

# COMMUNITY CENTERED URBAN REDEVELOPMENT IN DETROIT

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The 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellowship

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HUMANITY IN  
ACTION



**#HIA2019**  
**#HIADETROIT**

# RESILIENCE AT THE CORE: DETROIT FELLOWSHIP THEME

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Detroit's City motto and emblem "**Speramus meliora; resurget cineribus**" translates to "We hope for better things; it shall arise from the ashes." On June 11, 1805, a terrible fire swept through Detroit.

There was no professional fire department to battle the blaze at the time, so Detroiters formed a "bucket brigade."

They passed a bucket of water from person to person, starting at the river and ending where the fire was. Despite people's best efforts to save their beloved city, Detroit burned. Completely. The fire destroyed most of the buildings in Detroit, leaving only a river warehouse intact. After the fire, Detroit rebuilt itself over decades, becoming the automotive capital of the world in the early twentieth century.

The 1805 fire may have been the first, but it was certainly not the last time Detroit rose from

the ashes. Detroit's population boomed during the 1920's, jobs were plentiful, and car production soared. However, once the Depression hit, thousands were out of work, and

social services had to step in; community organizations like the Capuchins Soup Kitchen fed 800 residents per day. Auto production in the city dwindled

down to a mere 1,332,000 units per year, a far cry from its high of 5,337,000 units two years before. "Detroit, which in Jan. 1931 was declared by the U.S. Census to be the hardest hit of 19 cities, with 174,527 able to work and out of a job and 49,041 laid off for an unemployed figure of 223,568." (Detroit News, Michigan History).

Detroit continued to struggle for years, until the advent of World War II when the city quickly became the "Arsenal of Democracy." Factories employed

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**"SPERAMUS MELIORA;  
RESURGET CINERIBUS"**

**"WE HOPE FOR BETTER  
THINGS; IT SHALL ARISE  
FROM THE ASHES."**

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men and women to manufacture the tools of the war effort, from jeeps to bombers. When the war ended, Detroiters, like much of the United States, experienced a measure of prosperity. However, much like those other locales, an underlying tension persisted: racial inequality.

The racial tension in the city exploded on a hot Sunday morning in July 1967, when police officers raided a “blind pig,” an after hours drinking establishment, and arrested dozens of African American patrons. This was the spark that fueled discontent in the Black community, erupting into what became the 1967 Uprising,<sup>1</sup> a historical moment that resulted in 43 people dead, 1,400 buildings burned, and \$50 million dollars in property damage. A myth persists that the Uprising sparked the exodus of thousands of people from Detroit. However, the heart of economic production in the city, large automotive manufacturing and ancillary industries, had already begun to move to the suburbs in droves to pursue lower costs of labor and capital and flee the strong influence of the industry’s unions. The relocation of industry attracted economically mobile white families to the the city’s suburbs through choice economic incentives while also deterring non-white families from

relocating through redlining practices and overt acts of intimidation. Notwithstanding other economic forces fueling deindustrialization, the 1967 Uprising accelerated this move, as the number of white residents leaving the city doubled to over 40,000 in 1967, doubled again the subsequent year.

After the Uprising, the city made various attempts to revitalize its core, attract industry, and increase its appeal, with efforts such as the 1977 development of the Renaissance Center, a series of imposing skyscrapers and the world’s largest private development, meant to signal the rebirth of the historic city. These efforts proved futile, however, and Detroit’s population continued to shrink, jobs became more scarce, blight ravaged much of its housing stock, and crime escalated in the city. By the 1990’s, the city’s population had dwindled to under 700,000 inhabitants, a far cry from its peak of 1.8 million.

In 2013, unable to support the cost of public service provision with dwindling city revenues, Detroit officially declared Chapter 9 bankruptcy, the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in US history based on debt. A critical component of Detroit’s plan to exit bankruptcy in December 2014 was coined the “Grand Bargain.” Its goals were

to prohibit the sale of artwork from the city-owned Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) to pay off the city's massive debt, to preserve city pensions, and to satisfy creditors. Under the terms of the bargain, \$816 million was donated by multiple foundations (consolidated into the Foundation for Detroit's Future), Detroit Institute of Arts donors, and the State of Michigan.

