to purchase tickets at detroithistorical.org or by phone at 313.833.1801. No tickets will be sold before this time. Public

registration for any remaining tickets begins on March 29.

Current members with an active email address will receive an email reminder when tickets become available online. If you would like to be sure your membership has not expired or share an updated email address, please contact Sean Clyne at 313.833.0158 or seanc@detroithistorical.org

NOTE: Due to the popularity of these tours, it is recommended that you make reservations well in advance. No group or individual reservations will be held without payment in full.

Due to the nature of historic buildings, the Historic Houses of Worship Tours may require walking long distances, standing for extended periods and climbing stairs. Please call 313.833.1801 to confirm physical requirements for specific tours if concerned.

MAY 2, 2016

First United Methodist, Wyandotte
Sacred Heart-St. Anne Chapel, Grosse Ile
St. James Episcopal, Grosse Ile
St. Joseph, Trenton

JUNE 6, 2016

Spirit of Hope
Messiah Church
St. Stephen Lutheran
Holy Redeemer
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic

SPRING 2016

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

\$20 Detroit Historical Society members • \$30 Guests (unless otherwise noted)

Sponsored by  DTE Energy Foundation

College for Creative Studies Student Exhibition Tour MAY 24 • 4–7:30 P.M.

\$25 members/\$35 guests

Special Tuesday tour

From its beginning in 1906 as the Society of Arts and Crafts to its ever-changing present and future, the College for Creative Studies is an urban hub of creativity and ingenuity. Your afternoon will start on the Ford Campus near the DIA and continue in the A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education, where you'll learn about its history and be able to wander the annual Student Exhibition. The tour requires your own transportation between campuses.

Elmwood Cemetery JUNE 4 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

This extensive walking tour over hilly terrain will introduce you to the oldest continuously operating, non-denominational cemetery in Michigan. It contains the graves of many famous men and women, including civil war generals, 7 governors, 11 U.S. senators, 30 Detroit mayors and countless business leaders. A stone's throw away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Detroit, you will find 86 acres of graceful hills and a valley surrounding a calmly flowing stream, complete with large stands of trees



and roads that follow the natural slope of the land, blending with the surrounding environment and architecture, creating a haven of peace for the living to enjoy.

Vernors 150th Anniversary Poker Run JUNE 11 • 11 A.M.–1 P.M.

\$10 entry fee

During the Poker Run, you will receive a list of Vernors sites to visit in Detroit. At each site, you will take a selfie at the site to receive a playing card at the museum. You win prizes based on how good the hand of poker is that you collected, so visiting more sites gives you a better chance to win a great prize. Merging pop culture and the adventure of a scavenger hunt, this is a great way to kick off a full day of Vernors celebration with the Society and your friends or family.

See page 3 for more Vernors 150th Anniversary, June 5-11, and keep an eye on detroithistorical.org for updates!

Art House JUNE 18 • 10–11:30 A.M.

\$35 members/\$45 guests

Art House, originally the Elisha Taylor home, is a Gothic Revival home completed in 1872. It is located in the historic Brush Park neighborhood just north of downtown Detroit. Its original interiors have been



preserved, and since 1981 it has served as a center for art and architectural study and a tour destination for those wanting to relive an era of graciousness that was once found in the city of Detroit when it was known as the "Paris of the Midwest." The public rooms of Art House preserve original fireplaces, mirrors, woodwork, decorative plaster, stenciling, Minton floor tiles, parquet floors and etched glass. With period furnishings and artworks and artifacts spanning 2000 years, Art House is truly one of Detroit's hidden gems.

**Please note that no photography is permitted inside the home.*

Boston Edison Walking Tour JUNE 25 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Boston Edison Historic District consists of over 900 houses, no two of which are alike; each is custom designed and is a unique interpretation of its chosen style. Styles including English Revival (Cottage, Tudor, Renaissance), Roman and Greek Revival, French Provincial, Colonial Revival (Georgian and Dutch), Italian Renaissance, Prairie and Vernacular are found here. This highly popular tour will walk you through the district with a guide knowledgeable about both the history and architecture contained on these streets.



