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News Release

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HONOR THOSE WE'VE LOST AND CELEBRATE LIFE IN NEW COVID-19 MEMORIAL GARDEN AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The public is invited to decorate and contribute painted stones all summer long

DETROIT- The Detroit Historical Society has announced that it will dedicate the curved garden in front of the Detroit Historical Museum as a public memorial to life and loss in the time of the coronavirus. Beginning this Memorial Day weekend, day lilies will make way for colorful painted stones that have been popping up in neighborhoods around the region, creating a crowd-sourced rock garden that will serve as an active and growing memorial of this historical time.

Everyone in the community is invited to contribute to the new memorial by painting a rock or two and adding it to the growing pile of colorful stones commemorating lost loved ones or simply celebrating life. When the garden closes at the end of the summer, some of the stones will be added to the Detroit Historical Society's permanent collection as artifacts from this time.

"We wanted to do something immediate and interactive as a public service to our community during this historic time," said Detroit Historical Society CEO, Elana Rugh. "Detroit has lost so many loved ones while we have been sheltered in place, and one of the cruel realities of this time is that we not been able to properly celebrate those lives. This garden gives everyone a simple and beautiful way to participate in a real-time public commemoration."

The Memorial Garden at the Detroit Historical Museum is located in front of the curved wall at the northwest corner of Woodward and Kirby. The garden is open now and will remain in place until Labor Day. Participate by adding decorated stones to the garden any time.

The Detroit Historical Society 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. For more information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit detroithistorical.org.

The Detroit Historical Museum is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit. The Museum is currently closed due to Covid-19 but parking in the Museum's lot is available via automated parking kiosk. Historical content and virtual tours and exhibits are available on the Museum's website at detroithistorical.org. 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*.

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