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GET A BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT MEXICANTOWN AND ELMWOOD CEMETERY DURING TWO UPCOMING “BEHIND THE SCENES” TOURS WITH THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUGUST 15th AND 22nd

DETROIT - The Detroit Historical Society’s popular weekly “Behind the Scenes” series, sponsored by the **DTE Energy Foundation**, continues with a tour of **Mexicantown** on **Saturday, August 15th** and **Elmwood Cemetery** on **Saturday, August 22nd**. Tours begin at **11 a.m.**

The **Mexicantown** community experienced massive growth as Mexican families came to work in the automobile and related industries during the 1920s. The Great Depression of the 1930s forced many Mexican workers to return to their homelands in search of better job opportunities. During the 1950s, a new wave of immigrants arrived in the area and built Spanish-language cinemas, nightclubs, grocery stores, restaurants and other retail outlets. Many of these buildings were removed during the 1960s and 1970s to make way for the I-75 freeway. On this tour, guests will explore the community’s vibrant neighborhood and stores including the new International Welcome Center and Mercado.

Elmwood Cemetery, designed by prominent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, was created in 1846 after some of Detroit’s leading citizens decided to establish a cemetery in the city’s suburbs. They purchased 42 acres from what was originally the George Hunt Farm in Hamtramck and renamed the property Elmwood Cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place for many war heroes and distinguished citizens including abolitionist George DeBaptiste. **Chancey Miller**, the former Elmwood Cemetery director and local historian, will guide the tour and share stories of the historic people and old-world style buildings.

The cost for each Behind the Scenes Saturday tour is \$20 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$30 for guests. Telephone reservations can be accepted with a Visa or MasterCard Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are not sold the day

of the tour. Those who register receive directions to the tour location, a map, and additional information in the mail one to two weeks prior to the tour.

For more information or to reserve your spot for the Detroit Historical Society's Behind the Scenes Saturday tours or other 2009 events, call **(313) 833-1801**, or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

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