
LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 15 (COMBINED)

DATE: Jan. 29, 2026

TIME: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Horatio Williams Foundation, 1010 Antietam Ave., Detroit, MI 48207

ATTENDEES: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Members and Guests, City of Detroit Representatives, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Staff, Quinn Evans and ZGF Staff, HNTB Staff, Downtown Detroit Partnership Representatives, and Kresge Foundation Representatives (**See Appendix B: Meeting Attendees**).

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MEETING SUMMARY

The fifteenth Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting was a combined meeting with both residents and stakeholders on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026. This meeting marked the first in a series of engagements designed to gather input that will help shape the Community Enhancement Plan. The goal of this meeting was to develop a menu of stories and urban design strategies.

The January LAC meeting guided LAC members to identify themes that tie together stories of the historic neighborhood such as immigration and integration, black owned businesses, impact of urban renewal, arts/music/culture and diversity of religion.

The meeting began with John Sivills providing a recap on where the zoning and land use study left off, as requested by the LAC at the last meeting. Following the recap on zoning and land use, Kemba Braynon from Quinn Evans and ZGF presented on history, urban design and placemaking, and introduced Scott Kratz. Scott, an additional resource for the project provided by the Kresge Foundation, shared examples of equitable community development strategies from the 11th Street

Bridge Park Project, a similar project in Washington, D.C. The March LAC Meeting will be led by Scott, at which he will dive deeper into this content with the LAC.

The presentation from this LAC meeting is available on the project website, 375Detroit.org.

Following the presentation LAC members participated in a 90-minute small group activity. The small group engagement activity began by having LAC members stroll through the room to explore boards on historic places in the project area, followed by a play-your-card activity and share out session. The activity prompted meaningful discussions with the LAC about historic places and events, highlighting what is important to honor, what resonates most with the community and what may be missing. The activity also gave LAC members a chance to discuss and share placemaking themes they would like to see reflected in the 375 project.



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APPENDIX A: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY COMMENTS

HISTORIC PLACES	WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO HONOR, AND WHAT RESONATES?
Eastern Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generational connector. • A place for Detroit artists.
Michigan Chronicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A space of truth, where the community can share their voices and perspectives. • There is truth to storytelling.
YMCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An accessible and open community space. • A place where the community can enjoy themselves and be themselves.
Club El Sino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented an alternative space where people felt welcome. It's important to provide for queer spaces as part of the Black experience.
Riverfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where it all started. • Immigration history.
Brewster-Douglass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RuPaul sang about Diana Ross who grew up in Brewster-Douglass. The importance of queer history. • Eleanor Roosevelt attended the groundbreaking of Brewster-Douglass. • Brewster-Douglass had a connection to thousands of Detroiters. While it will be redeveloped, a physical historic acknowledgement would be valuable.

HISTORIC PLACES - WHATS MISSING?

Other historic churches.

Other ethnic groups – Irish, Italian, Greek, etc.

Bluebird Inn.

Dr. Ossian Sweet House. His doctor's office was located in Black Bottom.

The African American Museum. Its founder lived in Lafayette Park.

Paul's Cut Rate Drugstore.

Recognize places that are no longer here due to the freeway construction (eminent domain).

HISTORIC PLACES – WHATS MISSING?

Record shops on Gratiot Avenue. People went to their local shops to learn the name of a song and the shops were within walking distance.

Mies van der Rohe and his impact on placemaking to the present day (how communities process trauma and rebuild themselves).

Jean Baptiste Rivard Farm.

The Ribbon Farms and their impact on placemaking.

Early immigration to “fands” (bottom land) and connection to Black Bottom.

Holy Family Italian Catholic Church parish formed in 1908 out of St. Peter and Paul. The French and Irish helped the Italians raise money to build their own church on Hastings Street. The church was finished in 1910 and is the only building left on Hastings Street.

HISTORIC EVENTS WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO HONOR, AND WHAT RESONATES?

