Get Ready for a Free-Wheeling Fall with the Detroit Historical Society

This fall, the Detroit Historical Museum will feature Pedal to the Metal: Detroit on Two Wheels, a new exhibit exploring the history of cycling in the Motor City. Today's discussions about transit and mobility are rooted in history, and this exhibit will give us another opportunity to lead critical conversations on contemporary issues.

Pedal to the Metal will be on display in America's Motor City Showplace until August 2019 (see page 4 for more information). Look for lots of opportunities to join the Detroit Historical Society as we dip into Detroit's cycling renaissance with events over the exhibit's run.

And speaking of cycling events – put this year's Detroit Historical Society Ball on your calendar for Saturday, December 8! Join us as we bring Metro Detroit together for a unique celebration of our region's history at the stunning Lexus Velodrome, an exciting new cycle-racing event space in the city.

Each year, the Society Ball raises critical funding to support educational programs at the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. As we create new lessons and begin revamping Frontiers to Factories, one of our most-visited permanent exhibitions, this year's fundraising will be more important than ever. Find all the details on page 3. You can get Ball tickets now at bidpal.net/dhsball2018.

Share Your Opinion!

The Detroit Historical Society is proud to have you as a partner in supporting the work we do. We hope that you receive our news and updates through a variety of outlets, such as this Making History newsletter, our monthly e-newsletters, our website and our many social media channels. We want to provide you with content that you find interesting, relevant and useful, and we want to focus our efforts on the kinds of communication that reach you most frequently.

We are currently conducting an audience engagement survey that will help us understand what you’re looking for when you read our newsletter, visit our website or follow us on social media.

This will be the last issue of Making History that you will receive this year. We are redesigning the newsletter and it will return in mid-2019, with more relevant and engaging content than ever. If you have five minutes to spare, please flip to the back inside cover and share your input with us. Please cut off and mail the survey to us at 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202, or take the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/5DMTJLG. Thank you!
Letter from the Executive Director

Elana Rugh

Dear friends,

I am incredibly honored to have the opportunity to share the rich and important work of the Detroit Historical Society as your new Executive Director and CEO. Truly, to serve in this role is the opportunity of a lifetime. Not only for me but also for my husband, Chris, and our six children.

My first few weeks here have been filled with new faces and much learning. I am excited about the challenges and new experiences ahead of me, and I look forward to getting to know many of you in the coming months.

I believe that there is magic in using our history as a way to teach. . . not just critical thinking skills, but also collaboration, empathy and tolerance. Our stories can be used to explore important social questions, understand new ideas and create context for a brighter future. On the heels of winning two of the most prestigious awards in the national museum world for Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward (the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service and the 2018 History in Progress award from the American Association for State and Local History), we are poised for a new day at the Society. We have learned that we can be a crucial convener for important current issues, utilizing Detroit’s rich history as a backdrop for learning, exploratory conversation and even healing.

As the Detroit Historical Society and our museums evolve, rest assured that we will honor what has been built here, as well as the community and people who created and nurtured this wonderful organization. As I learn my role, I will not be thinking alone. I am being supported by an immensely talented staff and a dedicated Board of Trustees as well as many high caliber partners from across the city and region.

I am looking forward to working with you to bring our mission to life.

Warmly,

Elana Rugh
Executive Director & CEO

PS – I’ve been having a great time finding my way around our museums and Collections Resource Center! Check out some photos from my “official” tour below and find more on the Detroit Historical Society’s social media channels.
Celebrate Our Members and See Our New Exhibitions at This Year’s Annual Meeting

At this year’s Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, October 10** from 4 to 7:30 p.m., the Detroit Historical Society is planning to celebrate its members and all that they contribute to our success. Join us as we recognize and publicly thank all of our members who are celebrating milestone membership anniversaries.

The Detroit Historical Society will recognize those 128 members celebrating five-year milestone membership anniversaries this year. These and the more than 1,500 other people who are members of the Detroit Historical Society provide invaluable support, feedback and financial backing for our work and mission.

You don’t have to be celebrating a five-year anniversary to attend, though. All are invited to meet Elana Rugh, our new Executive Director and CEO, who will publicly address our Board of Trustees and members for the first time to share her vision and plans for the Detroit Historical Society. Having won the IMLS National Medal and the AASLH Award of Merit and History in Progress award this year, this is an incredibly exciting time at which there will be much to celebrate.

Before the Annual Meeting program, enjoy free, docent-led tours of our new exhibitions (see page 4) and light refreshments. We hope you’ll be able to join us! RSVP to Alaina Vacha at 313.833.0158 or alainav@detroithistorical.org.

Join Us for a Thanksgiving Tradition at the Detroit Historical Museum

Enjoy an annual tradition on **Thursday, November 22** as we invite members and guests to the Detroit Historical Museum to watch America’s Thanksgiving Parade®! The parade steps off right in front of the museum, and we have several options for enjoying the day.

General admission tickets are available for $15 per person for members and $30 for non-members (children 12 and younger are $10 each for both). Enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and a continental breakfast inside the museum’s **Allesee Gallery of Culture** before taking your bleacher seat curbside to watch the parade. **VIP Tickets** are available for $50 per person for members and $75 per person for non-members, including a buffet breakfast and the opportunity to watch the parade from the cozy warmth of the Society’s third floor offices.

Free parking is available either at the museum or the College for Creative Studies.

