

MAKING HISTORY

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

Pulling history out of the Detroit River!

*See page 15
for details*

*Past>Forward
Campaign Update Inside*

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MAKING HISTORY is the official quarterly newsletter of the Detroit Historical Society, published each winter, spring, summer, and fall. Questions and comments may be submitted to Bob Sadler at bobsadler@detroithistorical.org.

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Letter from the Executive Director Bob Bury

When Opportunity Knocks ...

Last year, a cozy Detroit-themed holiday image adorned the cover of *Making History's* winter issue. And we could have done that again this year. While we, of course, extend our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and new year, we just couldn't wait to tell you about the newest addition to our collection — discovered quite by accident by a member of the Detroit Police Department's dive team on a training exercise in the Detroit River.

What did he find? History!

The obscured piece of iron encountered turned out to be a rare zebra mussel-covered 18th century British cannon. Once the cannon was retrieved on October 5, it gave us the chance to do our job of preserving the city's history. You can check out the full story on page 15 of this newsletter.

The cannon opportunity brings home the fact that the Detroit Historical Society is indeed *the* "go to" place for all aspects of the history of our region — whether it's collecting, researching, educating, preserving or presenting our history. It's an exciting time and a great place to be.

By the time you read this, our annual major fundraiser, the Detroit Historical Society Ball, will be history as well. The funds raised help move us further along toward achieving our goals with the *Past>Forward* Campaign, as well as enabling us to welcome more children through our doors thanks to the generous donations made to our Adopt-a-Class program. You also can be part of this exciting program and help children who otherwise wouldn't be able to visit us by completing the form on page 13.

Our special *Past>Forward* Campaign insert details the progress made on many fronts, including more local luminaries being added to the *Detroit Legends Plaza* and an updated view of what the permanent exhibit *Built by the River* will look like at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum — and the generous donors making that exhibit a reality. Finally, you'll get a sneak preview of the recently unveiled "new look" of each of our new or enhanced exhibits.

We thank you for all your support in 2011 and, again, wish all of you a tremendous holiday season. 2012 promises to be a historical year for all of us!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bury

Executive Director & CEO
Detroit Historical Society

Farewell to David Janssen

David Janssen, the Society's Vice President of Collections and Interpretation, has announced his resignation for a new position in his native Iowa as the Executive Director of Brucemore, a National Trust Historic Site in Cedar Rapids. Janssen joined the Society in April of 2010. His final day at the Society will be December 22, and we wish him much success in what he termed his "dream job."

ON THE COVER:

An 18th century British cannon discovered this summer was retrieved out of the Detroit River on October 5. It is now part of the Detroit Historical Society's collection. Get the full story on page 15.

An Annual Favorite Returns — African American History Day!



Join in the celebration of African American history and culture as the Detroit Historical Museum kicks off Black History Month with this annual event Saturday, February 4 starting at 11 a.m.! Find a variety of gifts or pamper yourself with items from our Artists Market throughout the museum, learn from many of the historical organizations in the area, including the Tuskegee Airmen and neighborhood associations, and bring the kids to enjoy entertainment and a caricature artist. Renowned storyteller Ivory D. Williams and the Kidz Art Zone will provide enthralling experiences for children. Refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the event.

FREE admission!

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VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1936
MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

Enjoy second annual Discover Detroit March 9

Learn what makes Detroit unique at our second annual Discover Detroit on Friday, March 9 from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum!

Throughout the evening, you will have the chance to mingle with representatives from organizations like MOCAD, the Black Historic Sites Committee and Young Detroit Builders, while trying samples from Detroit restaurants and hearing from scholars and Detroit enthusiasts. Talk with Brad Osantoski, the producer and director of *Redefining Dreamland*, which tells the story of the city today

through the eyes of its current residents and explores where positive action is taking place. Amy Elliott Bragg and John Carlisle will present stories from *Hidden History of Detroit* and *313: Life in the Motor City*, their respective new books. These presentations will help you appreciate Detroit as we know it, one of the most enigmatic cities in the Midwest.

Tickets are \$10 per person. To purchase tickets, please call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.



Building Detroit online game launches to unanimous acclaim



Curriculum Coordinator Alyson Jones, of Nataki Talibah Schoolhouse of Detroit; Tobi Voigt, director of education at the Detroit Historical Society and Nataki Talibah 4th grader Alaina Arnold played Building Detroit, the first online educational history game created by the Detroit Historical Society. It is free and available online to everyone at detroithistorical.org.

Stop in during the holidays for free admission and extended hours



As a special “thank you” to the community for its support during these challenging economic times, the Detroit Historical Society is again offering free admission to the Detroit Historical Museum this holiday season, as well as extended visitor hours.

The museum will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day from Monday, December 26 through Saturday, December 31, courtesy of the Masco Corporation Foundation.

Take a break from the hustle and bustle! Bring the entire family and experience a fun-filled, relaxing day — on us!

(NOTE: The Detroit Historical Museum will be closed on December 24 and December 25 in observance of the Christmas Holiday as well as on January 1, 2012.)



New promotion — America's Motor City Weekends coming in January

If you're planning to visit the North American International Auto Show this year, why not include a visit to the Detroit Historical Museum as well? During the two

Auto Show weekends — January 14–15 and 21–22, all guests will enjoy 50 percent off admission and extended hours for each day from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Annual Winter Break deals for students return

If the kids get a case of “cabin fever” during their Winter Break, bring them all down to the Detroit Historical Museum from Monday, February 20 through Sunday, February 26. All youths and students (with valid ID when necessary) will receive free admission during the week, and the Museum will also feature extended hours from 9:30 to 5 p.m. each day of this promotion.

Detroit TOY Stories

Detroit Toy Stories

Now open • Stark Hall

Remember your favorite toy — or toys — from when you were a kid? *Detroit Toy Stories* will help bring back those joyful memories.

