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DETROIT 67 PROJECT RECEIVES SECOND PLACE HONORS AT 2019 BEST IN HERITAGE CONFERENCE

DETROIT- Presented by the International Council of Museums and Europa Nostra last week in Dubrovnik, Croatia, the **2019 Best in Heritage Conference** featured a competition between the most innovative and impactful museum projects across the globe. Out of 42 international museums selected to participate, **the Detroit Historical Museum won second place for its presentation of *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward***. Detroit 67 shared second place Project of Influence honors with the State Museum of History of GULAG, from Moscow. The winning entry was from the LAMO Center in Ladakh, India.

“Presenting Detroit 67 at this prestigious international conference was an important moment,” said **Elana Rugh**, President of the Detroit Historical Society, the nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Historical Museum. “Having our work recognized as one of the most influential projects in the world validates our decision to embrace difficult subject matter in a bold, inclusive and progressive way and, as we consider the future of the project and our institution, adds important momentum to the organizational transformation already underway.” Rugh joined the Society in July 2018 and has made a passionate commitment to ensuring that Detroit’s historical museums are reflective of the city as it is today. A key pillar of that work is an ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion throughout the organization, visible in both of its museums.

The Detroit Historical Society launched Detroit 67 in 2015 as a long-term effort to engage the Detroit community in its efforts to plan a meaningful commemoration of the tumultuous summer of 1967. This first-of-its-kind effort enabled the Society to base development of programs and an exhibition on public input, ensuring that a broad spectrum of perspectives is represented. The project continues through 2020, with:

- **The *Detroit 67: Perspectives* exhibition on display through May 2020** at the Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Group tours (for 10-30 participants) are available by appointment or self-guided admission is free.
- **Detroit 67 public programming**, including the popular **Third Thursday Speaker Series**, held monthly, and an immersive Spring Break experience, **Detroit Design 2067**, returning in Spring 2020 for 11th and 12th graders.
- **The Neighborhoods Oral History Project**, a new effort to collect and preserve Detroit’s neighborhood history from the perspective of current and former residents, which is underway now.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit, is open to the public **Tuesday through Sunday and will soon be adding evening hours on Thursdays (beginning on November 7, 2019)**. Parking in the Museum’s lot is \$9. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling 313.833.7979. Permanent exhibitions include the famous *Streets of Old Detroit*, the *Allesee Gallery of Culture*, *Kid Rock*

Music Lab, Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad, Detroit: The “Arsenal of Democracy,” the Gallery of Innovation, Frontiers to Factories, America’s Motor City, and The Glancy Trains. For more information, visit detroithistorical.org.

The Best in Heritage is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Zagreb, Croatia dedicated to promoting every aspect of professional excellence in heritage occupations and doing it “by the power of example” through an annual, global conference. Each year it selects and presents examples of the best and most successful practices in museums, heritage and conservation, using their power as change-makers to spread quality and excellence in public memory domain, and help to create a powerful profession and better societal use of heritage.

Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward is a community engagement project of the Detroit Historical Society that brings together diverse voices and communities around the effects of an historic crisis to find their place in the present and inspire the future. It has received numerous awards, including the **2018 History in Progress Award** from the American Association for State and Local History and the **2018 National Medal** from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Learn more at detroit1967.org.

The Detroit Historical Society, established in 1921, is a private, nonprofit organization located in Midtown, the heart of Detroit’s cultural center. Founded in 1921, its mission is to tell Detroit’s stories and why they matter. Today, the Society operates the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In addition, the Society is responsible for the conservation and preservation of more than 250,000 artifacts that represent three centuries of our region’s rich history. Through its museum exhibits, school tour programs, community-based programs and history-themed outreach efforts, the Society serves more than 150,000 people annually.

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