Space is limited! Purchase your tickets at [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org) or by contacting Alaina Vacha at 313.833.0158 or alainav@detroithistorical.org. We hope to see you at the museum before heading home to watch the Lions or spending time with family and friends.

Save the Date for the 2018 Society Ball

**Detroit Historical Society Ball**  
**Lexus Velodrome**  
**601 Mack Avenue, Detroit**

The annual Detroit Historical Society Ball is our largest fundraiser for educational initiatives at the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum and helps fund school field trips for thousands of students each year. In keeping with our bicycle theme, this year’s Society Ball will be held at the Lexus Velodrome on **Saturday, December 8** from 6 p.m. to midnight. This year’s Afterglow will get off to a fast start at 9 p.m. with a demonstration of cycle racing on the Velodrome’s dramatic banked track, followed by dancing until midnight with an open bar, coffee and desserts.

The venue serves as the perfect complement to the Detroit Historical Society’s **Pedal to the Metal** exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum (see page 4 for more details). The Lexus Velodrome opened in January 2018 and seeks to build on Detroit’s rich history of cycling while promoting the sport among new audiences.

Tickets are available now at [bidpal.net/dhsball2018](http://bidpal.net/dhsball2018).
Pedal To the Metal: Detroit on Two Wheels

While Detroit is mainly known for getting around on four wheels, the city has a long history involving transportation of the two-wheeled variety – bicycles! Many early automotive pioneers were cycling enthusiasts during a time when bicycles ruled the road. In the 1890s, cycling clubs had hundreds of members who raced on local velodromes or led far-flung excursions. One of these clubs remains active today, even as bike-friendly infrastructure, bike-share programs and riding events have reinvigorated the Detroit biking craze. This exhibition will explore Detroit’s bicycle infatuation, from past to present.

Are you part of a bike club? Have you been a part of a bike tour like Tour De Troit? Do you just love riding your bicycle? If you answered yes, visit detroithistorical.org and find out how you can send us a photograph of you and your bike that we can add to our Pedal to the Medal – Pics! online exhibition. Pictures will be collected during the full run of the exhibition (through August 2019).

Above: Cyclists at Detroit Velodrome c.1895.

WWI: An End To War

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the end of World War I, at the time called the “War to End All Wars.” Though the United States intervened late in the war, Detroiters played their part in the unprecedented conflict and efforts to rebuild Europe afterward.

This exhibit will feature photographs and artifacts from soldiers who went “over there,” as well as several war posters which aided the war effort and inspired patriotism on the home front.

Opening October 20, 2018 in the Community Gallery

The Players

The Players is a private theater and gentlemen’s club that was founded in 1910 by a group of local Detroit businessmen to encourage amateur theater. While this revered institution is an often unknown and mysterious to the general public, the club will share 108+ years of its history in this exhibition. The Players exhibition will showcase ‘Our beautiful lady’, as the Players’ landmark playhouse was named many years ago. At 93 years old, she is as strong and as relevant today as she was when she opened in 1925. The building is a marvel of engineering and was completed with some of the greatest craftsmanship available in the 1920s.

It will also explore two additional long-term theatrical groups – Theater Arts Society of Detroit c.1910 and The Fine Arts Society of Detroit c.1906 – that comprise The Players and provide female and mixed theater heritages.

Now Open in the Warner Norcross + Judd Automotive Showplace

1914 Scripps-Booth “Rocket” Roadster

It looks like a fast, fun car, and it was! Detroiter James Booth designed this car for his Scripps-Booth Cyclecar Company. The bicycle-like wheels gave this family of vehicles its name, and they were a huge fad between 1912 and 1916. Today, the tandem seating and belt-drive have a toy-like appearance, but its lightweight body and efficient engine made this car very fast for the time – up to 50 miles per hour. Priced at about half what a basic full-size car cost, the 1914 Scripps-Booth “Rocket” Roadster made a tempting entry level automobile.

Now Open in Center Stage

American Black Journal

American Black Journal, Detroit Public Television’s weekly public affairs show, marks its 50th anniversary in 2018, making it the longest running public affairs program dedicated to chronicling the African American experience.

As current host and Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Henderson says, “Back in 1968, there was virtually no television air dedicated to the discussion of African American culture or politics, and American Black Journal was among the first. This is where people find stories they don’t see or hear in other spaces, find perspectives that don’t get widely distributed otherwise.”

Now Open in the America’s Motor City Showplace

Pedal To the Metal: Detroit on Two Wheels

Now Open in the Detroit Artist Showcase

WWI: An End To War

Now Open on the Lower Level

Re-Documenting Detroit

See the newest series of photos in Re-Documenting Detroit, a multi-semester sponsored partnership between The Detroit Historical Society and the Photography Department at the College for Creative Studies.

Marletta and Larry (c. 2017). Photo by Kelsey Gaskell.
The Year of the Tiger: 1968

Against the backdrop of turbulent times – locally, nationally and internationally – the Detroit Tigers’ 1968 World Series championship signaled the “Year of the Tiger,” when Detroiters came together across their differences to celebrate. In concert with the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Tigers’ historic win, the Detroit Historical Museum features *The Year of the Tiger: 1968*. The all-new exhibition weaves together stories about the players, the manager, the stadium and the events that paved a path toward a World Series victory and ultimately changed the mood and spirit of the city.

Join us for an upcoming Tigers event! With films, discussions and ’68 Tigers greats, we have a lot of fun on deck this Fall:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

12 – 1:30 p.m. Legendary singer and guitarist José Feliciano will reflect on his experiences of the era, his historic National Anthem performance and answer questions with Bill Dow in the Allesee Gallery of Culture.