Drawing on over 7,000 items in the Society's collection, this exhibit features a variety of playthings from multiple generations of metro Detroit children, including games, dolls, wardrobes, doll houses, pedal cars, hula hoops, toy soldiers, toy trucks and much more. In addition, video of historic wind-up toys and classic toy commercials is on hand for parents and grandparents who wish to share such memories with their children and grandchildren.

Several "play stations" throughout the gallery invite young and old to sit down and play games that have stood the test of time: Tinker Toy, Operation, Etch A Sketch, Slinky and checkers. Personal stories and photos from a cross section of metro Detroiters are sprinkled across the exhibit recounting the toys that made their childhood special.

Expect many "I had one of those" moments as you explore *Detroit Toy Stories*.



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Detroit Historical
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William B. Stout Exhibit

Now open • Second floor corridor

William Bushnell Stout was an inventor whose technical imagination was years ahead of his time. This display features numerous illustrations, design drawings and models he donated to the Society's collection.

Between 1909 and the end of World War II, Stout developed revolutionary designs that pushed the bounds of contemporary automotive, aeronautic and train travel. Born in Illinois in 1880, he grew up in a number of Midwestern towns, graduated from the University of Minnesota, and spent his early career as a journalist. All the while, his brain was tinkering.

He came to Detroit as the lead designer for the Scripps-Booth automobile company, but soon moved to Packard Motors' aircraft division. During World War I, Stout was the lead proponent for a metal sheathed monoplane. It resulted in a 1918 delta-winged flier that resembles a modern stealth fighter.

Later, the Stout Metal Airplane Company developed a passenger plane. After Henry Ford purchased the company, Stout's creativity produced the famous Ford tri-motor. When Ford got out of aeronautics, Stout started one of the first airlines in the nation at Ford Field in Dearborn. Stout Air Lines was eventually sold to American Airlines.

In the early 1930s, Stout turned his attention to rail travel, designing trains the size of a bus and the very streamlined Railplane. Before long his imagination took him back to automobiles, and he created the innovative Scarab. This vehicle featured a tubular frame, independent suspension, sliding front seats and a rear engine. The spacious interior predated the mini-van by half a century.

During World War II, he designed and built an aircraft that could shed its wings and operate as a car — the Sky Car. He kept inventing until his death in 1956.



1914 Anderson Detroit Electric

**Now open
Automotive Showplace**

In 1907, the Anderson Carriage Company began building an electric automobile powered by a rechargeable lead acid battery. The vehicles averaged about 80 miles per charge, with a top speed of 20 miles per hour — perfectly adequate for the time. By 1911, the product was so successful that the company's name was changed to the Anderson Electric Car Company, and later to the Detroit Electric Car Company.

Because electric automobiles were more reliable than early gasoline cars and didn't require difficult cranking to start, the Anderson product was very popular with physicians and women. Henry Ford's wife Clara drove one for most of her life, and her husband and his friend Thomas Edison put an enormous amount of time and money into trying to create a marketable electric vehicle.

Andersons were very pricey, selling for \$2,600 when a new Ford Model T was available for \$600.

The vehicle on display was purchased by Mrs. Helen Newberry Joy on Oct. 11, 1921. She was the wife of Henry Bourne Joy, Sr., president of the Packard Motor Car Company. While he drove Packards, Mrs. Joy enjoyed her Electric and kept its license active until 1947.



Fabulous 5: Detroit's Destinations

Now open • Kresge Gallery

The Fabulous 5 exhibits highlight outstanding things about Detroit. Occasionally, these wonderful elements of local culture are places. *Detroit's Destinations* is a salute to five such places. Some are historic sites with a long history of visitors while others are more recent and have more of a "cult" following.

The first location is Belle Isle. While most of us have been there, few know that it's the largest city-owned island in the nation, boasting 982 acres and five miles of shoreline. Its cultural attractions, historic monuments, sports facilities and outdoor recreation have drawn visitors there for decades.

After the great fire of 1805, rebuilding began in Campus Martius Park, another of the destinations featured. Designated the "Point of Origin" for the city, Campus Martius — specifically Woodward Ave. and Monroe — marks the origin from which the new street grid was developed. Redevelopment of this park began in 1999 with the goal of making it the best public space in the world.

Eastern Market, the 43-acre, open-air bazaar, was established in 1891 and is known for its luscious farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as meat products, herbs and spices, nuts, candies and a variety of condiments.


The Heidelberg Project on Detroit's east side was created by Tyree Guyton, who used discarded (found) objects to create a two-block area full of color. This project was started 25 years ago as a stand to

save forgotten neighborhoods and is now recognized internationally.

Originally opened in 1837 as a mill for local grain, the Franklin Cider Mill transitioned to apple milling in 1914. The water wheel is one of the largest in the country and was installed in the early 1900s. The structure has remained almost unchanged, and the apple press is the same one installed in 1914. It has been operated by the same family since the 1930s.

Make these *Destinations* your destination this winter at the Detroit Historical Museum!



Presenting Sponsor
Detroit Historical
Society Guild 



Saying I Do: Metro Detroit Weddings

Now open • Booth Wilkinson Gallery

This exhibition highlights three centuries of personal stories and community rituals as it examines the traditions surrounding marriage and weddings.

Portions of the Detroit Historical Society's collection of wedding gowns and accessories are highlighted. The Society has also established partnerships

with a host of ethnic and community groups from throughout the region as a means of ensuring diverse representation of traditional costumes, ceremonial artifacts and stories.

Be sure to put this on your "must see" list and discover the rich, diverse ways metro Detroit has been saying "I do" for more than 300 years!