To this day, there remain acres and acres of vacant lots in Detroit, and abandoned houses and closed retail storefronts remain a staple in its cityscape. From within this desertion, neighborhood stewards have emerged, championing efforts to restore lots and structures back to their former distinguished status and maintain their vibrant communities. Through its Strategic Neighborhood Fund, the City is looking to strategically invest in the

development of neighborhoods beyond of Detroit's downtown and City Center. There is new energy being channeled toward rebuilding and reclaiming a city that once was divested, and neighborhoods and community organizations are playing an active role in defining what Detroit's new story will be.

These community efforts are deeply important and of great consequence. Therefore, the 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellowship will center its programming around the development efforts of community organizations, neighborhood residents, and small businesses. The goal of this program is to understand urban development according to the efforts of those on the ground rebuilding their neighborhoods and highlighting their successes addressing grave economic, racial and social inequities.

1 We use the term 1967 Uprising in accordance with the Detroit Historical Society. They use the term in their Encyclopedia of Detroit. Please visit <https://detroithistorical.org/learn/encyclopedia-of-detroit/uprising-1967> for further information. Or visit the Exhibition DETROIT 67: PERSPECTIVES open through May 2020 in the Booth-Wilkinson Gallery.

# SUPPORTERS

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# ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



The city of Detroit is spread across a sprawling 139 square miles or 360 square kilometers of flat landscape in Southeast Michigan. Observers often note that the cities of San Francisco, Boston and the borough of Manhattan could all fit together within Detroit. The Detroit metropolitan region is 10 times larger than the city itself—1,327 square miles or 3,437 square kilometers. Understanding the sheer size of Detroit and the interplay between its urban core and its suburban margins is fundamental to understanding the American city—its development, its diversity, and its inequalities. More importantly, understanding the city's communities' efforts to revitalize their city is fundamental to understanding how development, unique to this city and its inhabitants, must be defined. The 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellowship program is a 10-day immersive program which will focus on these community-centered efforts in urban redevelopment in the city of Detroit.

The Fellowship program will immerse Fellows in community-based efforts to promote inclusive urban development through thoughtful instruction and practical engagement. Participants will have the opportunity to work alongside four Detroit based organizations,

who are our 2019 Community Partners, on projects supervised by the Community Partners ongoing efforts around relevant development and equity issues. Cutting across a diversity of issues, neighborhoods and types of projects, the variety of projects will allow Fellows with different skills and experiences to contribute. The 2019 Community Partner organizations are: Live6 Alliance, The Tuxedo Project, Urban Farmers Inc., and Zachary & Associates.

The Fellowship program will provide participants with opportunities to:

- Network and build urban and international relationships in Detroit and transatlantically;
- Increase intercultural competencies;
- Navigate differences;
- Draw cross-cultural connections;
- Practice in cross-functional teamwork;
- Build mentoring relationships among participants;
- Gain a deeper understanding of what successful policies, projects and strategies (good practice examples) mean in different contexts;
- Enhance and share their knowledge, skills and expertise in redevelopment-

related issues;

- Reflect collectively on their own positions and practical experiences in and for the development of their communities.

Fellows will benefit from the program's rigorous learning experience and contribute their own perspectives and skills through their engagement with Detroit-based organizations. Ultimately, the 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellowship program aims to provide value to both Community Partners and Fellows in the following ways:

- Equip Fellows with practical and theoretical knowledge to practically contribute to urban development efforts in their local communities—in the US and the rest of the world;
- Lend global and comparative perspectives on human rights and development to support the work of the Detroit-based Community Partners;
- Provide professional development opportunities, whereby Fellows can apply directly relevant skills in the Detroit context in collaboration with practitioners from the city and other parts of the world;
- Forge mediums of knowledge-sharing between Humanity in Action and the Community Partners, between the Fellows and the practitioners, and between the Fellows themselves;
- Inspire change-making Action Projects based upon learnings from the Fellowship program. The Fellows will implement the Action Project in their home communities..



# SCHEDULE

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Fellows will arrive in Detroit from here, there and everywhere! On the first evening of the 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellowship, all of the Fellows will gather for dinner and discussion at Cass Cafe, a Detroit institution. The evening will serve as the kickoff to the Fellowship as well as an opportunity to meet and mingle with other Fellows and the program directors, Caitlin Murphy, Tosin Agbabiaka and Yael Herskovits. At this time, the program directors will share more about the Detroit 2019 Fellowship theme, the Action Project component and the program booklet. There will be an opportunity for Senior Fellows in the program to share their perspectives on how being part of the Senior Fellow network has made an impact on them, personally and professionally. At this time, the group will also agree on the group norms that will guide their 10-day engagement.