Behind the Scenes Tours • \$20 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • \$30 GUESTS (UNLESS NOTED)

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|----------------|-------------|
| Saturday, April 2 | 10 a.m. | John K. King Used & Rare Books | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Thursday, April 7 | 10 a.m. | Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Saturday, April 9 | 10 a.m. | Frank Lloyd Wright Affleck House | \$30 Members | \$40 Guests |
| Saturday, April 16 | 10 a.m. | Applewood | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Friday, April 22 | 10 a.m. | Beaumont Art Collection | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Saturday, April 23 | 10 a.m. | Masonic Temple | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Friday, April 29 | 10 a.m. | Addison Oaks - Buhl Estate | \$40 Members | \$50 Guests |
| Saturday, April 30 | 10 a.m. | Detroit Boat Club | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Saturday, May 7 | 10 a.m. | William E. Scripps Mansion | \$30 Members | \$40 Guests |
| Friday, May 13 | 6:30 p.m. | The Players Playhouse | \$80 Members | \$90 Guests |
| Saturday, May 21 | 10 a.m. | Bayview Yacht Club | \$30 Members | \$40 Guests |
| Thursday, May 24 | 4 p.m. | College for Creative Studies Student Exhibition Tour | \$25 Members | \$35 Guests |
| Saturday, June 4 | 10 a.m. | Elmwood Cemetery | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |
| Saturday, June 11 | 11 a.m. | Vernors 150 th Anniversary Poker Run | \$10 Entry Fee | |
| Saturday, June 18 | 10 a.m. | Art House | \$35 Members | \$45 Guests |
| Saturday, June 25 | 10 a.m. | Boston Edison Walking Tour | \$20 Members | \$30 Guests |

Historic Houses of Worship • \$40 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • \$50 GUESTS

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------|--|--------------|-------------|
| Monday, May 2 | 10 a.m. | | \$40 Members | \$50 Guests |
| Monday, June 6 | 10 a.m. | | \$40 Members | \$50 Guests |

Thank You to JPMorgan Chase!

The Detroit Historical Society would like to recognize the incredible support of its Presenting Educational Initiatives Sponsor of the 2015 Detroit Historical Society Ball held December 5 at the historic Packard Plant. Sponsoring our educational fundraising for the third year in a row, JPMorgan Chase has not only shown their commitment to the Detroit Historical Society, but also their unwavering commitment to the entire Detroit community.

As our Educational Initiatives Sponsor at this year's Ball, JPMorgan Chase once again allowed us to leverage their \$20,000 gift, enabling us to raise an additional \$37,550 for our educational initiatives at the event.

JPMorgan Chase has consistently supported education and community needs throughout the city of Detroit, and in May of 2014, pledged \$100 million dollars to support and accelerate Detroit's economic recovery. This large gift, consisting of many educational, community and housing projects over the next five years, shows JPMorgan Chase's commitment to the preservation and future of our city. In December, as part of that support, JPMorgan Chase provided a \$3.5 million dollar grant to the Entrepreneurs of Color (EOC) Fund, which provides financing for Detroit-based neighborhood businesses and services with a goal of assisting businesses that lack access to traditional forms of credit and capital.

JPMorgan Chase has shown great dedication to the City of Detroit and to the Detroit Historical Society. Funding from such an important Detroit business leader makes it possible for us to continue telling Detroit's stories and why they matter. The Detroit Historical Society, along with the over 10,000 school-aged children who visit our museums each year, send our sincere gratitude.



Two Exciting New Artistic Partnerships

The Detroit Historical Society is partnering with local art and nonprofit groups by providing a unique and memorable venue for them to broaden their audiences. This spring, the Society is happy to showcase the work of both the Parducci Society and Opera MODO.



The Parducci Society is a Detroit-based organization of architectural enthusiasts dedicated to studying and sharing their love of architectural ornamentation. Their namesake, the Italian-American sculptor Corrado Parducci, is the subject of a new documentary by producer Jennifer Baross and director Jack P. Johnson. "Parducci: The Man Who Made Detroit Beautiful"

will be shown in the Louise C. Booth Auditorium in the Detroit Historical Museum in April. A small exhibition featuring Parducci Studio will accompany the showing.