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COMMUNITY GALLERY AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

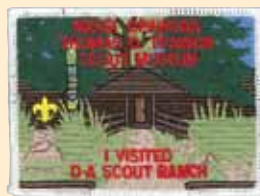


Boy Scouts of America – Great Lakes Council

Closes February 5, 2012

The Great Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America, formerly known as the Detroit Area Council, serves boys ages 7–17 in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. This exhibit showcases both the Council's history and current activities and features displays and artifacts from the Thomas D. Trainor Scout Museum.

Dedicated in September 2002, the 1,100 square foot Trainor Scout Museum is located on the grounds of the D-bar-A Scout Ranch in Metamora. The Museum's mission is to collect, present and preserve the rich history of the Boy Scouts of America and its Great Lakes Councils past and present — so current and future generations can gain a deeper understanding of the values, traditions and youth-focused programs offered through scouting.



Detroit Artists Market

Opens February 25, 2012

As part of the celebration of their 80th Anniversary, the Detroit Artists Market (DAM) will present an exhibition focused on their extensive history and unflinching support of local arts.

DAM first opened in 1932 during the Great Depression, predating President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA) program by two years. A group of local art patrons recognized that artists needed a place to exhibit and sell their work. In addition to providing artists with the means for a livelihood, DAM's founders had another goal: educating public taste through the exhibition and sale of work by the finest of Detroit's local artists.

Over the decades, DAM has continued to offer thought provoking contemporary exhibitions and programs by emerging and established artists in Southeast Michigan.

WINTER 2012

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

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

Sponsored by  DTE Energy

Advance reservations required. Tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1–2 weeks after payment is received. On average, tours last from 90 minutes to two hours. No refunds or tour credits will be given. You may choose from three options to sign-up:

- ① Fill out and send the form on page 11 ② Register online at www.detroithistorical.org ③ Call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone

Art in Detroit Receiving Hospital

January 5 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Special Thursday tour!

Led by the current Art Director at Children's Hospital, this tour will showcase the extensive and beautiful art collection at Detroit Receiving Hospital, which was begun in 1968 through the generosity of Michigan artists and friends of the hospital. The collection now consists of major sculptures as well as 800 paintings, works on paper, textiles, and crafts. Over the years, the collection has been broadened by the addition of African beadwork, tapestries from the USA, Africa, and Columbia, as well as a site-specific Pewabic tile water fountain and large photo murals in the Emergency Department. The collection, which continues to grow in scope and quality, retains its original purpose of lightening the burden of illness carried by patients and their families.



Detroit Opera House

January 14 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

What is now known as the Detroit Opera House originally opened as the Capitol Theater on January 12, 1922. At the time of its gala premiere, the 4,250-seat theater was reputed to be the fifth largest in the world. Designed by renowned Detroit architect C. Howard Crane, whose genius for theater design took him to cities around the nation, the building was constructed with superb acoustics in the style of the grand European opera houses. The Capitol Theater was resplendently decorated in the Italian Renaissance style with lavish crystal chandeliers, frescoes, brass fixtures, marble stairways and drinking fountains. Rich rose-red Italian damask was used for the main stage curtain and draperies throughout the house. Most of these features are still present today.

Country Club of Detroit

January 21 – 10 a.m.

\$40 members/\$50 guests

Includes Lunch!

The Country Club of Detroit's history spans World War I, Prohibition, the Stock Market crash of 1929, the Great Depression, World War II, the era of the debutantes, all the big bands in America, and several clubhouse transformations. From the original purchase of an existing clubhouse, to Albert Kahn's updated versions, to the still newer Smith, Hinchman & Grylls clubhouse with several updates throughout the next nearly 80 years, the Country Club of Detroit has continued to grow and still focuses on family activities.

Joe Louis Arena

January 27 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Special Friday tour!

Building on a rich history of tradition, Joe Louis Arena sits proudly on the banks of the Detroit River on Civic Center Drive. Home to the Detroit Red Wings, 11-time Stanley Cup Champions, Joe Louis Arena hosted its first event on December 12, 1979. The arena has since been host to a variety of events including concerts, basketball games, ice shows, performances and countless other special events. This tour includes a behind the scenes look at the Alumni Room, Olympia Club, Media Lounge, Press Box, a Supersuite, and the visitors' Locker Room.

February 4 • NO TOUR—African American History Day

Fisher Building

February 11 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

"Detroit's largest art object," "A Cathedral to Commerce," and "The Fisher Brothers' gift to the city of the Detroit" are phrases that have been used to describe the Fisher Building. Perhaps it is best described as a luxurious building that represents the multi-faceted influence of automobiles. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989, the Fisher Building features a 28-story set-back Art Deco tower. The interior is bisected by a 44 foot high barrel-vaulted arcade and every inch is opulently decorated with bronze, gold leaf, and more than 40 types of exotic marbles mined in quarries in Africa, Italy, and Carthage, Missouri. Sold to a real-estate firm in 1974 by the three remaining Fisher Brothers, the Fisher Building continues to be a meticulously maintained and fully occupied Art Deco jewel, a symbol of the change

and prosperity the automobile brought to Detroit. Ellen Howell's knowledge of the architectural details and stories make this an unforgettable tour!

Traffic Jam & Snug

February 18 – 10 a.m.

\$30 members/\$40 guests

Includes lunch!

The Traffic Jam and Snug was established in 1965. By 1992 it was deemed the first brew-pub in the state of Michigan. Known throughout Midtown for their in-house bakery, microbrewery, and dairy, their curiously intimate multi-level dining rooms, and an eclectic menu of made-from-scratch dishes, there is simply nothing quite like The Traffic Jam, truly one of Detroit's hidden treasures. This tour will allow you the unique opportunity to explore the kitchens and see where their award-winning cheeses and beers are crafted, using the same equipment for both processes. Then, you will get to sample some of their freshly-made food as you settle in for lunch!