**>> 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Location: Cass Cafe 4620 Cass Ave, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 6:00 – 6:30 pm | Humanity in Action: History of the Organization, All about Action Projects, and the 2019 Detroit Fellowship Theme.<br><i>Caitlin Murphy, Tosin Agbabiaka and Yael Herskovits (Humanity in Action, Detroit Fellowship Directors)</i> |
| 6:30 – 7:30 pm | Dinner  |
| 7:30 – 8:15 pm | Establishing Ground Rules and Communication Culture   |
| 8:15 – 9:00 pm | Community Building Activity: Share your Object  |

# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

Today, Barry Checkoway, Marsha Music and Ernie Zachary will provide a look into Detroit's past to help Fellows better understand the present state of affairs in Detroit. Fellows will embark on a bus tour providing insight into the history of segregation in the city of Detroit and the lasting impact this has had on local neighborhoods. The driving tour will showcase Woodward Ave, a roadway, sometimes referred to as Detroit's Main Street that runs for 27 miles from Detroit to Pontiac. The scenery on Woodward has changed over the years but it remains a lively stretch of road, filled with museums, gathering places, nightlife and local businesses.

Later, Marsha Music, Detroit historian and public figure, will paint a complex and rich picture of the evolution of Detroit by challenging many commonly held beliefs, such as the origin of white flight and migration patterns from the city. Ernie Zachary, professor and city developer, will detail a historical timeline of Detroit's development, focusing on important moments of economic resurgence.

On Saturday and Sunday, the program will also delve into the topic of food access and entrepreneurship in Detroit. In recent years, the issue of food production in Detroit has garnered national attention. Researchers have labeled Detroit a "food desert" due to the lack of reasonably-priced grocery stores within city limits. From this absence, Detroit's burgeoning urban farms have bloomed in the city's vacant lots, a phenomenon that has recently drawn the attention of national media and urban farming advocates. The Fellowship will explore these two related factors in Detroit by examining the work of two important Detroiters, Devita Davison from FoodLab Detroit and Malik Yakini from D-Town Farms, to display how Detroiters are expanding agricultural production and access to healthy foods for communities across the city.

**>> 8:50 am – 2:00 pm**

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:50 am            | Coffee and snacks   |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Down Woodward Tour: Segregation and Diversity<br><i>Prof. Barry Checkoway</i><br>( <i>Director, Youth Civil Rights Academy</i> )  |
| 12:00 – 12:30 pm   | Lunch   |
| 12:30 – 2:00 pm    | “The Kidnapped Children of Detroit” and<br>“Just Say Hi, (The Gentrification Blues)” —<br>Exploring Detroit Narratives<br><i>Marsha Music (Historian, Artist, and Detroitist)</i> |

**>> 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Location: The Commons 7900 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI 48214**

Food Justice and Entrepreneurship  
*Devita Davison (Executive Director, FoodLab Detroit)*

**>> 4:30 – 5:30 pm**

**Location: Socratea 71 Garfield St Suite 50, Detroit, MI 48201**

Detroit’s Development Timeline Introduction  
*Prof. Ernie Zachary (Founder, Zachary & Associates)*

**>> 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Location: Shangri-La 4710 Cass Ave, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm | Dinner           |
| 6:30 – 7:15 pm | Group Reflection |

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. Youth Civil Rights Academy’s Race & Ethnicity in Metropolitan Detroit Timeline
2. “The Kidnapped Children of Detroit,” essay by Marsha Music
3. “Just Say Hi! (The Gentrification Blues),” poem by Marsha Music
4. “White Washing of Detroit’s Culinary Scene,” article by Tunde Wey
5. Selected Chapters of “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard to Talk to White People About Racism” by Dr. Robin DiAngelo
6. “How Detroit Went Broke,” article by Nathan Bomey and John Gallagher
7. “The Report on Race That Shook America,” article by Justin Driver

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

This day will focus on community-centered development and what it means in Detroit. Fellows will hear from Lauren Hood, member of the City of Detroit Planning Commission, and witness the application of her methodology in the Fitzgerald neighborhood. The Fellows will also engage in group discussions on how resident-driven programming and cross sector collaboration are propelling the Fitzgerald community forward. To continue yesterday's discussion about food access and entrepreneurship in the city, Fellows will visit D-Town Farms and meet with a Maliki Yakini, a leader who advocates for food and racial justice for Detroiters.