On **Thursday, April 7** there will be a special VIP Member screening of the film with the filmmakers in attendance. For information on tickets, contact Sean Clyne, Database and Membership Manager at 313.833.0158 or seanc@detroithistorical.org.

For more information on the free public screening of the Parducci documentary on **Saturday, April 9**, please see our Spring Film Series schedule on page 12.

Opera MODO is a new and exciting opera company in Detroit, dedicated to creating opportunities for young and emerging artists. Collaborating with local performers and businesses, the company works to offer an intimate experience that engages audiences through storytelling, musical integrity and innovative process. Opera MODO specializes in setting standard opera repertoire in new and imaginative settings, bringing new life to our favorite stories.



In that spirit, the Detroit Historical Museum is very excited to host Opera MODO's performance of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* in the Streets of Old Detroit on **Saturday, May 21**.

For more information on the performance, see page 13. For more on Opera MODO, check out operamodo.com.

CONNECT WITH THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

See our homepage at detroithistorical.org for all the details!

Spring Film Series

The Detroit Historical Society invites you to enjoy our Film Series, featuring FREE monthly screenings of fascinating Detroit films on selected weekends in the Louise C. Booth Auditorium at the Detroit Historical Museum and DeRoy Hall at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Be our guest for these special matinee screenings, and don't forget to stop by our Museum Stores to purchase Better Made popcorn and Faygo pop before the show.

Films shown at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum:



More Bob-lo Memories

(Running Time: 42 minutes)

Saturday, April 9 and

Sunday, April 10 • 2 p.m.

"More Bob-lo Memories" will bring you back to the fun-filled summer days of taking a steamboat ride down the Detroit River to our region's one-of-a-kind island amusement park.



The Story of Willow Run

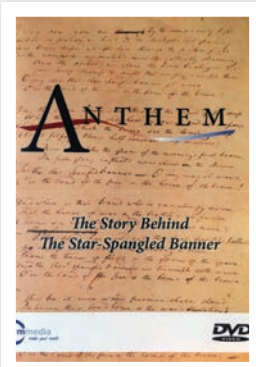
(Running Time: 35 minutes)

Saturday, May 14 and

Sunday, May 15 • 2 p.m.

The idea for the Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant was conceived by Henry Ford, who told the United States government that he could support the aircraft production needs for the coming world war by building B-24s on a production line the same way Ford Motor Company built automobiles at "The Rouge." By the end of production, the sprawling Willow Run

plant was rolling out one B-24 every 55 minutes, 24 hours a day. This is the story of that accomplishment as filmed by the Ford Motor Company in this original, 1945 black and white documentary.



Anthem: The Story Behind "The Star-Spangled Banner"

(Running Time: 61 minutes)

Saturday, June 11 and

Sunday, June 12 • 2 p.m.

This film reveals the origin of Francis Scott Key's creation of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and examines the importance of and relationship between music and patriotism during the War of 1812. Featuring musical performances and interviews with historians and music experts from the United States and Great

Britain, this one-hour documentary delves into the people, songs and events that influenced Key to write what would become the National Anthem of the United States of America.

Films shown at the Detroit Historical Museum:



Parducci: The Man Who Made Detroit Beautiful

(Running Time: 60 minutes)

Saturday, April 9 • 3 p.m.

* No Film Series screening on Sunday, April 10 due to the annual Storytellers Festival event (see page 3 for more information).

Corrado Parducci was one of the most prolific architectural sculptors of the last century. Many of his buildings you already know: the Guardian, Buhl, Penobscot, David Stott, Bankers Trust Company and Fisher Buildings. While the bulk of his work can be found in Detroit and throughout Michigan, he completed a staggering sum of nearly 600 nationwide commissions from Los Angeles to New York. Parducci's genius was his ability to work in a multitude of architectural styles; setting him apart from his competitors. His is a story of immigration, perseverance and artistic ability, which provides a compelling backdrop to the visual history of Detroit.



Play Ball! The Story of the 1934 Detroit Tigers

(Running Time: 90 minutes)

Saturday, May 14 and

Sunday, May 15 • 3 p.m.