Detroit Athletic Club

February 25 – 10 a.m.

\$35 members/\$45 guests

Includes lunch!

While many of Detroit's institutions have come and gone, the Detroit Athletic Club remains a rock-solid force in the city where it was born, providing a center for community leadership and a focal point around which many important decisions have been made. Spanning three centuries, the Detroit Athletic Club has been, and remains, a Detroit original. This unique tour will provide you access to the club, a wealth of information about its various works of art, and the chance to explore the club with Kenneth Katz, founder of Conservation and Museum Services.

Meadow Brook Hall

March 2 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Special Friday tour!

Meadow Brook Hall was built during the country place era, a time when wealthy American industrialists pursued rural life in settings of great beauty. It represents one of the finest examples of Tudor-revival style architecture in America and is especially renowned for its superb craftsmanship, architectural detailing and grand scale of 88,000 square feet. Inspired by the country

WINTER 2012

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manor homes in England, it was designed and built by the Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls between 1926 and 1929 at a cost of nearly \$4 million. Carefully preserved with original family furnishings and art, the 110-room mansion is elaborately detailed with carved wood and stone, ornate plaster ceilings, Tiffany stained glass, custom made hardware, and is filled with fine and decorative art.



Detroit Boat Club

March 10 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Detroit Boat Club, which traces its roots back to 1839, may be

the oldest, continuously-run rowing club in the world. After several wooden structures 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 concrete structure in the United States. In 1991, the city of Detroit announced that the rental fee for the property on which the clubhouse stood was to be raised from \$1 a year to \$100,000 a year. Unable to make up the difference, the Club filed for bankruptcy. In 1996, Club members voted to move out of the city. The Detroit

Rowing Club began using the building in 2000. Since 2001, they have begun modestly refurbishing it in order to maintain the stability of a structure so entrenched in the history of Detroit.



Theodore Levin U.S. District Courthouse/ Million Dollar Courtroom

March 15 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests**Special Thursday tour!**

Construction began on the Detroit Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse in April 1932 and was completed in March 1934. Along with marble floors and intricate hand-paintings, there are 24 courtrooms inside, six of which are historic. One, known as the “Million Dollar Courtroom” due to its original cost in the 1890s, was painstakingly disassembled when the original courthouse was demolished and reassembled in the current building, where it is still in use today. The building also features several ornamental bas-relief sculptural groupings created by noted Detroit architectural modeler Corrado Joseph Parducci, who designed the sculptural panels and medallions to depict various agencies and activities of the federal government at the

time. On May 1, 1995, the courthouse was designated the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse.

Foran's Grand Trunk Pub

March 24 - Noon

\$25 members/\$35 guests**Includes brunch!**

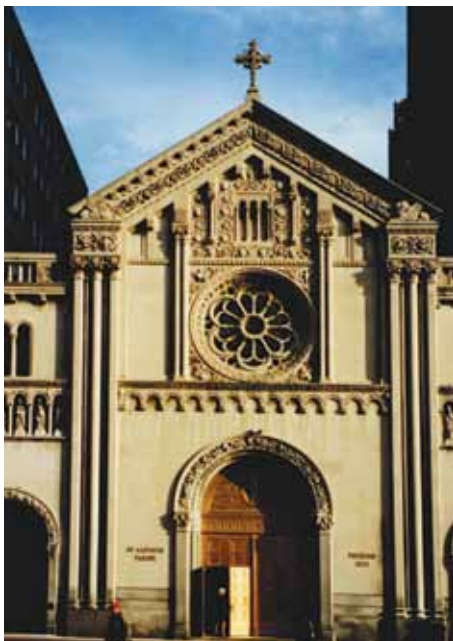
This tour takes you into Foran's Grand Trunk Pub, which has been a jewelry store, railroad ticket office, and perhaps even home to Harry Houdini's magic shop in its long and well-storied past. Enjoy brunch in the newly renovated pub at the conclusion of the tour. The pub is a Michigan historical landmark and a truly unique destination.

Detroit Media Partnership Fort Street Newsroom

March 31 – 10 a.m.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

In 1987, *The Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press* entered into a Joint Operating Agreement whereby the papers combined business operations but maintain separate editorial staffs. Each paper now publishes separate editions six days a week, and a Sunday *Free Press* with a separate *News* editorial page. See where the stories you read take shape as you tour the building in which both *The Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press* journalists and editors work!



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.

Cost is \$40 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$50 for guests. Your tour fee includes transportation with docent commentary, historical presentations at each tour stop, lunch, and donations back to each location. Tours now feature comfortable motor coaches, providing you with a relaxing view of our architecturally unique city!

All tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and both depart from and return to the Detroit Historical Museum (unless otherwise noted).

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.

March 5 (Dearborn)

St. Alphonsus
Christ Episcopal Church
Islamic Center of America
Sacred Heart

April 16

Sacred Heart Major Seminary
Gesu Parish
St. John's Armenian
Sacred Heart Chapel at
Marygrove College

Some events require registration. Unless otherwise noted, you may choose from three options to sign up:

- 1 Fill out and return the form on page 11 with your payment
- 2 Register online at www.detroithistorical.org
- 3 Call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone

Film Series

The Detroit Historical Society Film Series screens documentaries that cover a range of Detroit history subjects. Films are screened at 1 p.m. each day and are FREE with museum admission.

Our Arab American Story

January 14 & 15

Running time: 56 minutes

Detroit is home to one of the most diverse Arab populations in the United States. This film delves deeply into this highly complex community. The documentary is an honest overview of the triumphs and tragedies of our Lebanese, Palestinian, Iraqi and Yemeni neighborhoods and contains an inspiring look at Arab American customs, holidays and religious alliances — both Muslim and Christian — throughout Detroit. This film is another installment of local producer Keith Famie's "Our Story Of..." series.