What does it look like to plan for the future and invest in people, places and spaces that are occupied by predominantly black and brown communities? How do we think about design and investment as mechanisms to facilitate culturally relevant spaces? What does "blackness" look like manifested in neighborhood development, and why does this matter in the broader discussion of redevelopment and renaissance in Detroit? The Fellowship will explore these questions and many more as we consider what community-centered re-development might mean in today's Detroit.

In the evening, Fellows will take part in Detroit City Wide Soup, a microgranting dinner celebrating and supporting creative projects in Detroit and promoting community-based development through crowdfunding, collaboration, democracy, trust and fun. Fellows will enjoy informal conversations with members of the community and participate in the vote to determine which project to fund with the money raised from the dinner!

**>> 9:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**Location: Neighborhood Homebase 7426 W. McNichols Rd, Detroit, MI 48221**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:30 – 10:30 am | What is Community-Centered Development?<br>Sharing Perspectives on Preserving Black<br>Space<br><i>Lauren Hood (Founder, Deep Dive Detroit)</i> |
|-----------------|---|

10:30 am – 11:30 am     Fitzgerald Revitalization Project Overview  
*Chanale Greer (Ella Fitzgerald Park  
Ambassador, Greening of Detroit) and  
Stephanie Harbin (President, San Juan Block  
Club)*

11:30 am – 1:30 pm     Group Discussion: First Impressions and  
Lunch

**>> 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Location: D-Town Farms and Detroit Black Food Security  
Network 14027 Outer Dr W, Detroit, MI 48239**

Food Justice and Racial Justice in Detroit  
*Malik Yakini (Executive Director, Detroit Black Community Food  
Security Network)*

**>> 5:00 - 7:00pm**

**Location: Jam Handy 2900 E Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202**

Detroit Citywide Soup: Dinner and Presentations

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. "How Detroit Plans to Raise \$130M to Invest in 7 neighborhoods,"  
article by Katrease Stafford
2. "Detroit Needs to Preserve the Cultural Integrity of Its Black  
Neighborhoods," op-ed by Lauren Hood
3. "Detroit Future City Strategic Framework," Executive Summary
4. "Planning for the Other Detroit," article by Gregor Macdonald
5. "A Black-Led Food Co-op Grows in Detroit," article by Brian Allnutt
6. "Creating a Cultural Shift in How Detroiters Think about Food,"  
article by Amy Kuras
7. "On urban farming and 'colonialism' in Detroit's North End  
neighborhood" article by Tom Perkins
8. "9 Principles of Ethical Redevelopment" by Theaster Gates and  
Place Lab



# MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Fellows will begin their on-site work with their Community Partners in 4 different neighborhoods today. In the afternoon, Fellows will gather for lunch and begin learning about health and mobility in the city.

Detroit, affectionately known as “Motown”, a portmanteau of motor and town, is the largest American city without a complete and connected commuter rail service. The larger region is the largest metropolitan economy without regional transit. This lack of accessible public transit undermines the ability of residents to access health services and jobs, contributing to disparities in health and upward mobility across neighborhoods. Fellows will also hear about ways in which access to transportation influences the health of Detroiters and ways that members of the community work to ameliorate access to public transportation and health services. They will also have the opportunity to discuss recent campaigns for regional transit with some of the key players behind those plans. Moreover, they will learn more about the advocacy and planning work that is addressing transportation issues and advancing connectivity throughout the City.

As mentioned in the introduction to the city, Detroit’s past and present is defined by the contributions of vibrant immigrant communities. This evening, the Greek-Detroit Community will welcome the Fellows to Detroit with a reception at the Hellenic Museum of Michigan. The mission of the Museum is to present, promote and teach about Hellenic Culture, Heritage and History. The Museum also chronicles the struggles, accomplishments and many contributions of the vibrant Greek immigrant community in Michigan. On this evening, Fellows will tour the Museum and meet with members of the Greek Detroit community.

## >> 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fellows work in Groups with Community Partners at various locations.