1:20 p.m. Our free film series features *Meet Me at the Lindell*, which tells the story of the legendary downtown watering hole that launched a million stories in the Allesee Gallery of Culture.


**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

3 p.m. Encore presentation of *Meet Me at the Lindell*.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

12 – 2 p.m. Meet ’68 Tigers pitcher Denny McLain on the anniversary of his 30-game win. Autographed merchandise available for sale.

2 – 3:10 p.m. Denny will introduce a free screening of *Meet Me at the Lindell* as part of Senior Week.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

12 – 2 p.m. Grab a ballpark hot dog and meet Bill Dow, Frank Rashid and Michael Betzhold, who will be on-hand to discuss their new book *Tiger Stadium: Essays and Memories of Detroit’s Historic Ballpark, 1912–2009*.

2 – 3:30 p.m. Stay for a special free screening of *Stranded at the Corner*, a frank exploration of the public and private maneuverings that resulted in the abandonment of one of America’s classic ballparks.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6**

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Meet ’68 Tiger star Mickey Lolich as he signs copies of his new book, *Joy in Tiger Town*, with Tom Gage. Ballpark hot dogs will also be for sale all day Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7, the exhibit’s closing weekend.

**Now Open in the Booth-Wilkinson Gallery**

**Detroit 67: Perspectives**

The Detroit 67: *Looking Back to Move Forward* exhibition, *Perspectives*, demonstrates how storytelling and technology can converge to spark reflection. Over two years, we engaged the community to help us develop the exhibition and innovative companion space that enhances the story. Your voices literally provided the soundtrack to the exhibition.

This comprehensive, inclusive and thought-provoking exhibit takes a look at the complex realities of life in metropolitan Detroit during the 50 years prior to 1967. This is followed by a review of the unrest that occurred between July 23 and August 1, 1967. Next, the exhibition explores the last 50 years up to the present day, detailing the progress we have made as well as the setbacks we have endured. Finally, the exhibition narrative concludes by showcasing our project partners and ongoing programs that challenge the community to use what we have learned in the past 100-years to create a future for Detroit filled with unparalleled promise and opportunity.

*Detroit 67: Perspectives* was developed in collaboration with numerous scholars, subject matter experts and community members.

*Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2018 *National Medal for Museum and Library Service* and the 2018 HIP (*History in Progress*) award from the American Association for State and Local History.
Detroit 67 Youth Summit

Saturday, September 22
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Detroit Historical Museum

Following this Spring’s successful Detroit Design 2067 youth immersion program, the Detroit 67 Youth Summit will be the second in a series of youth-driven programs designed to equip young people to be thought leaders and change agents in Detroit. On Saturday, September 22, young people between the ages of 14 and 18 are invited to the Detroit Historical Museum for a unique, one-day experience.

Activities will include:

• The Youth Leaders Panel Discussion: Creating Spaces for Young People in Community, Arts, & Culture, co-moderated by Lauren Hood and youth leader/Detroit Design 2067 Alumni, Jeremiah Steen
• Interactive workshops, featuring the Detroit 67: Perspectives exhibition facilitated tour experience
• One-on-one conversations with experts in Detroit’s history, community development and local activism
• An opportunity to apply to join Detroit Historical Society’s Youth Advisory Council
• The new Detroiters Take A Stand scavenger hunt, and much more!

All Metro Detroit high school students are welcome to attend, but space is limited. Attendees are asked to register at d67youthsummit.eventbrite.com by September 14. For more information, contact Kalisha Davis, Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, at kalishad@detroithistorical.org or 313.833.4306.

Black Historic Sites Committee Presents:
Jazz on the Streets of Old Detroit

Thursday, September 27, 6 – 9 p.m.
Detroit Historical Museum

Tickets: $15 in advance, $20 at the door

Join the Black Historic Sites Committee for the next Jazz on The Streets of Old Detroit performance on Thursday, September 27, featuring Modern Element, a dynamic group of young musicians.

Modern Element was formed by six students from the Detroit School of Fine and Performing Arts who decided to band together because of their mutual love and passion for performing music that spans all types of genres. The band features Trunino Lowe on trumpet and Benny Rubin, Jr. on alto saxophone, among others. Last year, Modern Element performed at venues that included Cliff Bell’s and the Jazz Café Detroit.

The Black Historic Sites Committee looks forward to seeing you at this upcoming concert. Your support will help us keep Detroit’s jazz traditions alive as this brotherhood of young musicians build upon our musical heritage. Light refreshments are included in the ticket price. Buy tickets at detroithistorical.org or by contacting Public Programs Coordinator Charnae Sanders at 313.833.0277.

Detroit 67 Project Economic Opportunity Panel Series

The Detroit 67 Project is partnering with the Detroit Public Library to offer a series of panel discussions with organizations dedicated to helping Detroiters start businesses, change career paths and grow economic independence. All events are free and open to the public and run 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. A light meal is provided starting at 5:30 p.m. Join us on the following dates to learn more about the resources and services provided by the organizations below:

• **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6:** Duffield Branch Library. **Featured Panelists:** Women Who Weld, Coalition on Temporary Shelter, Detroit Community Wealth Fund, Karasi Development Group.

• **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:** Parkman Branch Library. **Featured Panelists:** Detroit Training Center, Rebel Nell, Karasi Development Group, ProsperUS.