The Freedom Train

February 11 & 12

Running time: 28 minutes

Released: 1996

Kingberry Productions in Association with WDIV-TV

The National Negro Labor Council (NNLC), formed in 1951, was a forerunner of the civil rights movement that followed in the 1960s. Its mission was to advance blacks in the workplace and eliminate racism inside the unions. Little has been written about the NNLC, and its history can only be found in the collective memory of the surviving members. In this film, members of the group recall their first convention and the difficulties they encountered finding a Cincinnati hotel to house them. At that convention, it was decided to fight for black women in the work force as well as men, and to open up jobs currently barred from black workers. Although the Council was ultimately disbanded, its efforts were not in vain. Ten thousand people received jobs as a result of its activities. The torch was passed on to the 1960s activists.

Our Italian Story

March 10 & 11

Running time: 56 minutes

An Italian was present at the city's 1701 founding, and since then, thousands of Italian immigrants have chosen us as their new homeland, helping to weave Detroit's colorful tapestry. This documentary

follows Italian Americans through their toughest challenges, their boom times, wars, and economic downturns. It traces their seamless integration into business, politics and art, all the while rejoicing in an essential Italian zest for life. This film is another installment of local producer Keith Famie's "Our Story Of..." series.

Scholar Series

The Detroit Historical Society Scholar Series is an academic approach to Detroit's history. Offered monthly, presenters cover the causes, meanings, outcomes and possibilities that surround events and places in our community's past, present and future.

Admission is FREE for Society Members and \$10 for Guests. RSVPs are requested but walk-ins are welcome.

Wednesday, January 18 at 6 p.m.

Detroit Historical Museum

Detroit Metro Airport

Featured author: Daniel W. Mason

Throughout the years, Detroit Metro Airport has grown and changed with the times. During the golden age of flight, the airport served the local community by providing transportation and employment. In World War II, Romulus Army Air Field served the military by transporting B-24 Liberator bombers to the East Coast. The war ended, and the airport became a civilian operation again, with the Air National Guard maintaining a presence. During the Cold War, the airport saw the presence of nuclear weapons. By the end of 1971, the weapons and the Air National Guard were gone. Constant upgrades in technology for safety and security make the passenger experience as pleasant and exciting as possible.

Mason studied history at Lake Superior State College during the early 1980s. Employed by FedEx as a tractor-trailer driver, Mason still studies history and is currently working to create, with the help of the Wayne County Airport Authority, an archive and museum for Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

Wednesday, February 15 at 6 p.m.

Detroit Historical Museum

The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century

Featured author: Grace Lee Boggs

A world dominated by America and

driven by cheap oil, easy credit, and conspicuous consumption is unraveling before our eyes. In this powerful, deeply humanistic book, Grace Lee Boggs, a legendary figure in the struggle for justice in America, shrewdly assesses the current crisis—political, economical, and environmental—and shows how to create the radical social change we need to confront new realities. A vibrant, inspirational force, Boggs has participated in all of the 20th century's major social movements including civil rights, women's rights, workers' rights and more. She draws from 70 years of activist experience, and a rigorous commitment to critical thinking, to redefine "revolution" for our times. From her home in Detroit, she reveals how hope and creativity are overcoming despair and decay within the most devastated urban communities. Her book is a manifesto for creating alternative modes of work, politics, and human interaction that will collectively constitute the next American Revolution.

Boggs, the recipient of many human rights and lifetime achievement awards, is an activist, writer, and speaker. She is celebrated in the National Women's Hall of Fame, and is the coauthor, with James Boggs, of *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century* and the author of *Living for Change: An Autobiography*. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, she is 95 years old.

This presentation is hosted by the Detroit Historical Society's Black Historic Sites Committee.

Special War of 1812 Presentation Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

Detroit Historical Museum

Don't Give Up the Ship: Myths of the War of 1812

Featured author: Donald R. Hickey

Professor Donald R. Hickey of Wayne State College in Nebraska is highly respected as one of the nation's leading experts on the War of 1812. Having published numerous books and articles on the war, his knowledge of the era is sure to provide you with new information as we commemorate the bicentennial. In his book *Don't Give Up*



Continued on page 9

The Detroit Historical Society has extended its partnership programs to include day and evening events offered by other non-profit and community-based organizations. Please use the contact information given for more details.

The 31st Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building, Ann Arbor

Sponsored by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club, this conference looks at the history of shipwrecks on the inland seas. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a partner in this event, so look for our special display. Tickets are \$15 in advance. For more information or tickets, visit www.shipwreckfestival.org.

Michigan in Perspective: The 54th Annual Conference on Local History

Friday and Saturday, March 30–31, 2012

Macomb Community College's South Campus, John Lewis Center

Presented by the Historical Society of Michigan and co-sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society, the conference includes premier offerings on topics in Michigan and regional history.

Complete conference information — including featured speakers and sessions — will be available and registration will get underway in January 2012. For more information, visit www.hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828.

Check out the Dossin Great Lakes Museum's display at two upcoming boat shows



Visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum display and mingle with members of the Detroit Historical Society's Dossin Maritime Group at the 54th Annual Detroit Boat Show on Saturday, February 11 through Sunday, February 19 at Cobo Center. Michigan's largest boat show also features boating accessories and nautical gifts, including life jackets, skis, dockage, lifts, hoists, marina slip rentals, canvas and much more! Marine services will also be available.

Tickets are \$12 for adults. Children 12 and under are free with adult admission. The hours for the show are Saturdays & Friday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday: 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You'll also find the Dossin Museum's display — along with boats for skiing, fishing and cruising at bargain prices, as well as personal watercraft — at the annual Spring Boating Expo on Thursday, March 15 through Sunday, March 18 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Tickets are \$10 for adults. Children 12 and under are free with adult admission. The hours for the Novi show are Thursday & Friday: 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on both of these 2012 boat shows, call (734) 261-0123 or visit www.mbia.org.