"Play Ball!" was the first baseball motion picture with sound ever made. It was filmed in Detroit during the 1934 Tiger season, when baseball mania was sweeping through the City. It was written and directed by George Moriarty and

premiered at the Book-Cadillac Hotel (Detroit) on January 9, 1935. The film was viewed by two million people in 1935 before fading into obscurity.



Detroit: Remember When Made in the Motor City

(Running Time: 120 minutes)

Saturday, June 11 and

Sunday, June 12 • 3 p.m.

Better Made Potato Chips, Sanders Fudge, Velvet Peanut Butter and Gratiot Auto Supply are among the brands, landmarks and people that played a major role in defining Detroit and Detroiters' identity to the rest of the country. Narrated by broadcast legend Erik Smith, this documentary takes viewers cruising through the Woodward-Gratiot automotive corridor, dining

at American Coney Island and Buddy's Pizza, while listening to the voices of famous Detroit personalities such as Jo-Jo Shuttz McGregor and Ken Calvert. The film also includes interviews with the likes of Brian Jefferson, the CEO of Sanders Fudge and Keith Wunderlich, the author of *Vernor's Ginger Ale*.



Detroit City of Champions Event

During the 1935-36 sports season, the Detroit Tigers won their first World Series, the Detroit Red Wings won their first NHL championship and the Detroit Lions won their first NFL championship. In 1936, Frank Fitzgerald, Governor of Michigan, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed April 18 as “Champions Day” to celebrate the athletic achievements of Detroit’s sports teams and other hometown athletes.

In 2012, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing rededicated April 18 as Champions Day at the Detroit Historical Museum and presented the Detroit Historical Society with a new proclamation. Pictured at left is the original plaque given to the city by President Roosevelt and signed by all Michigan Governors in 1936.

Celebrate this year’s Champions Day on **Monday, April 18** at the Detroit Historical Museum from 6–8:30 p.m. Visit the *Allessee Gallery of Culture* to view the original City of Champions plaque as well as other artifacts from Detroit athletes of the 1930s. Charles Avison, author of *Detroit: City of Champions*, will speak about the history and significance of the day at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public!

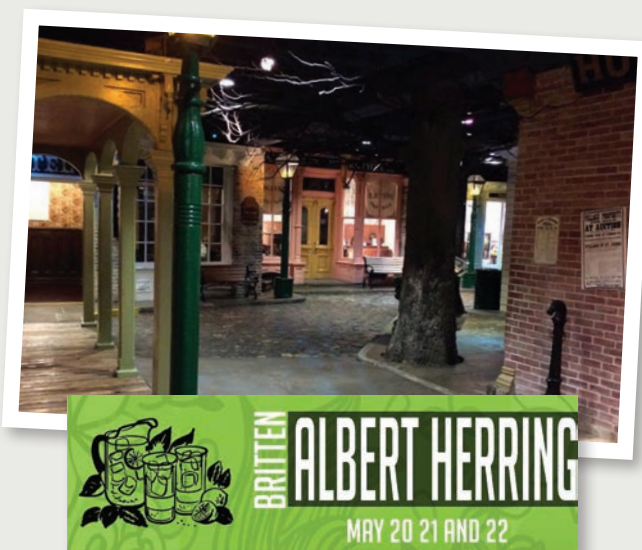
Albert Herring in the Streets of Old Detroit

Join us for a very special performance on **Saturday, May 21** in the Detroit Historical Museum’s *Streets of Old Detroit*. The beloved exhibition will provide a perfect backdrop for Opera MODO’s production of Benjamin Britten’s comic opera *Albert Herring*.

In the small town of Loxford in East Sussex, the old-fashioned autocrat Lady Billows is in a tizzy. She has assembled a committee of the most important people in town to try to find a suitable Queen for their annual May Day Feast, but none of the young women in town are of suitable moral character. It is pointed out that there is one person in town who is virginal, obedient, upstanding, and moral—Albert Herring, the greengrocer’s son. Albert, timid from years living under his mother’s thumb, is crowned the King of May. What no one expects is that this event will lead to an evening of drunken debauchery for Albert!