<p>Negro World Fair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tradition continues today, with spaces to gather and celebrate such as the African World Fair, Jazz Festival. • The Negro World Fair and the construction of I-375 showed the missed opportunities but also the possibilities. • The history of innovation. • I’ve never heard of the Negro World Fair. I appreciate the “framing” of the temporal nature of Detroit.
<p>Great Migration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My family came here during the Great Migration. How do we hold space for people? • The Great Migration has a personal connection for me and likely tens of thousands of Detroiters. Whether through audio creation or something else, this creation could be incorporated into the future vision.
<p>Construction of I-375</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-375 and Lafayette I and II represented the turning point in the city, with collective displacement and loss of space. They both represent how we now have a chance to bring back belonging.

HISTORIC EVENTS	WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO HONOR, AND WHAT RESONATES?
Lafayette I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's not about the number of units. There were families and people living there. We should know how many people were in these places and how many were displaced. • Displacement occurred, but the Mies van der Rohe architecture is amazing and makes a person or family feel amazing. But the land made things horrific. • Lafayette is a National Historic Landmark, and I don't want to see it destroyed by the new construction.
Founding of Motown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivated talent and led to the integration of pop music. • This project should celebrate Motown more than the City of Detroit currently does.
Race Rebellion of 1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to name the conditions that took place.

HISTORIC EVENTS - WHATS MISSING?
1967 Rebellion.
Events surrounding Dr. Ossian Sweet and integration. The pain is the beauty.
I want to show how one thing led to another. The Great Migration led to the first paved road led to I-375 led to White flight.
French immigration.
Rat cellar (Detroit Punk) and birth of Techno.
Anthony Wayne's redevelopment of the "bottom land" eradicated Native Americans and literally drained swamps as well as building over rivers.
What was there before Black Bottom? Native American history, and earlier days in the city.
What are key moments in Black Bottom and Paradise Valley history?

HISTORIC EVENT AND PLACES – GENERAL DISCUSSION

I selected everything. There is a continuum to being connected to our history.

We should celebrate our influence – Detroit as Motown and the Motor City, which has a seed in Black Bottom and Paradise Valley.

The people who shaped it should be important and recognized.

Digging deeper is the huge point that we can get from this. Dig deeper into the stories that we have identified and how they are all connected.

If there is a direct or indirect tie between Hitsville and Black Bottom/Paradise Valley, it's worth having a physical representation of that history and other direct nod to the Motown Museum.

What was Malcolm X's relationship with Black Bottom and Paradise Valley? I want to learn more!

History didn't end with the freeway and urban renewal. Look into the history of the last 60-plus years, too.

Consider places connected to specific people tied to the area like Joe Amis, Coleman Young, Martha Reeves, etc.

Consider prominent Detroiters who lived here post urban renewal: judges or elected officials, etc.

Detroit history now 325 years since the French settled on the river. Show pictures of plots of maps to show what was there in the 1700s.

Group all of the places, events and people by categories: music, business, religion, etc.

PLACEMAKING

WHAT'S IMPORTANT, AND WHAT RESONATES?

Engage

- Reparative justice.

Relax and Breathe

- This is one of the basics – we've got to have this be livable.
- Seating places to stop and reflect.
- Respite.

Celebrate

- Celebrate people's everyday lives. Our in-between spaces should be able to support everyday life to create those celebrational moments.
- Entertainment, music, arts, religion.

PLACEMAKING	WHAT'S IMPORTANT, AND WHAT RESONATES?
Connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new space should be able to support family life, children, adults and the elderly and enable them to spend the day together. They should all be able to interact in the same space together. • “Everyday life” should include entertainment, health, housing, worship, community.
Learn and Remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places to tell a story. • Nice to have, but is it essential? How do we keep this from fading into the hustle and bustle? • Memorial of Black businesses that were displaced by the freeway.

PLACEMAKING THEMES – GENERAL DISCUSSION

All placemaking themes are important and are a significant part of the reparative process.

The new boulevard should **not** be like Telegraph Road.

How do we create a sense of place and a standard of architecture style so that everything is regulated and not just artificial glass block?

How can we have nice things in Detroit? There is a great divide between Detroit and Grosse Pointe. On one side is a neighborhood market, on the other side is a liquor store. This needs to be a nice place that attracts future generations.

Accessibility based on age, family, mobility and visibility.