• **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10:** Knapp Branch Library. **Featured Panelists:** Recovery Park, Build Institute, Detroit Development Fund, KAN Books.

RSVP on eventbrite.com or contact Katherine Brown at katharineb@detroithistorical.org or 313.833.1807.
Detroit 67 Third Thursday Speaker Series

Attendance is free, but pre-registration is encouraged, as space is limited for this popular series. To register for a presentation, please contact Charnae Sanders, Public Programs Coordinator, at 313.833.0277 or charnaes@detroithistorical.org. Please note: we will not be hosting a Third Thursday in December due to the holidays, but the series will return in January 2019.

FALL SPEAKER SERIES:

*Behind the Lens with Arvell Jones* by Arvell Jones
**Thursday, October 18, 6–8 p.m.**

In this presentation, Jones will address his long comic career and how comic books, such as the All Star Squadron, portray certain issues or draw from historic moments in the city of Detroit, among a variety of other topics. He will also shed light on the making of black comic book superheroes and his role in the Marvel comic book *Black Panther*, as well as his involvement in creating the posters for the movie of the same name. Jones will discuss creating Misty Knight, the first African American female super hero, and what it took to overcome the hurdles to her creation. Misty Knight was portrayed by Detroit’s own Simon Missick, who appears in Marvel’s three Netflix TV series: *Luke Cage*, *The Defenders* and *Iron Fist*. This month’s Third Thursday is a partnership program between the Detroit Historical Society and WGPR-TV Historical Society. We encourage all who attend to come dressed as their favorite superhero to make this night jam-packed with fun and excitement. A light meal will be served.

*The Life and Times of Will Robinson* by Dr. John Telford
**Thursday, November 15, 6–8 p.m.**

From being a trailblazing athlete to serving as an educator and coach, William Joseph “Will” Robinson was a game-changer. In the wake of the 1943 Detroit race riots, the Detroit Public Schools hired Coach Robinson as the city’s first African American basketball coach. As coach at Miller High School in the Black Bottom neighborhood, Robinson coached basketball champions. He would soon become the first African-American head coach in the NCAA Division 1 basketball and would later work as a scout for the Detroit Pistons and Detroit Lions. Dr. John Telford will describe how Robinson used athletics as a vehicle to prepare his athletes and students to thrive in the harsh, white-dominated America of the 1940s and throughout the following decades.

Mark Your Calendar for Family Favorites!

*Treats in the Streets*
**Sunday, October 28, 12 p.m.–3 p.m.**
Detroit Historical Museum
Free admission!

Don’t miss one of our favorite days of the year! On **Sunday, October 28**, children aged 12 and younger are invited to trick-or-treat, enjoy free refreshments and make a Halloween craft to take home. We encourage everyone to come in costume and ask that trick-or-treaters bring their own bag. Admission to the museum and the event is free, although parking fees may apply.

**New this year! Members will be able to beat the crowd and enjoy reserved entrance between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. RSVP to Alaina Vacha at 313.833.0158 or alainav@detroithistorical.org.**

*Noel Day & Night*
**Saturday, December 1, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Note time change!)**
Detroit Historical Museum
Free admission!

To offer more opportunities for family fun and better manage the crowd for this popular event, this year’s Noel Night will offer daytime activities. The Detroit Historical Museum will join the other museums in our neighborhood by featuring entertainment and activities from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (the museum will then close at 5 p.m.). As in past years, visitors will be able to meet and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy family entertainment and a free craft area for children. Visit [noelnight.org](http://noelnight.org) for more event details.

*Noon Year’s Eve*
**Monday, December 31, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.**
Detroit Historical Museum
Free admission!

Save the date for our family friendly New Year’s celebration! Preschool and elementary-aged children and their families can make their own noisemaker, write a time capsule letter, enjoy cookies and hot cocoa, and most importantly, ring in the New Year with a countdown to noon! Admission to the museum and the event is free, although parking fees may apply. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. for this special event.
**Now Open in the Robert M. Dossin Gallery**

**Dining on the Inland Seas**

Since steamboat travel to Detroit began 200 years ago, passengers and sailors have enjoyed shipboard food that is renowned the world over. This new exhibition explores the particular culinary elegance experienced by those who travelled the inland seas.

Highlighting this exhibition are hundreds of artifacts from maritime dining rooms. A majority of the china and ceramic pieces, collected by the late Daniel C. Krummes over many years, were recently donated to the Detroit Historical Society. Krummes authored the go-to reference book for freshwater dinnerware, *Dining on Inland Seas: Nautical China from the Great Lakes Region of North America*, in 1997. Objects from the Society’s maritime collection, including models of significant ships and striking furnishings from the steamers, complement the artifacts and steamship companies represented throughout the exhibition.

The *Dining on the Inland Seas* exhibition will be open through Spring 2019, sponsored by the Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation. It is among several events and installations celebrating two centuries of steaming in Detroit. Read on for more!

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**Now Open in the Richard and Jane Manoogian Ship Model Showplace**

**Great Lakes Steamboats – Up Close!**

*The Richard and Jane Manoogian Ship Model Showcase* features a rotating selection of finely detailed models from the Detroit Historical Society’s collection.

In keeping with the “Year of The Steamboat,” the display in Aaron DeRoy Hall will showcase a representative selection of classic Great Lakes steamships. Of particular interest will be Frank Kirby’s revolutionary rail ferry *Sainte Marie* (pictured top right). This model, built for the Detroit Dry Dock Company, dates to the early 1890s. The Wyandotte-built icebreaker worked year-round between Michigan’s upper and lower peninsulas from 1893 to 1913.