The performance will explore themes of losing innocence, social stratification, Victorian morality and coming of age, against the composer’s brilliantly witty chamber score. Tickets are available at artful.ly/store/events/7686.

Learn more about our collaboration with Opera MODO on page 11!



Coming This Spring: *Detroit '67*

We’re excited to partner with Detroit Public Theatre this spring as they produce *Detroit '67*, the award-winning and critically acclaimed play written by Detroit native, Dominique Morisseau. The second in a three-play cycle, *Detroit '67* examines an explosive and decisive historical moment through the eyes of two siblings hosting an after-hours joint in their basement during the summer of 1967: “When a mysterious woman finds her way into their lives, the siblings clash over much more than the family business. As their pent-up feelings erupt, so does their city, and they find themselves caught in the middle of the ‘67 riots.”

Detroit '67 is a fictional work grounded in historical context that alludes to the complex issues of present-day. The Detroit Historical Society is excited to help facilitate a diverse series of panel discussions following select performances. This endeavor

will serve as one of the first official public events held in partnership with the *Detroit 67: Looking Back to MOVE FORWARD* project. Visit detroit1967.org for all the details!

Morisseau’s *Detroit '67* will run from **May 13 through June 5, 2016** at Detroit Public Theatre at the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center in Midtown Detroit. Tickets are available now at detroitpublictheatre.org/tickets.

**DETROIT
PUBLIC
THEATRE**

AROUND DETROIT

Introducing the Detroit Video History Archive!



The Detroit Video History Archive features nearly 170 hours of newly digitized film footage from 350 pieces of media. It combines items from the Detroit Historical Society collection (including promotional materials for the Society and Detroit Historical Museum, public domain third-party footage—such as news reels, amateur and home footage—and promotional material related to local events and businesses) and the collection of the City of Detroit Communications Department, which was acquired by the Society in October 2013. This collection features film items related to city events, public appearances by elected officials, area festivals and celebrations and public access program footage, dating from 1972 to 2010.

After a year of diligent conservation and digitization work by the Society's collections staff, which was supported by grants from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the first phase of the archive is ready to be explored!

Visit detroithistorical.org/video.htm to see highlights including:

- Two different color films of the 1958 launch of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.
- A 1948 color film of the *J.T. Wing* being towed to Belle Isle to become the city's maritime museum.
- Two reels of film shot to document Detroit's Chinatown, ca. 1962.
- 1950s industrial films detailing the operations of Detroit businesses such as Twin Pines Dairy, Kowalski Sausage and the Burroughs Corporation.
- Color footage of the 1951 parade celebrating the 250th anniversary of Detroit's founding.
- Detroit Police Department public service announcements from the early 1970s.
- Film shot by Academy Award-winning documentarian Sue Marx for her promotional short "This Is My Home, This Is Detroit," showcasing Detroit neighborhoods in 1985.
- Film shot for Boblo Island advertisements in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.
- Footage shot by city videographers of 1980s events such as Hart Plaza's ethnic festivals, the Detroit Grand Prix and the 1989 Detroit Pistons victory parade.

With sources ranging from reel-to-reel film to u-matic, VHS, betacam and DV, the material in the Detroit History Video Archive is available for the first time digitally, in a searchable and user-friendly interface. As we continue to add to the archive in the coming years, we hope that it will allow teachers, students, researchers and the general public to more fully experience Detroit's history—in motion!

Partnering with Deloitte To Reach Our Organizational Goals

The Detroit Historical Society is excited to announce a unique partnership with Deloitte. In 2015 the Society and its Board of Trustees embarked on a strategic planning process aimed at identifying organizational priorities and goals for the next five years. With the input of the Society's staff, members, community partners and trustees, we and our consultants from Nonprofit Enterprise at Work designed a multi-year strategy to ensure that our legacy of protecting the history of the great city of Detroit continues for many generations to come.

The strategic plan focuses on five key areas, including increasing community engagement and outreach, outlining a collections management plan to move us toward American Alliance of Museums accreditation and a best practices approach to our internal operations. A key area of focus is around one of our most important resources, our human capital. Even though the Society is a small organization, we have grown quickly in the last decade and need to increase our focus on attracting and retaining talented team members. Working with Deloitte to develop and follow best practices around human resources will enable us to do this.