What are we proposing we should build on this land, and what types of spaces do we want to create? What can we bring back (reimagine), and how do we take these places and reintegrate them? How to reimagine what they would look like today for the community?

Reclamation of space – so much has been lost.

Self-sustainability and building third spaces that are both formal and informal.

I want to see a museum.

I don't want to lose the good that is there.

Everything that was in your neighborhood (all the amenities) should be included here.

PLACEMAKING THEMES – GENERAL DISCUSSION

What are the physical connections that create these neighborhood fabrics that created Black Bottom?

The small businesses of the past (their history) should be reflected in newer small businesses.

Neighborhood character is important.

The architecture and design of this area should reflect the history and beauty of Detroit rather than new contextless architecture.

Old architecture should inform designers of the future. Cranbrook is a beautiful example of how new design is incorporated with its historic architecture.

Create a design standard that reflects the history and culture of the city of Detroit.

The Brush Park rebuild was done by multiple architects (different styles of architecture) and is a good example.

“Heritage” Clinton Street Homes – lots of these beautiful homes were lost but there should be a design standard.

The new boulevard should be great and efficient and beautiful.

There should be a recognition of the Great Migration story and the stories that were built along the way.

How do kids feel in this new space?

APPENDIX B: MEETING ATTENDEES

Project Team

- Divya Iyer, MDOT
- Leslie Love, MDOT
- Lisa Parker, MDOT
- Rob Morosi, MDOT
- Jason Garza, MDOT
- Evan Forgacs, HNTB
- Dave Langlois, HNTB
- Dan Beard, HNTB
- Scott Shogan, HNTB
- Steven Griffith, HNTB
- Bradleigh Merrill, HNTB
- Sasha Freeman, HNTB
- Emmy Reed, HNTB
- Joe Goodall, Dan's Excavating
- Steven Lampton, Dan's Excavating
- Michael Griffie, AECOM
- Mark Koskinen, AECOM
- Jamaine Dickens, Compass Strategies
- Natalie Dickens, Compass Strategies
- Ben Kohrman, Compass Strategies
- Dan Lijana, Lovio George Communications
- Christina Lovio-George, Lovio George Communications
- Kemba Braynon, Quinn Evans
- Sandra Little, Quinn Evans
- Joshua Powell, Quinn Evans
- Brenda Williams, Quinn Evans
- Megan Zidar, Quinn Evans
- Steve Lewis, Quinn Evans

Project Partners

- John Sivills, City of Detroit
- Adena Hill, The Kresge Foundation
- Scott Kratz, The Kresge Foundation
- James Fidler, Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Elise Fields, Downtown Detroit Partnership

375 Local Advisory Committee (Stakeholder)

- Bonnie Leone, Holy Family Church
- Katy Trudeau, Eastern Market Partnership
- Camille Johnson, Taubman College
- Jim Jenkins, Jenkins Construction
- Renard Monczunski, Detroit Peoples Platform
- Emily Williams Guffey, Christ Church Detroit
- Angela Carlberg, Community Development Advocates of Detroit
- Ruth Boeder, Christ Church Detroit
- Keith Butler, Mayors Office Department of Neighborhoods District 5 Manager
- Bonnie Ferrell, Department of Neighborhoods District 5 Deputy Manager
- Krysta Pickett, District 5 Business Liaison – Detroit Economic Growth Corp.
- Mark Luckhardt, Bedrock
- Ayesha Maxwell, Greektown Neighborhood Partnership
- Chanay Peterson, Wayne County
- Kimberly Cooley, A Taste of Hastings Street

375 Local Advisory Committee (Residential)

- Christian Unverzagt, LaSalle Co-Op
- Olga Stella, Navarre Place
- Rebecca Chung, Pavilion Apartments
- Izegbe N’Namdi, 1300 Lafayette
- Patrice Mckinnon, Nicolet Townhouses Cooperative Inc.
- Jennifer Pasha, Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corp.

Non-LAC Members

- Connie Underwood, Resident
- Yvonne Nelson, Grassroots Detroit
- Martha Calloway, Resident
- Kimberly Faison, Detroit Future City

**Some non-LAC members may be sitting in for a member at their organization.*

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