Additional steamboats represented in the model gallery include the Civil War-era *Phila Parsons*, the revolutionary *Walk-in-the-Water* (bottom right) as well as several miniature steam engines and a steam-powered tether boat.

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**200 Years of the Great Lakes Steamboat: 1818-2018**

This year marks the 200th anniversary of steam navigation to Detroit. On August 27, 1818, the pioneering vessel *Walk-in-the-Water* arrived from Black Rock on the Niagara River near Buffalo, New York.

Afterward, the Detroit River region became the epicenter of steamboating on the Great Lakes – vacationing on steamboats, ferrying on steamboats, building steamboats, working on steamboats, watching steamboats pass by. The era lasted almost 150 years, ending with the final departure of the *S.S. South American* in October 1967.

Revisit the lifestyle and the vessels that defined the Great Lakes as one of the world’s premier waterways during 2018, the “Year of the Steamboat.”

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**Three Disastrous Anniversaries**

**Saturday, September 15, 1–3:30 p.m.**

Dossin Great Lakes Museum

Limited tickets still available! $5 members, $10 guests

This year recalls several significant Great Lakes maritime disasters. Join us for a three-part program that will examine some of them on **Saturday, September 15** at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Frank Mays, the lone remaining survivor of the 1958 *Carl D. Bradley* sinking in Lake Michigan, will discuss the tragedy with amateur historian Jeffrey Brasie. In addition, Detroit Historical Society Senior Curator Joel Stone will examine the loss of three WWI minesweepers in Lake Superior and historian Mac McAdam will discuss the long list of storms, collisions and explosions that claimed almost 30 vessels in 1868.

This program is produced in partnership with the Great Lakes Maritime Institute.
Lost Mariners Remembrance
Saturday, November 10, 6–8 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Dossin Great Lakes Museum
Tickets available now at detroithistorical.org

Many people talk about large storms that have occurred in the Great Lakes, but one of the most overlooked storms is the Great Storm of October 1893. It sank many vessels on the Great Lakes and devastated the city of Buffalo, New York. Losses were reported from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario with at least 10 ships a complete loss from sinking, 29 stranded, and at least 54 people killed from shipwrecks. In fact, this storm was one of the most powerful hurricanes ever recorded, and it occurred in an unprecedented year of hurricanes and damage to North America.

The vessels and mariners lost during this storm will be honored in this year’s presentation by Kevin Magee, founder of Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE). A lantern vigil at the Edmund Fitzgerald anchor begins the night, followed by a performance by Lee Murdock, Great Lakes balladeer, and an Honor Guard escort of the memorial wreath to the Detroit River for receipt by the Honor Flotilla of Great Lakes vessels.

Admission is $5 for members, $10 for guests and $25 for families of up to six. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required, as this event is expected to sell out. Please call 313.833.1801 or visit detroithistorical.org for more information or to register.

Tickets are not expected to be available at the door, but the public is welcome to watch the flotilla from the river bank adjacent to the museum at no charge.

Edmund Fitzgerald
Special Event Station by LARC
On the second Saturday in November each year, the Livonia Amateur Radio Club operates Special Event Station W8F commemorating the sinking of the “Mighty Fitz.” This year’s broadcast will take place Sunday, November 11.

Belle Isle Holiday Stroll at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum
Friday, December 14, 5–8 p.m.
Dossin Great Lakes Museum
Free admission!

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is pleased to partner with the Belle Isle Aquarium and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory for the 5th annual Belle Isle Stroll. Families are invited to visit all three attractions for good holiday fun. At the Dossin, families can enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, holiday music and free winter-themed crafts.

Even More Fun on Deck at the Dossin!
Annual visitors to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle have nearly quadrupled since interior renovations were completed in 2013. Soon, they will have even more to do – as we begin construction on our planned outdoor enhancements!

The Society launched the Dossin’s Outdoor Enhancement Campaign in 2016 to design a landscape renovation that would activate the museum’s entire Belle Isle site.

In Spring 2019, we will break ground on the first of four distinct phases:

- New visitor amenities, including event and education spaces, a riverwalk, a sailors’ memorial with a rain garden and shoreline stabilization with a water access point and kayak launch.

The museum will remain open during construction, which should be complete by Fall 2019. Future phases are planned and will be coordinated with island improvements planned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Belle Isle Conservancy and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy:

- The Riverfront Connector Trail, connecting the newly stabilized and accessible shoreline to the newly renovated DNR Pavilion and Fishing Pier to the east.
- An historical landscape providing access, educational opportunities and green infrastructure on the western half of the campus.
- Improved access for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists along the Strand, improved parking amenities with green infrastructure and cycling and pet amenities.

The Detroit Historical Society has already raised $1.7 million of its projected $4.9 million, four-year budget for the project. Funding opportunities, including naming rights, are still available. If you would like to help make sure that our vision for this beautiful riverfront property is fully realized, contact Chief Development and Communications Officer Rebecca Salminen Witt at 313.833.1980 or rsw@detroithistorical.org.
Tickets available to all members starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. No tickets will be sold before this time! Public registration for any remaining tickets begins on October 2.

Current members with an active email address will receive an email reminder when tickets become available online. If you would like to be sure your membership has not expired or share an updated email address, please contact Alaina Vacha at 313.833.0158 or alaiav@detroithistorical.org.