Scholar Series cont.

the Ship! Myths of the War of 1812, he dispels the many misconceptions that distort our view of America's second war with Great Britain. Embracing military, naval, political, economic, and diplomatic analyses, Hickey looks carefully at how the war was fought and how it was remembered thereafter. Was the original declaration of war a bluff? What were the real roles of Canadian traitor Joseph Willcocks, Mohawk leader John Norton, pirate Jean Laffite, and American naval hero Lucy Baker? Who killed Shawnee chief Tecumseh and who shot British general Isaac Brock? Who actually won the war, and what is its lasting legacy? Hickey peels away fantasies and embellishments to explore why certain myths gained currency and how they contributed to the way that the United States and Canada view themselves and each other.

While in Michigan, Professor Donald R. Hickey will present two other lectures in this series:

Tuesday, March 6

"James Madison: War President" in Grand Rapids — Presented in cooperation with the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, GVSU, www.allpresidents.org.

Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

"Forgotten Conflict: The War of 1812" in Lansing — Presented in cooperation with the Historical Society of Michigan, www.hsmichigan.org.

The primary sponsor of this lecture series is the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, a unit of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The series is co-sponsored by the Michigan Council for History Education.

Wednesday, March 21 at 6 p.m.

Detroit Historical Museum
The Violent Years: Prohibition and the Detroit Mobs
Featured author: Paul R. Kaveiff

This book plunges deep into the Prohibi-

tion-era gangs of the Detroit area, and showcases the "glamorous" gangster lifestyle. It covers the origins of the infamous Italian Mafia — including the dreaded Black Hand. Founders of Detroit's modern Mafia family, including the Irish Legs Laman mob, who specialized in brutal kidnappings, and the River Gang are illuminated with shocking detail. The author captures the flavor of the era and throws readers into the gritty and dangerous atmosphere of the region, including gruesome gang warfare, in this frighteningly true book. Learn more about this work and the history that encouraged its writing as Paul R. Kaveiff explores Prohibition and its impact on Detroit's underworld and the ultimate effects on organized crime in this country.

Kaveiff is the author of *The Purple Gang*, a staple on the Sunday *Detroit News/Detroit Free Press* bestsellers list in 2000 and 2001. Because of local interest in his first book and the unceasing questions from his fans, Kaveiff wrote *The Violent Years* as a companion to *The Purple Gang*.

Free Third Sundays continue at the Detroit Historical Museum!



The Detroit Historical Museum is continuing to offer free admission on the Third Sunday of each month through May, 2012. Stop in and see us on the following Sundays: December 18, February 19, March 18, April 15 and May 20.

Winter Deals at the Detroit Museum Store

January 2012

After exploring more than 300 years of Detroit history, you'll need a snack! This January, your favorite made-in-Detroit snacks — Sanders, Faygo, Better Made, Germack and more — will be an additional 10 percent off. Sale ends Tuesday, January 31.



10% OFF



February 2012

This February is a great time to learn more about or enhance your knowledge of Black history. All Black History-related book titles will be an additional 20 percent off. Sale ends Wednesday, February 29.

March 2012

March is Women's History Month! To celebrate the contributions of women to history, culture and society, all book titles written by women authors, including "Detroit's Michigan Central Station" by Kelli Kavanaugh and "Detroit's Hotels and Restaurants" by Patricia Ibbotson, will be an additional 20 percent off. Sale ends Saturday, March 31.



Welcome Harry Pianko, our new Vice President of Finance and Administration



Harry Pianko, C.P.A. has been hired by the Society in the newly created position of Vice President of Finance & Administration.

Reporting to Society Executive Director & CEO Bob Bury, Pianko is responsible for all finance, human resource, administrative and operational matters of the Society and works closely with the Society's senior leadership team and board of trustees to develop and implement strategies across the organization. He will also act as liaison to the Audit, Finance, Investment, Human Resource and Operations committees of the board.

Prior to coming to the Society, Pianko spent three years at the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in

Southfield as Vice President of Finance and Business Operations. He also spent four years at Brown Communities Corporation as Vice President and worked at Victor International Corp. in Auburn Hills and PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP in Detroit in financial management and advisory positions.

A metro Detroit native, Pianko graduated from Southfield Lathrup High School. He holds both bachelor of business administration and master of accounting degrees from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Pianko currently resides in Birmingham with his wife Carmen. He is also president and treasurer of VegMichigan, a nonprofit organization promoting awareness of the health, environmental and ethical benefits of a plant-based diet.

Become a Fan of the Detroit Historical Society on Facebook, Follow Us on Twitter or see us on YouTube!
See our homepage at www.detroithistorical.org for all the details!



TOURS & SERIES REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society

NOTE: If paying by check, please call (313) 833-1801 to confirm availability before mailing.