## >> 1:00 – 6:00 pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:00 – 1:30pm  | Lunch   |
| 1:30 – 2:00 pm | Fellow Presentations 1 & 2  |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm | Panel Discussion—Zip Code Matters more than your Genetic Code<br><i>Dr. Asha Shajahan (Professor, University William Beaumont School of Medicine), Joel Batterman (Board member, Motor City Freedom Riders), and Todd Scott (Executive Director, Detroit Greenways Coalition)</i><br><i>Moderated by Hannah Wagner (Humanity in Action Senior Fellow)</i>                         |
| 3:15 – 3:45 pm | Fellow Presentation 3 & 4   |
| 4:00 – 5:00 pm | Panel Discussion—Moving the Motor City<br><i>Angelica Jones (Director, Detroit Department of Transportation), Garry D. Bulluck (Deputy Chief of Mobility Innovation, City of Detroit), and Megan Owens (Executive Director, Transit Riders United), Lisa Nuskowski (Founder, MoGo).</i><br><i>Moderated by Jerrell Harris (Vice President of Development, Urban Farmers Inc.)</i> |
| 5:00 – 6:00 pm | Group Reflection  |

## >> 6:30 - 8:00pm

**Location: Hellenic Museum of Michigan 67 E Kirby St,  
Detroit, MI 48202**

Hellenic Museum of Michigan Museum Tour and Detroit Greek Community

Welcome Celebration of the 2019 Humanity in Action Detroit Fellows

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. “The Need,” webpage by Transportation Riders United

2. "Engage: New Mobility," webpage by Transportation Riders United
3. "Want better mass transit in metro Detroit? Get your employees on a bus," article by Chad Livengood
4. "Detroit Metro Area May Finally Get Better Transit," post by Angie Schmitt
5. "Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Feasibility Study," report by HNTB Corporation
6. "Heart and Sole: Detroiter Walks 21 Miles in Work Commute," article by Bill Laitner

# TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Today, Fellows will take a deeper look into Detroit's water, energy and public health complexities, hearing from local experts, activists, and overall changemakers. During the lunch hour, Fellows will learn from Abdul El-Sayed, a physician, public health advocate, and former gubernatorial candidate, about his experiences rebuilding Detroit's Health Department after the municipal bankruptcy. Diane Van Buren, city developer and urban sustainability advocate, will highlight the success of her 30+ year career building programs and initiatives that bring financing to environmentally sustainable projects across the city. Fellows will learn about the energy and water systems innovations that lessen the environmental impact of new development in the city and provide cost saving solutions to small businesses and organizations. Finally, Fellows will hear from Water Warriors Monica Lewis-Patrick and Kaitlin Popielarz about their work with We the People of Detroit. As a community-based grassroots organization, We the People of Detroit aims to inform, educate, and empower Detroit residents on imperative issues surrounding civil rights, land, water, education, and the democratic process.

## >> 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fellows work in Groups with Community Partners at various locations.

## >> 1:00 pm – 5:40 pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:00 – 2:00 pm | Lunch Roundtable Discussion<br><i>Abdul El-Sayed (Physician, Public Health Expert, and Progressive Activist)</i>  |
| 2:00 – 2:30 pm | Fellow Presentation 5 & 6   |
| 2:30 – 3:30pm  | Infrastructure and Energy Systems:<br>Opportunities and New Community<br>Development Tools<br><i>Diane Van Buren (D2 Solar, Zachary &amp; Associates)</i> |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 3:30 – 4:00 pm | Fellow Presentations 7 & 8   |
| 4:00 – 5:00 pm | We the People of Detroit—Insight to the Work of Water Warriors<br><i>Monica Lewis-Patrick (President, We the People of Detroit) and Kaitlin Popielarz (Researcher, We the People of Detroit)</i> |
| 5:00 – 5:30 pm | Group Reflection   |
| 5:40 pm        | Individual Reflection Time and Self-Care.<br>Fellows enjoy dinner on their own.  |

*Associated Recommended Reading and Video:*

1. “Don’t Touch My Water,” a documentary by the Eastside Community Network
2. “Why I Hate Detroit” op-ed by Eric Thomas

# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Today, the Fellows will learn more about workforce development and housing in Detroit. Fellows will engage in a site visit of Cass Community Social Services to learn about their framework for providing workforce development opportunities to Detroit residents and comprehensive social services. Fellows will also have the opportunity to tour Tiny Homes Detroit, a project by Cass Community Social Services designed to provide housing for low-income individuals in Detroit. With the unemployment rate sitting at around 22% in Detroit, compared to 13% and 9% rates in Wayne County and the state of Michigan respectively, employment, workforce development and housing remain major concerns in Detroit.