Understanding the Society's needs while remaining financially

conscious, Mike Kosonog, a Society trustee and a partner at Deloitte in Detroit, quickly stepped in and offered to provide assistance utilizing a cross-disciplined team of human resource professionals from the firm's national office. This commitment of donated services from Deloitte is valued at over \$125,000—a level of professional assistance that we could never have undertaken without Deloitte's support.

We have kicked off this engagement and look forward to bringing the expertise of such a respected organization to the Society. This partnership will result in processes that ensure our employees are getting "big-world" support within our modestly sized organization. This engagement will focus on a number of areas, from the onboarding of employees, to internal communications strategies, to the tools we use in the employment life-cycle.

From all of us at the Detroit Historical Society, we send a special thank you to Mike and Deloitte for their team's support.



SPRING 2016

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Editor's note: Look for this space in each issue of *Making History* to learn more about a specific item from the Society's collection of more than 250,000 artifacts. You can visit our blog, "Look What We Found," at detroithistorical.wordpress.com.

The Mystery of the Missing Mausoleum

For quite some time, one particular object in the collection has given our staff great curiosity—the key to the Lewis Cass mausoleum (shown at right). While Cass has an impressive sarcophagus-shaped monument in Elmwood Cemetery, the famed explorer, territorial governor, general, senator, Secretary of War and Secretary of State is not actually entombed within it. Instead he is buried in the ground near the foot of the monument, beneath a slab. If there is no Cass mausoleum, then what does this key unlock?

The key, which includes a tag stamped with "L. Cass, Elmwood," certainly seems like it must somehow relate to the politician's grave. It was donated to the Detroit Historical Museum in 1941. Our original donation record identifies the key as a "mausoleum key," thus this has been a long-standing oversight. The key was donated by Mildred Finn of Grosse Pointe along with some nails and wood (right), which she claimed were from the residence of Lewis Cass. Could these artifacts offer any more context for the key, and how did Finn come to possess them?



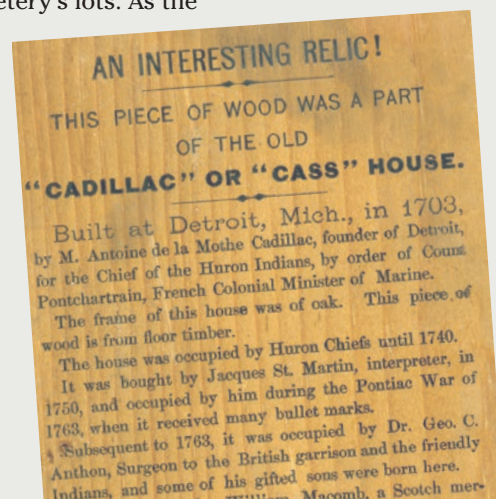
The Cass House (at left) itself carries a bit of a mythic quality. We definitely know that the house stood on Larned Street between First and Second Streets and was demolished in 1882 after housing several notable Detroiters. Tradition maintains that the home was built in 1703, and thus was a rare survivor of the Great Fire of 1805, but had been moved and modified since. The historian Silas Farmer suggested that the house may have been initially constructed on behalf of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac for a Huron chief. As evidence, Farmer cited an old letter which provided a congruence between the dimensions and location of the chief's house with those of the early Cass House. Cass's more immediate predecessor in the home was General Alexander Macomb, and after Cass departed for Washington D.C. to serve as Andrew Jackson's Secretary of War, the



house passed to the Newberry family. The legendary residence inspired the lengthy poem "Cassina" by Judge Charles H. Campbell, and pieces of its floorboards were distributed as promotional items advertising paint made by Detroit White Lead Works (pictured below right). Thus relics from the Cass House were fairly common. However, Mildred Finn had a special connection to Cass.