If paying by: [] VISA [] MasterCard [] Discover [] American Express

Account # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL TO: Attn: Tours, Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI, 48202

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

					# OF TICKETS	SUBTOTAL
Thurs., Jan. 5	10 a.m.	Art in Detroit Receiving Hospital	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Jan. 14	10 a.m.	Detroit Opera House	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Jan. 21	10 a.m.	Country Club of Detroit	\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		
Fri., Jan. 27	10 a.m.	Joe Louis Arena	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Feb. 11	10 a.m.	Fisher Building	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Feb. 18	10 a.m.	Traffic Jam & Snug	\$30 Members	\$40 Guests		
Sat., Feb. 25	10 a.m.	Detroit Athletic Club	\$35 Members	\$45 Guests		
Fri., Mar. 2	10 a.m.	Meadow Brook Hall	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Mar. 10	10 a.m.	Detroit Boat Club	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Thurs., Mar. 15	10 a.m.	Theodore Levin U.S. District Courthouse /Million Dollar Courtroom	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Mar. 24	12 p.m.	Foran's Grand Trunk Pub	\$25 Members	\$35 Guests		
Sat., Mar. 31	10 a.m.	Detroit Media Partnership Fort Street Newsroom	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		

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

Mon., Mar. 5	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		
Mon., Apr. 16	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		

Scholar Series

Wed., Jan. 18	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		
Wed., Feb. 15	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		
Wed., Mar. 7	7 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		
Wed., Mar. 21	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		

Discover Detroit

Fri., Mar. 9	6 p.m.	Special Program	\$10 Members	\$10 Guests		
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GRAND TOTAL \$ _____



Bells and Whistles, Flags and Flashes: Lost Languages of the Lakes Now open • DeRoy Hall

Come learn a language unlike any other at this latest exhibit that explores the various methods used by mariners to communicate with other sailors, vessels and people on the shores.

Over the centuries, sailors have used various tools and codes to communicate. These have included flags, flares, bells, whistles, drums and speaking trumpets. The advent of electronic communication brought telegraphy, lights, radios and cell phones. Special “languages” were encoded to allow these various tools to be employed and understood by other ships and shore-based observers.

Adults and kids of all ages will enjoy learning about communication on the Great Lakes through this interactive display of ship horns, whistles and other unique — often clever — devices.



To Scale: Great Lakes Model Ship Builders Now open • Great Lakes Gallery

Model shipbuilding is an endangered folk art and is an important part of our Great Lakes maritime culture. As such, we invite you to explore the art of model shipbuilding in a highly interactive way in the newest exhibition at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum!

Experience the largest collection of model Great Lakes vessels anywhere. Learn about the history of model-making in the region and hear stories about specific vessels themselves. Model-making tools are showcased, and the “workshop” is surrounded with models, showcasing the wide array of sizes, quality and possibilities — including the ever-popular ship-in-a-bottle.

Make your plans now to visit this fun and unique testament to our maritime heritage.

Community Sponsors



*This activity is supported
by the Michigan Council
for Arts and Cultural
Affairs and the National
Endowment for the Arts.*

Look What We Found!

Coming in June 2012, scholars, students and history buffs will be able to access photographs, postcards and objects of all sizes in our new online digital collection.

As part of our *Past>Forward* Campaign, the Digitization Project is a way to preserve and protect our unique collection while expanding public access. We are very excited about this project and hope that you will share in our enthusiasm.

The images seen here represent a small sample of what will be accessible online in the spring.

For more information visit www.detroithistorical.org, and click on *Past>Forward* for online digitization.



This photograph is of the Hook and Ladder Company No. 8, who were stationed on Dix and Vinewood in the late 1800s. Unlike many photographs of this time, these Detroit firefighters were not content with simply standing by their wagon; they arranged an elaborate display of their equipment as well.



This photograph was taken in 1918 at Campus Martius as visitors witnessed a parade to honor veterans of World War I. The iconic Soldiers and Sailors Monument is visible in the center of the photograph.



This clockwork movement is one of the rare artifacts recovered from the Alvin Clark. It provides a glimpse into the lives of nineteenth century sailors and the toll the Great Lakes can take on sailing vessels. The Alvin Clark was lost in Green Bay in 1864, and over 100 years later, the ship was discovered in amazing condition.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SUPPORTING THE ADOPT-A-CLASS PROGRAM!

In these tough economic times most schools have been forced to eliminate or greatly reduce the money budgeted for school field trips. That's why the Society's Adopt-a-Class program needs your help now more than ever!

The *Adopt-a-Class* program has helped thousands of **underserved** school children in our community learn about the region's rich and exciting history through donor gifts that subsidize a docent-guided tour at the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. **But the need is growing and the Society is asking for your help!**

The cost of the program, including transportation, is \$400 per class with an average class size of 30 students. These funds support the cost of Museum admission, materials and

transportation. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the schools that participate do not have to pay for this experience.

The response we receive from children participating in this program demonstrate its impact.

Your gift can make a difference!

Below is a form you can use to contribute to the *Adopt-a-Class* program and give children in our community the opportunity to learn about Detroit's history in a unique and exciting way. If you would like more information, please call Amanda Saoud at (313) 833-1980.

All contributors will be recognized in the Detroit Historical Society's Annual Report.

Donor Name (As it should appear in official publications)

Address

City, State & Zip

Phone (H)

Phone (W)

E-mail

Please specify: Yes I want to support the Adopt-a-Class Program and make history come alive for the children in our community!

\$400 ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$75 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ Other ___

Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society (enclosed)

If paying by: [] VISA [] MasterCard [] Discover [] American Express

Account #

Exp Date

Security Code

Signature

Date

Save the Date for the annual Dossin Gala — Friday, April 20th!

Make your plans now to join us for the annual gala to support the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Friday, April 20, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Always a fun filled, history-making night, the evening will once again feature a strolling dinner, a silent auction featuring maritime-related items and more.

In addition, guests will experience the latest exhibitions on display at the region's premier maritime museum.

Mark your calendars for these other upcoming events at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum:

Our annual Spring Maritime Symposium on Saturday, April 21, and ...

The 5th Annual Dossin Rowing Regatta on Sunday, April 22nd, featuring the boys and girls crews of the Detroit Boat Club.

See the next issue of *Making History* for more details.

Calling All Members!

Do you love being a Detroit Historical Society member? Are you interested in having your voice heard?

If you have fresh, exciting ideas on how to make membership benefits more appealing or thoughts on how to improve the relationship between the Society and its members, we want to hear them! If you're interested in participating in our new membership committee, please call Elizabeth Mazur at (313) 833-7938 or email elizabethm@detroithistorical.org.

