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DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM NAMED NATIONAL MEDAL FINALIST FOR DETROIT 67: LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

DETROIT- The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced that the Detroit Historical Museum is among the 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, for its *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* community engagement project. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries. For 24 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families and communities. Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

The Detroit Historical Museum is the only Michigan institution to be named a National Medal Finalist in 2018.

"Being recognized as a finalist for this prestigious award is an important moment," said Bob Bury, Executive Director of the Detroit Historical Society, the nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Historical Museum. "*Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* has been a bold and transformative project from the moment that it was conceived. Recognition as a National Medal Finalist validates our decision to embrace difficult subject matter in a bold, inclusive and progressive way and, as we consider our next initiatives, adds important momentum to the organizational transformation already underway."

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, a traumatic time in Detroit's history. This first-of-its-kind effort enabled the Society to base development of both a program and an exhibition on public input, ensuring that a broad spectrum of perspectives is represented. The exhibition, *Detroit 67: Perspectives*, and the programming and engagement model developed to inform it, will continue through 2019 and are expected to travel in order to maximize the project's reach.

Similarly, a broad spectrum of support enabled the project to be fully realized. "PNC's support of the Detroit Historical Society's Detroit 67 project reflects our commitment to strengthening the communities where we do business," said PNC Regional President Ric DeVore. "PNC was an early advocate for the project and provided a \$100,000 grant to help fund DHS' Detroit 67 research, placemaking grants for Detroit neighborhoods, and the revitalization of Gordon Park."

Another early partnership that was essential to ensure the project's success was with the Hudson Webber Foundation: "The Hudson Webber Foundation made an early commitment to *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* to ensure that the exhibit, as a cornerstone of the project, was comprehensive, and reflective of the broader community, that could only be achieved by reaching out to a variety of stakeholders including residents across

generations and from backgrounds representative of the region to contribute their perspectives and personal stories,” said Melanca Clark, President of the Hudson Webber Foundation. “Through that engagement, Detroit 67 offers an immersive cultural experience in which the divisive events of the summer of 1967 become re-contextualized as part of a shared regional heritage predicated on inclusion and empathy. We are proud to support this project and believe that this nomination will help extend its impact to the national stage.”

National Medal winners will be announced later this spring. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions at the National Medal Ceremony on May 24 in Washington, D.C.

"The Detroit Historical Society's *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* conveys essential lessons from our collective history and provides a pathway for racial healing in our communities," said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "Acknowledging the past - no matter how complicated - paves the way for an open dialogue and a commitment to shared problem solving that will change the futures of our nation's children. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is pleased that the Institute of Museum and Library Services has nominated the Detroit Historical Society for such an auspicious award. In doing so, it recognizes the Society's vision and dedication to deepening the public's understanding of our history and its crucial role in civic life."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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. Learn more at detroit1967.org.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all, all the time. Parking in the Museum's lot is \$7 at all times. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling 313.833.7979. Permanent exhibits 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, call the Museum at 313.833.1805 or check out our website at detroithistorical.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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