



# News Release

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## THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM TO REOPEN AFTER SUMMER RECESS WITH "DOLLAR DAYS" WEEKEND AND FOUR NEW EXHIBITS SEPTEMBER 13-14

Provocative *Hero or Villain? Detroit's Legacy of Leadership* exhibit  
headlines the Museum's new content

**DETROIT** -- The Detroit Historical Museum emerges from its annual three-week summer recess with a "dollar days" re-opening weekend **Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14** to show off four new exhibits.

On both days, admission will be one dollar for everyone, except, of course, for Detroit Historical Society members who receive free admission.

Among the new exhibitions opening in September, the main attraction will be *Hero or Villain? Metro Detroit's Legacy of Leadership*, which focuses a critical eye on 16 key figures in the region's 300+ year history and gives visitors the final judgment as to whether they should be revered or reviled.

The individuals featured in the exhibit include:

- **Antoine Cadillac** (1658-1730) – Frenchman who founded the village of Detroit in 1701.
- **Lewis Cass** (1782-1866) – politician who served as a Michigan Territorial Governor, U.S. Senator, Secretary of State and Ambassador to France.
- **Ty Cobb** (1886-1961) – Detroit Tiger player and manager who was part of the inaugural group of inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- **Fr. Charles Coughlin** (1891-1979) – Catholic priest who established the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak.
- **Henry Ford** (1863-1947) – founder of the Ford Motor Company.
- **Ernie Goodman** (1906-1997) – nationally known Detroit lawyer.
- **Martha Griffiths** (1912-2003) – 20-year Congresswoman and Michigan's first female Lieutenant Governor.

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- **Jimmy Hoffa** (1913-1975) – president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union.
- **Orville Hubbard** (1903-1982) – longtime mayor of Dearborn.
- **Ann “Nancy” Martin** (1799-1875) – Central Market merchant and donor of land that became the Harper Hospital campus.
- **Irene McCabe** (1935-2004) – community activist and founder of the National Action Group.
- **Chief Pontiac** (1720-1769) – Odawa chief who opposed British control of the Great Lakes.
- **Walter Reuther** (1907-1970) – one of the founders and subsequently president of the United Auto Workers union.
- **Ossian Sweet** (1895-1960) – African American physician acquitted of murder in the 1920s following a shooting at his home the day after moving into a white neighborhood.
- **Augustus Woodward** (1774-1827) – Michigan Territorial Judge who created a plan for Detroit after the Great Fire of 1805.
- **Coleman A. Young** (1918-1997) – Detroit’s first African American mayor.

These personalities represent all periods of Detroit’s history and include a cross-section from politics, sports, commerce and religion. Each historical figure is presented through individual displays, offering visitors a multi-faceted view of their life, times, character, and the issues that defined their legacies. Popular perceptions of each are reflected through the eyes of their contemporaries, with a balanced selection of opinions offered by both devotees and detractors. The human personality behind the public persona will be established using portraits, paintings, period clothing, and personal artifacts.

The Detroit Historical Society gathered a panel of esteemed writers – scholars, historians, journalists, and editors – to help provide a unique perspective for our visitors, addressing both the positive and negative perceptions of each leader’s legacy.

This exhibit is made possible by a generous contribution from the **General Motors Foundation** and **Bank of America**. The **Wayne State University Alumni Association** is a community partner for this exhibit.

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Another new exhibit, *Fabulous 5: Detroit's Entertainment Venues*, will showcase a sampling of places where Detroiters go to have fun. The venues featured include the following: the **Michigan State Fair**, **Tiger Stadium**, **Orchestra Hall**, the **Masonic Temple** and the **Fox Theatre**. Community partners for the *Fabulous 5* exhibit include the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**, **Michigan State Fair** and the **Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy**.

*Automotive Showplace*, an ode to the American art form of automotive design, will celebrate the **Model T Centennial** with a 1911 "Tin Lizzie" on display. The automobile featured originally belonged to Perry Andrews of Detroit, who offered the car to his son-in-law in 1923. When Andrews heard his son-in-law intended to turn the car into a "hot rod," he angrily withdrew his offer and buried the car in a field. In 1966, popular WJR radio host Bud Guest heard about Andrews' actions and organized "The Big Dig" to recover the car. The volunteers who retrieved and restored the car donated it to the Detroit Historical Museum's collection in 1982.

The final new exhibit, entitled *100 Years Ago*, will use photographs, newspaper articles and images of the period to give visitors a snapshot into the lives of Detroiters in 1908. This exhibit is presented by the **Detroit Historical Society Guild**.

In addition, the new **Detroit Historical Museum Store** will open with some great new product offerings and a special weekend **Arcadia Book Sale**, featuring a 25 percent discount on all local history titles from Arcadia Publishing.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Detroit's Cultural Center area, reopens to the public Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Regular hours are Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the Museum is not open to the public but available for group tours by calling **(313) 833-7979**. Adult admission is \$6. Seniors (60+), college students with valid college ID, and youth ages 5-18 pay \$4. Admission for children ages four and under is free. Parking in the Museum's lot is \$4 at all times. Permanent exhibits include the famous *Streets of Old Detroit*, *Frontiers to Factories*, *The Motor City*, and *The Glancy Trains*. For more information, call the Museum at **(313) 833-1805** or check out our website at [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

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