Prior to marrying Joseph V. Finn, Mildred Finn was born Mildred Foxen. Her grandfather was William Foxen. Foxen emigrated from England at a young age, and after a stint as a hotel clerk, became coachman to Lewis Cass. While in Cass's employ, Foxen continued to gain responsibilities and became the politician's secretary and assistant. Cass retained Foxen's services through the rest of his life, including during his time in Washington. The Detroit Historical Society's collection includes several letters which demonstrate the strength of that bond. In one letter from Lewis Cass to his son, he suggests that the family "make a substantial acknowledgement, to William Foxen, for his faithful services" by deeding him a plot of land. In another letter, Lewis Cass, Jr. sends William Foxen's wife a cross blessed by Pope Pius IX, "as a token of my esteem for your husband." Even after Lewis Cass's death, Foxen remained in his service as the manager of the family's estate. It certainly stands to reason something as important as the so-called mausoleum key would eventually find its way into the possession of William Foxen's granddaughter—of course, that is, if there actually were a mausoleum.

After contacting a representative of Elmwood Cemetery, we learned that first, there unfortunately is no mysterious keyhole on the Cass monument, and second, that until World War II, metal fences stood around many of the cemetery's lots. As the key was donated in 1941, it arrived months ahead of American involvement in the war and a year ahead of the first scrap metal drives that may have claimed the fences. However Mildred Finn, of course, need not have waited until the fence was removed to have placed the key into the care of the Detroit Historical Museum. The Detroit Public Library hosts a photo of the gate in front of the monument as part of its digital collection. While a keyhole is not clearly visible in the shot, this is perhaps the closest we can come to determining the key's purpose. It certainly seems plausible that family lore or a simple clerical error would turn the key to the Cass family lot's fence into that of the Cass mausoleum. Interestingly, the fence itself warranted a mention in the annals of history. In a *Detroit Free Press* booklet memorializing the late politician, it is reported that the crowd gathered at the burial was so large that the fence had to be temporarily removed to accommodate them.



Spring Store Specials at Our Museums and Online Store

Detroit Historical Museum Members
receive 10% off all purchases every day!

APRIL

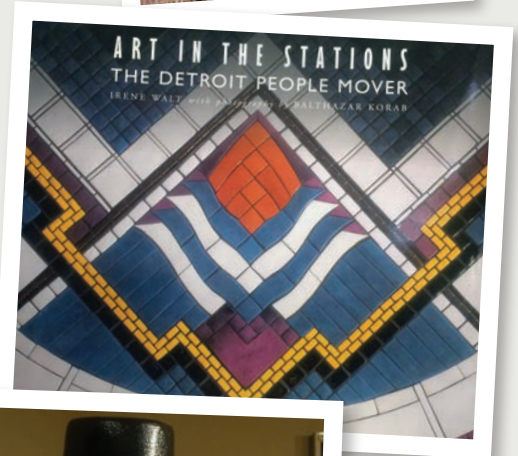
In celebration of Tigers Opening Day,
Take 15% off all baseball merchandise
(25% off for Members)

MAY

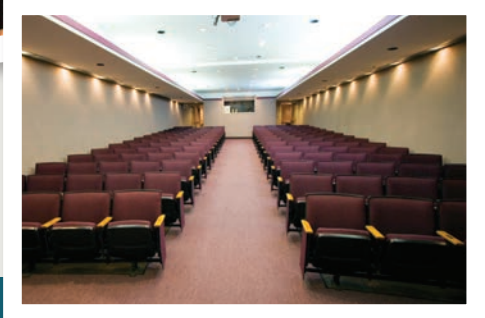
Save 15% on all Pewabic Pottery pieces
(25% off for Members)

JUNE

Summer Reading Series Sale!
Take 20% off all books
(30% off for Members)



DON'T JUST MAKE PLANS. MAKE HISTORY!



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detroithistorical.org

Book your group's visit to the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum today!

Great for Family Reunions!

GUIDED TOURS — for all ages, including community and senior groups.

NOW ON
SATURDAYS!

- **TOUR TIMES:** Tuesday through Friday, 10 – 11:30 a.m., 12:30 – 2 p.m. or 2 – 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- **COST:** \$5 per person (10 person minimum)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES TOUR AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN MIDTOWN

Learn about significant geographic, economic, social and cultural developments of the city. Discover why the French settled the area and why the fur trade was important to the city's development. Learn the importance of Michigan's natural resources, their effect on Detroit's industrial development and how we became the Motor City. During this tour participants will also stroll through the *Streets of Old Detroit* exhibit.