In the evening, the Fellows will view a public panel and conversation on Who is Building the City. Is there opportunity in Detroit's construction industry for greater diversity & inclusion? More local training & hiring? How is our pipeline for qualified skilled workers & future city builders? The panel will tackle these important questions and more.

## >> 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fellows work in Groups with Community Partners at various locations.

## >> 1:00 – 2:15 pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn Room 663, Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

Working Lunch, Fellow Presentations: 9, 10, 11 & 12

## >> 3:00 – 5:30 pm

**Location: Cass Community Social Services, 1564 Elmhurst St, Detroit, MI 48206**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | Site Visit Cass Community Social Services<br>Tiny Homes<br><i>Rev. Faith Fowler (Executive Director,<br/>Cass Community Social Services)</i> |
|----------------|--|

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 4:30 – 5:00 pm | Group Reflection |
|----------------|------------------|

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Early Bird Dinner

**>> 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**Location: Co.Act Detroit, 6568 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48202**

Urban Consulate Parlor Talk, Who is Building our City?

*Darnell Adams (Vice President of Implementation of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund, Invest Detroit), Gary Ringer (Founder, Eco-Environmental Solutions), and Tanya Saldivar-Ali (Co-founder, AGI Construction & 18th Street Design Build Hub). Moderated by Orlando Bailey (Host, Urban Consulate)*

*Recommended Readings:*

1. “More Tiny Homes Come to Detroit, Giving the Homeless a Shot at Ownership,” article by Allie Gross
2. “Umbrellas Don’t Make it Rain: Why Studying and Working Hard Isn’t Enough for Black Americans” Darrick Hamilton, William Darity Jr., Anne E. Price, Vishnu Sridharan, and Rebecca Tippet

# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Today, the Fellows will explore some of Detroit's entrepreneurship ecosystem by meeting Detroiters facilitating collaboration and innovation in Detroit through their enterprises. We will speak with entrepreneurs about their stories—how they have navigated the challenges in Detroit while also finding joy in cultivating businesses centered on passion, community and creativity. Our day will include discussions about how Detroiters are “reimagining” entrepreneurship as a path to financial independence and stability and a source of locally tailored and culturally relevant goods and services. Two particular questions will be considered today—why are entrepreneurs essential to any city, and what value do entrepreneurs bring to a city in the midst of a “comeback”?

In the evening, Fellows will tour the Neighbourhood of NW Goldberg. NW Goldberg has a rich history, being one of the few neighborhoods that Black residents moved to after Black Bottom was destroyed to make way for the highway. It is also the neighborhood in which tanks from the Army National Guard fired the first shots of the 1967 Uprising. It is home to the Motown Museum, where Fellows will tour in order to understand the contributions of Motown Musical legends to the city. Thereafter, Fellows will be introduced to some of the placemaking projects and other work of NW Goldberg Cares.

## >> 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fellows work in Groups with Community Partners at various locations.

## >> 1:00 – 4:30 pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

1:00 – 2:00 pm      Working Lunch: Fellow Presentation 13, 14 & 15

2:00 – 3:00 pm      Perspectives from Detroit Entrepreneurs  
*Amy Peterson (Co-founder and CEO of Rebel Nell), Michelle Smart (Founder, Bags To Butterflies), Dr. Paul Thomas (Founder, Plum Health). Moderated by Tosin Agbabiaka (Humanity in Action, Detroit Co-Director)*



- 3:00 – 4:00 pm      Nonprofit Strategy and Foundation Relations  
in Detroit: An Introduction  
*LaToya Morgan (Principal, Moree Strategic  
Insights)*
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm      Group Reflection

**>> 5:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Location: Motown Museum 2648 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI  
48208**

Motown Museum Visit and Tour

**>> 6:15 – 6:45 pm**

**Location: 6102 16th Street, Detroit, MI 48208**

Tour of NW Goldberg Cares

**>> 7:00 pm**

Individual Reflection Time and Self-Care. Fellows enjoy dinner on  
their own.