**The Parade Company**
**OCTOBER 6 • 10 A.M.–11:30 A.M.**
$25 members/$35 guests
You’re invited to take a behind the scenes look and discover Detroit’s hidden treasures at The Parade Company Studio. Step into a story land of color and fun as we get ready for one of Detroit’s most anticipated holiday events, America’s Thanksgiving Parade®.

Wander through a wonderland of fantasy and floats. Marvel at the world’s largest collection of antique papier-mâché heads. See the Costume Department where our characters come to life. Meet award-winning artisans who bring the magic to you, with many more characters turning up every day!

**Bethel Community Transformation Center**
**OCTOBER 13 • 10 A.M.–11:30 A.M.**
$25 members/$35 guests
Located in the Historic Temple Beth El building, at Woodward and Gladstone, the Bethel Community Transformation Center is a coalition of local clergy, community leaders, visionaries and builders. They believe in the healing power of reconciliation to build community and unity of purpose between people of diverse races, religions, ages, and geographies.

Join us to learn about how they are connecting to the community and people and tour the historic building.

**The Whitney**
**OCTOBER 20 • 11 A.M.–12 P.M.**
$30 members/$40 guests
The Whitney mansion is world famous for upscale dining in Detroit. The home of David Whitney Jr. was completed in 1894. Whitney hired Gordon W. Lloyd, and English architect, to build him a fashionable home at the corner of Woodward and Canfield Ave. The Whitney now provides several unique features within the historical property: the fine dining restaurant, The Katherine McGregor Dessert Parlor, The Ghostbar and Gardens. Take a guided stroll through the Mansion while sipping champagne and leave with a special treat.

**NOAA National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac Office**
**OCTOBER 25 • 6–8 P.M.**
$25 members/$35 guests
Special Thursday evening tour!
In 1992, a new forecast office for Southeast Michigan was constructed in Oakland County’s White Lake Township. This office essentially merged the forecast office in Ann Arbor with the offices at Detroit Metro and Flint. Despite the departure of the National Weather Service from Detroit Metro Airport, climate data for DTW is still received and archived at the NWS White Lake office, maintaining the continuous weather data for Detroit that goes back to the late 19th century. On this tour, you will learn about weather forecasting and the weather balloon, then head out to the observation area to see the weather balloon launch for the evening.

**William V. Banks Broadcast Museum and Media Center**
**NOVEMBER 3 • 1–2 P.M.**
$20 members/$30 guests
Get the scoop on the latest news from the William V. Banks Broadcast Museum and Media Center by learning about what happens in front of the camera as well as behind the scenes of the WGPR-TV and WGPR 107.5FM. The museum is located inside the building of the original WGPR-TV studios. It was the first black owned and operated television station in the United States. The station shared the space with WGPR 107.5FM and influenced many of Detroit’s well-known journalists and became a broadcast pioneer nationwide.

**William Colburn Freer House**
**NOVEMBER 8 • 6–7:30 P.M.**
$20 members/$30 guests
Special Thursday evening tour!
The Freer House is considered to be one of the most significant historic buildings in Michigan, both for its unique shingle style design and for its association with Detroit industrialist and art collector, Charles Lang Freer. Built in 1892 and designed by the Philadelphia architect Wilson Eyre, the Freer House is referred to by historian Thomas Brunk as “the original Freer Gallery of Art.” Acquired by the Merrill Palmer School in 1920, the house today serves as the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute of Wayne State University.

William Colburn, Freer House Director, will describe the building’s rich history and plans for future public interpretation and restoration. A brief video on the history of Freer and the Freer House will be shown.

You will be able to purchase tickets at detroithistorical.org or by phone at 313.833.1801. Behind the Scenes Tours may involve physically challenging environments that require walking long distances, standing for extended periods and climbing stairs. Please call 313.833.1801 to confirm physical requirements for specific tours if concerned.

Tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1-2 weeks after payment is received. Tours typically last 90 minutes to two hours. No refunds or tour credits will be given.
**BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS**

$25 Detroit Historical Society members • $35 Guests (unless otherwise noted)

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**Detroit Denim Co.**

**NOVEMBER 17 • 10 A.M.–12 P.M.**

$25 members/$35 guests

Although Detroit Denim was legally incorporated in 2010, the journey began much, much earlier. Almost thirty years ago, when Eric Yelsma was a teenager, he discovered an interest in sewing. Over time, his enthusiasm and experimentation emerged into a detailed and very specific line of men’s jeans. Eric branded these jeans and his company Detroit Denim Co. Detroit Denim Co. uses the finest quality components, all sourced from American companies. Handmade in Detroit, by Detroiters, his products expose the myth that it’s impossible to create a sustainable jeans business domestically and help diversify the manufacturing base of Detroit, by producing a line of men’s jeans like no other.

Come learn how Detroit Denim manufactures their products. Also join us for a mini-workshop to create a special token to remember your visit.

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**Packard Proving Grounds**

**DECEMBER 9 • 1–2:30 P.M.**

Special Sunday tour!

$25 members/$35 guests

Dedicated in 1927, the buildings at the Proving Grounds in Utica were designed by Albert Kahn and the oval test track was so well-engineered that drivers could travel around the banked curves in excess of 100 mph without holding the steering wheel. Come explore the lodge building and garage as you learn about the many ways the grounds have been used throughout their history.