MARITIME HISTORY TOUR AT THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM ON BELLE ISLE

This 90-minute guided tour of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum includes visits to the *Gothic Room*, *Built by the River*, *William Clay Ford Pilot House* and *Miss Pepsi* exhibits.



DETROIT MEMORIES & MOMENTS AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN MIDTOWN

- **CAPACITY:** 10–100 people
- **COST:** \$5 Per Person

Experience 300 years of Detroit history with visits to the *Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work, 1701-1901*, *America's Motor City* and *Streets of Old Detroit* exhibits. Explore the role of the city during World War II in the *Detroit: The "Arsenal of Democracy"* exhibit and view artifacts in the Allesee Gallery of Culture – showcasing the iconic people, places and moments of Detroit in the 20th century.

Call 313.833.7979 or email heatherd@detroithistorical.org to book your tour today!



Where
the past
is present

DETROIT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

▶ Call 313.833.7979 to schedule a group tour!

Spring Days of Detroit

MARCH 20, 1802 — Detroit's first public market is established.

MARCH 28, 1928 — Pro Musica brings Ravel to Detroit for first appearance.

APRIL 11, 1843 — James Vernor, Sr., the pharmacist who created Vernors gingerale, is born.

APRIL 13, 1954 — Ernie Harwell broadcasts for the first time from Michigan and Trumbull.

APRIL 29, 1924 — Cornerstone laid for the Detroit Institute of Arts.

MAY 6, 1968 — *Detroit Free Press* wins Pulitzer Prize for coverage of 1967 civil unrest.

MAY 22, 1937 — Battle of the Overpass takes place at Ford Rouge Plant in Dearborn.

MAY 27, 1973 — Ground breaking ceremony is held for the Renaissance Center.

JUNE 15, 1905 — Michigan branch of the American Red Cross is organized in Detroit.



Ladies hats displayed with the illusion that they are potted plants at Himelhoc's Department Store in Detroit, 1940. A sign in the center reads, "The Easter Parade starts at Himelhoc's, Millinery, Third Floor, Window No. 5!"

Plan Your Visit!



5401 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.833.1805

HOURS

Tues – Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed on Easter Sunday (March 27, 2016)

Open 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday, March 28 through Friday, April 1, 2016 for Spring Break extended hours.

ADMISSION

Admission is FREE.



GROUP TOURS

Call 313.833.7979 to schedule a group tour at the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

HOST AN EVENT

Call 313.833.1733 to host an event at the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

VOLUNTEER

Call 313.833.1419 to volunteer at the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.



100 Strand Drive,
Belle Isle
Detroit, MI 48207
313.833.5538

HOURS:

Sat & Sun: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed on Easter Sunday (March 27, 2016)

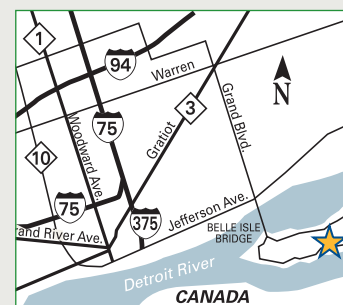
Open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday, March 28 through Friday, April 1, 2016 for Spring Break extended hours.

Closed on Grand Prix weekend (June 4 – 5, 2016)

Open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. FRIDAYS beginning June 10, 2016.

ADMISSION

Admission is FREE.



Where
the past
is present

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5401 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

detroithistorical.org

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MISSION

The Detroit Historical Society tells Detroit's stories
and why they matter.

VISION

To be an integral part of Detroit's present and future
by providing meaningful experiences that preserve
and share its past.

MAKINGHISTORY SPRING 2016



Celebrate the **150th**
Anniversary of
Vernors!

See page 3 for a full list of
activities.

*Sepia-toned photo showing
a team of horses pulling
a Vernors Ginger Ale
delivery wagon ca. 1909.
The wagon is parked in
front of a grocery store
and a dry cleaning and
dyeing shop (possibly on
Scotten Avenue between
Porter Street and Ida
Avenue).*