A Gift for All Seasons... and All Reasons!

What do you give someone who has everything?

A Detroit Historical Society Membership, of course! This perfectly unique gift gives that special individual a chance to explore history that can't be found anywhere else and supports the only organization dedicated to preserving the rich history of our region for future generations.

Each gift membership provides one year of free admission to the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, invitations to special members-only events, a subscription to the *Making History* newsletter and more!

Just in time for the holidays! Be one of the first 10 people to purchase a gift membership at the Individual level or higher and receive a handcrafted Detroit Historical Society holiday ornament, which can be shipped to you or the gift membership recipient.

Share your love of history with your loved ones. Gift memberships are available by using the form below, by visiting our website www.detroithistorical.org or by calling (313) 833-7938.

Check One:

- \$40 Individual
 \$50 Individual Plus
 \$65 Family
 \$150 Patron
 \$300 Donor
 \$500 Historian

I'm giving this membership to:

Name _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

Please ship the holiday ornament:

- To my address
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This Gift Membership is from:

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MAIL TO: Detroit Historical Society
 Attn: Elizabeth Mazur
 Detroit Historical Society
 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI, 48202

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:
 call (313) 833-7938, or visit www.detroithistorical.org.



Help Us Keep Detroit's History Alive with a Year-End Gift!

The Detroit Historical Society tells Detroit's story through interesting and innovative exhibits, dynamic programming and educational community events. Every year, the Society welcomes approximately 100,000 visitors to the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and provides nearly 15,000 schoolchildren with educational tours. Crucial to these efforts is the support we receive for the Society's Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund supports all of the activities that the Society provides to the metro Detroit community, making its success key

to the organization's overall success. If you've already made a gift to the 2011-12 Annual Fund, we want to thank you. If you have not yet made a gift, please consider doing so today. Your support will help the Society continue its important work.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a response envelope to make a gift to the Society's Annual Fund. Remember — all gifts are completely tax-deductible!

Thank you in advance for your support of the Detroit Historical Society.

18th Century Cannon Found and Retrieved from Detroit River

When news broke on the Associated Press and Reuters wire services in September that a rare cannon had been found at the bottom of the Detroit River, media outlets across the United States and Canada went into frenzy, and the story ran in most major cities.

Society Curator Joel Stone said it was exciting and enlightening to learn how much attention the cannon had garnered. “We come across historically significant objects every week,” Stone said. “However, it takes a sensational item like a cannon to catch peoples’ attention.”

The cannon was initially discovered in July by the Detroit Police Department’s dive team during a training exercise near Cobo Center. However, plans to retrieve the cannon in September by the Detroit Police with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard had to be postponed after treacherous currents and poor visibility made the mission impossible.

A second retrieval attempt in early October proved successful when members of the police dive team used a tow truck to raise the 1,288-pound, five to six foot long cannon from the river. The cannon then was given to the Society for conservation.

According to Stone, the cannon has already gone through an initial cleaning to remove excess mud and zebra mussels and appears to be in good shape. Markings on the cannon indicate that it is British and probably from the era of King George II, who reigned from 1727 to 1760. Additionally, there is speculation that it was sold to the British Government by a London chandlery and might have been poured by Preston Foundry after inscriptions embedded on the cannon were discovered.

It is still undecided when the cannon will be ready for display. Stone estimates that it could be several months or more depending on an outside conservator’s suggested plan of action and costs. However, discussions on where the cannon will ultimately be displayed are currently underway. Stone said he would like to place it where it can be seen by many people and in a historically appropriate location.

Five other cannons have been recovered from the Detroit River in the past 27 years, including one barrel that dates back to the French period in Detroit. One of those five is on display at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Among several relics recovered from the river was a large bronze statue found by Detroit police divers a couple years ago that had been stolen from the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

“With 300 years of people dumping things in the river, you can probably find just about anything,” said Stone.



An 18th century British cannon, as it looked when it was found by the Detroit Police Department dive team this summer (photo courtesy of Dean Rademacher, Detroit Police Department).



The cannon was brought to the surface on October 5 with the help of Boulevard & Trumbull Towing and the Detroit Police (photo courtesy of Michael Saraino, Detroit Police Department).



Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society curator, gives his first impressions of the newly-raised cannon to the many media representatives covering the event (photo courtesy of Tony Gramer, Dossin Maritime Group).



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MISSION

To educate and inspire our community and visitors by preserving and portraying our region's shared history through dynamic exhibits and experiences.

VISION

To create a shared sense of community and pride by celebrating the history and the unique culture of our region.



5401 Woodward Ave.
 Detroit, MI 48202
 (313) 833-1805

Hours

Wed. – Fri. • 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Saturday • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Sunday • Noon – 5 p.m.

CLOSED: Sat. & Sun., Dec. 24–25, 2011 & Sun., Jan. 1, 2012

SPECIAL FREE ADMISSION & EXTENDED HOURS: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. from Dec. 26 – Dec. 31.

SPECIAL FREE ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS & EXTENDED HOURS: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. from Feb. 20–26.

Admission

Adults	\$6
Seniors (age 60 & above)	\$4
Youth (ages 5–17)	\$4



Children (age 4 & under) FREE
 Parking \$4

Group Tours/Host an Event

Call (313) 833-1733 to schedule a group tour or to host an event at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Volunteer

Call (313) 833-1419 to volunteer at the Detroit Historical Museum.



100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle
 Detroit, MI 48207
 (313) 833-5538

Hours

Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED: Saturday and Sunday, December 24–25, 2011 and Sunday, January 1, 2012

Admission

Admission is FREE.

Group Tours/Host an Event

Call (313) 833-1733 to schedule a group tour or to host an event at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.



Volunteer

Call (313) 833-1419 to volunteer at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.