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**Country Club of Detroit**

**DECEMBER 15 • 10 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

$50 members/$60 guests

Includes plated lunch!

The Country Club of Detroit’s history spans WWI, Prohibition, the Stock Market crash of 1929, the following depression, WWII, 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 and the still-newer Smith, Hinchman & Grylls clubhouse with several updates throughout nearly 80 years, the Country Club of Detroit has continued to grow and still focuses on family activities. Come learn the stories behind the club’s success.

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**Historic Houses of Worship Tours**

Since 1972, the Historic Houses of Worship tours have acquainted metro Detroiters with the contributions that religious institutions have made in the development of our community. These tours are sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society.

All tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and depart from and return to the Detroit Historical Museum. *The cost is $40 for Detroit Historical Society members and $50 for guests.* Your tour fee includes motor coach transportation with docent commentary, historical presentations at each tour stop, lunch and donations sent back to each location.

Current members with an active email address will receive an email reminder when tickets become available online. If you would like to be sure your membership has not expired or share an updated email address, please contact Alaina Vacha at 313.833.0158 or alainav@detroithistorical.org.

**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.

Due to the nature of historic buildings, the Historic Houses of Worship Tours may require walking long distances, standing for extended periods and climbing stairs. Please call 313.833.1801 to confirm physical requirements for specific tours if concerned.

Want to book a private tour for your group of 25 or more? Contact Charnae Sanders at 313.833.0277.

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

- St. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church
- Fort Street Presbyterian Church
- Second Baptist Church
- Holy Family Church
- St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

**DECEMBER 3, 2018**

- People’s Community Church
- All Saints Episcopal Church
- St. Moses the Black
- St. Hedwig
- St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
“Long Famous as a Fancy Skater”

Captain John Miner (1831-1909) came with his family to Detroit from Montreal in 1841. Over the course of his life he owned 21 different schooners, tugs and steamers. After becoming captain of his first ship at the age of 16, he developed a reputation all along the lakes as a daring and successful sailor. Captain Miner was so successful that he often bragged that he had never lost a man or a boat over the course of his nearly 60 years on the Great Lakes. He was also, according to the *Detroit Free Press*, “long famous as a fancy skater.”

Possibly Detroit’s first celebrity athlete, by 1866 when the *Free Press* started covering Miner’s skating exploits he was already heralded as “Champion Skater of the West” (shown in the newspaper clip at right, third image from top). Displaying some of the daring he exhibited as a sailor, Miner once skated across Lake Erie, departing from Point Pelee, Ontario on a “perilous journey [where] he came near to death, breaking through the ice into the water more than once” before reaching the south shore nearly 65 miles away.

By 1867, his stiltskates (pictured at right, second from top) had become a sensation, and he was the main attraction at Detroit’s many skating parks and various charity events. Despite his early success, both on the lakes and local ice, this bonified local celebrity’s best years were still ahead of him as he entered his forties.

At the age of 41, Miner skated, and was subsequently photographed, as part of the entertainment when Queen Victoria’s son Prince Arthur visited Montreal in 1871. The photograph (shown top right) is now preserved in our collection and features many of Miner’s personal effects donated by his family after the skater/skipper’s death.

The belt Miner is wearing in the 1871 photograph was a championship belt he had won a few months earlier. During an extensive tour of Canada and Michigan over the winter of 1870-71, Detroit’s fastest (and most graceful) man appeared in Jackson, Michigan. He was awarded the star-spangled leather belt (pictured bottom left) for “defeating all challengers at both speedy and fancy skating” after a competition.

Miner was such a celebrity that he was mentioned 71 times in the *Free Press* between 1860 and 1900. The paper covered everything from a harrowing experience in 1884 when he temporarily lost his trademark stiltskates to reporting in 1885 that the Captain had been “bitten by roller mania” and was switching to roller skates. (as pictured bottom right).

Our Miner collection also includes the jacket and hat featured in the 1871 photo, as well as six pairs of roller skates, three pairs of ice skates and a set of boots to which both class of skate could be attached.
Fall Film Series

The Detroit Historical Society invites you to enjoy our Film Series, featuring FREE monthly screenings of fascinating Detroit films on selected weekends in the Louise C. Booth Auditorium at the Detroit Historical Museum and DeRoy Hall at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

Films shown at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum:

Lake Fury Storms of the Century: Safe Ashore
(Running Time: 60 minutes)
Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 • 2 p.m.
Featuring eyewitness accounts and exclusive footage, this film tells the story of three fishermen who race out to save a stranded crew in the aftermath of Lake Michigan’s worst storm on Armistice Day 1940. They not only rescue 17 lives, but find another ship lost with all hands.

The Fitzgerald Tragedy
(Running Time: 60 minutes)
Saturday, November 3 and Sunday, November 4 • 2 p.m.
*Please Note: This month’s film series dates fall on the first Saturday and Sunday of the month due to the Lost Mariners program.

Over 20 years of documentary filmmaking and exclusive interviews with people closest to the disaster are presented in The Fitzgerald Tragedy—an historical narrative as told by those closest to the most famous ore carrier to ever sail the Great Lakes. Ship captains and crew members, Coast Guard personnel, lighthouse keepers, commercial fishermen, maritime historians, authors, divers and other maritime experts all give their theories and opinions as to what caused the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald’s demise on Lake Superior.

