



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION ABOUT THE MUSEUMS' NEW OPERATING AGREEMENT

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Why was the Operating Agreement necessary?

Last spring, as part of his plan to address the city's budget deficit, Mayor Kilpatrick announced his intention to eliminate all City funding for the Detroit Historical Museums. To ensure continued operations, a new management plan that streamlined operations and significantly reduced the City's ongoing financial contribution became necessary.

How will the Society operate the Museums?

In anticipation of this Operating Agreement, the Society's board and staff have prepared a two-year interim plan and budget for the operation of the Museums. These plans require a significant increase in both contributed revenue (donations and memberships) and earned revenue (admissions fees, parking revenues, etc.) in order to be successful.

Will the admission fees or hours of operations change under the new plan?

No significant changes in admission fees or hours are planned. Admission at the Detroit Historical Museum will remain at \$5, with children at \$3. Adult Admission at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, which now includes complimentary docent-led tours for all visitors, will change to \$4. The Museum's acclaimed school tour program, that serves thousands of school children each year, will continue.

What are plans for Historic Fort Wayne this summer?

Under the agreement, the Recreation Department assumes operational responsibility for Historic Fort Wayne, and is expected to open the Fort for selected events and activities. The annual Flea Market, sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society Guild, will take place, as planned, on April 8th and 9th.

How can the public help the Society and Museums through this transition period?

The Society needs the support of everyone in the community and there are many ways you can help. If you're not a member, we encourage you to join our organization. If you

can consider volunteering with the Museums, your help would be greatly appreciated. Of course, donations to the Society are essential to our survival, and are always greatly appreciated. Please visit our website at www.detroithistorical.org for more information about how you can help in these or other areas.

Are current memberships in the Detroit Historical Society still valid?

Absolutely! Members will still receive unlimited free admission every day at the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.