Rouse Simmons: The Christmas Tree Ship
(Running Time: 35 minutes)
Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9 • 2 p.m.
The Rouse Simmons was a three-masted schooner that sank in Lake Michigan in a violent storm in 1912. The ship was bound for Chicago with a cargo of Christmas trees when it foundered off the coast of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, killing all on board.

Films shown at the Detroit Historical Museum:

Haunted Legends of Old Detroit
(Running time: 22 minutes)
Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 • 3 p.m.
Detroit is known for more than just its history of automobiles and music, as the city is also said to have a history of paranormal activity. The 1996 TV special produced by WDIV Channel 4 and hosted by Chuck Gaidica tells bizarre tales of spirits, strange things occurring in the Fox Theatre and around Indian Village, as well as the sightings of the ghost of Henry Ford in the River Rogue plant.

The Hudson’s Building
(Running Time: 42 minutes)
Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11 • 3 p.m.
This 1997 film chronicles the history of the legendary Hudson’s Department Store in downtown Detroit and the debate over possible demolition of the structure after its abandonment by Hudson’s in 1983. It includes historic photos, home movies, and interviews with Hudson’s employees and customers, city planners, developers and members of city council. The Metro Times called it “truly relevant and exciting documentary filmmaking.” This film is part of the Detroit Documentaries collection directed by Gary Glaser.

Detroit, Remember When: Motor City Memories and Hometown Traditions
(Running Time: 44 minutes)
Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9 • 3 p.m.
Travel back in time and experience Detroit traditions that live on in rare films, old photographs and fond memories in this extraordinary documentary. From Briggs Stadium to Bob-lo, Black Bottom to the Boulevard, this made-in-Detroit documentary captures the spirit of the city in reminiscences of what used to be and remembrances of what once was. Summer days at Belle Isle, the Vernors soda fountain, Jefferson Beach and Edgewater Park are among the sites revisited in footage and from Detroit-area family collections and media archives.

Fall Days of Detroit

SEPTEMBER 28, 1857—Russel House hotel opened at Woodward and Cadillac Square.

OCTOBER 1, 1917—Fordson, the world’s first mass-produced tractor is made in Dearborn.

OCTOBER 10, 1968—Detroit Tigers won the team’s third World Series, beating St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh game.

OCTOBER 27, 1929—Joe Muer’s restaurant opened on Gratiot Avenue.

NOVEMBER 8, 1886—Edison Illuminating Company began electric service in Detroit.

NOVEMBER 19, 1988—Fox Theatre reopened after extensive renovation.

DECEMBER 11, 1947—First suitable day of season for tobogganing at Rouge Park.

End-of-Year Giving

As we approach the end of the year, please consider contributing to the Detroit Historical Society’s Annual Fund as you plan your charitable giving. Annual Fund donations support work that goes on throughout the year, such as the new exhibitions that open annually or the ongoing effort to catalogue the more than 250,000 artifacts in the Detroit Historical Society’s collection.

We are passionate about sharing Detroit’s history with you. One of our greatest frustrations is that we can’t share as many of the stories we would like. Your contribution to the Annual Fund will enable us to keep bringing you fresh new exhibitions like Dining on the Inland Seas at the Dossin and Pedal to the Metal at the Detroit Historical Museum in Midtown.

Donate at detroithistorical.org or by returning a donation in the envelope provided with your newsletter. For any questions about giving, please contact Eric Candela, Director of Development, at ericc@detroithistorical.org or 313.833.0242.

Did you know that you can make a tax deductible donation anytime at detroithistorical.org? Click on “Ways to Give” and “Donate Now.”
PLANT YOUR VISIT

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
5401 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.833.1805

HOURS
Tues–Fri: 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. • Sat & Sun: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

CLOSED on Thursday, November 22 for Thanksgiving
Closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25
and Tuesday, January 1 for the holidays
OPEN on Monday, December 31 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. for Noon Year’s Eve

ADMISSION
Admission is FREE.

SCHEDULE A TOUR
Call 313.833.7979 to schedule a group tour at the Detroit Historical Museum
or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

HOST AN EVENT
Call 313.833.1733 to host an event at the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

VOLUNTEER
Call 313.833.1263 to volunteer at the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

DOSSEN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM
100 Strand Drive,
Belle Isle
Detroit, MI 48207
313.833.5538

HOURS:
Weds – Sun: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. through Labor Day

Closed on Sunday, October 21 due to the Free Press Marathon
OPEN UNTIL 8 PM on Friday, December 14 for the Belle Isle Holiday Stroll
Closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25
and Tuesday, January 1 for the holidays
OPEN from Wednesday, December 26 - Sunday, December 30 for Holiday Break

ADMISSION
Admission is FREE.

Communications Survey
This will be the last issue of Making History that you will receive this year. We are redesigning the newsletter and it will return in mid-2019 with more relevant and engaging content than ever. Share your opinion on the newsletter by completing this survey, cutting it out and mailing it back to us at 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202. You may also take the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/5DMTJLG. Thank you!

In general, I prefer to receive my news and event information by:
☐ print newsletter    ☐ email newsletter    ☐ visiting the website    ☐ social media

My favorite section of the current Making History newsletter is: ________________________________

My least favorite section is: ________________________________

Something I would like to see more of in future newsletters is: ________________________________

Any additional comments: ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Please cut out and return this survey in an envelope to: Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202
Save the Date
December 8, 2018
Detroit Historical Society Ball
Lexus Velodrome
5401 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
detroithistorical.org

Tickets on sale now at bidpal.net/dhsball2018