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. “Gentrification Misses Real Problem in Detroit, Urban Expert Warns,”  
article by John Gallagher
2. “These Detroiters Aren’t Looking for Jobs. Why Might Surprise You,”  
article by John Gallagher
3. “Why I Love the Detroit Startup Scene,” op-ed by Ted Serbinski
4. “Minority Entrepreneurs,” video interview by Stephen Henderson  
with David Tarver (Urban Entrepreneurship Initiative) and Marlin  
Williams (Sisters Code) on KQED’s American Black Journal

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

On this day, the program will explore both formal and informal education efforts in the city. The Detroit Free Press reported that in 2017 “4% of Detroit students scored at or above proficient” on fourth grade math, compared to 40% nationally. In the first part of the afternoon, Fellows will learn from Jamon Jordan, a historian and educator, as he takes the Fellows on a historical tour of Downtown Detroit focused on uncovering hidden narrative. Thereafter, Fellows will learn about new models for fighting educational inequalities in Detroit by listening to Kwame Simmons, a nationally renowned educator, and examining his work in the Detroit context. Lastly, the Fellows will be introduced to community-based literacy efforts by The Tuxedo Project’s Literary Center, learning from Pulitzer Prize-winning founder Stephen Henderson about the creation of the center and its current efforts servicing the needs of the neighborhood.

## >> 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Fellows work in Groups with Community Partners at various locations.

## >> 1:00 – 5:30 pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1:00 – 1:35 pm | Lunch  |
| 1:40 – 1:55 pm | Fellow Presentation: 16  |
| 2:00 – 4:00 pm | A Tale of Two Cities: Downtown Black History<br>Before Ilitch & Gilbert<br><i>Jamon Jordan (Founder, Black Scroll Network<br/>History &amp; Tours)</i> |
| 4:30 – 5:30 pm | Fighting Inequities in Public Education in<br>Detroit<br><i>Kwame Simmons (Educator)</i>   |

>> 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: YumVillage, 6500 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48202

Dinner and Conversation

*Rose E. Gorman (Resident Fellow, The Tuxedo Project) and Steven Henderson (Founder, The Tuxedo Project and Journalist)*

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. "Detroit's Educational Catastrophe," article by Beth Hawkins
2. "Michigan Lawmakers have Ignored Inequities in Education for too Long," op-ed by Amber Arellano and John B. King, Jr.
3. "Michigan Schools Face Huge Racial Disparity—and it's Hard to Fix," article by John Wisely
4. "Judge Says There's No Fundamental Right to Learn to Read and Write," article by Lori Higgins
5. "The Arts Are Making a Comeback in Detroit's Public Schools," article by Lori Higgins

# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019

The 2019 Humanity in Action Fellowship in Detroit draws to a close today. On this day, Fellows will embark on a tour of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and learn more about how the Wright is contributing to efforts to change narratives around Black History and Black cultural education in Detroit and the United States. The Fellowship will conclude with a closing ceremony, farewell discussions and reflections. Here, Fellows will present the outcomes of their work with the Community Partners to an audience of other Fellows, Community Partners, and members of the community. The night and Fellowship program will thus conclude with a closing dinner and celebration.

## >> 9:00 am – 1:30pm

**Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center Dearborn  
Room 663 Woodward Ave #150, Detroit, MI 48201**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30 am      | Coffee and snacks  |
| 9:30 – 10:30 am     | Group Reflection   |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Fellow Presentations 17, 18, 19 & 20                       |
| 12:00 – 1:30 pm     | Working Lunch: Fellows work on their closing presentations |

## >> 2:00 – 3:00 pm

**Location: Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (315 E Warren Ave)**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm | The Mission of the Wright Museum in Contributing to Education<br><i>Charles Ferrell (Vice-President Public Programs, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History)</i> |
|----------------|--|

## >> 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Closing Ceremony with Fellow Group Presentations

**>> 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Closing Dinner Celebration

*Associated Recommended Readings:*

1. Selected works of the 18 essays in the New York times 1619 Project.

## **SUNDAY,** **NOVEMBER 24, 2019**

We ask that all Fellows please fill out the program evaluations. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to making this Fellowship a valuable experience! Wishing all Fellows safe travels back to each of their respective homes.

**>> Fill out Evaluations**

**>> Check out from Hotel St. Regis**

**>> 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**Location TBD**

Optional Goodbye Brunch and Sharing Reflections



*Detroit by Nick Youngson*

# VENUES

**University of Michigan  
Detroit Center, Dearborn  
Room**

663 Woodward Ave #150

**The Commons**

7900 Mack Ave

**Socratea**

71 Garfield St Suite 50

**Shangri-La**

4710 Cass Ave

**Neighborhood Homebase**

7426 W. McNichols Rd

**D-Town Farms and Detroit  
Black Food Security Network**

14027 W. Outer Dr

**Jam Handy**

2900 E Grand Blvd

**Hellenic Museum of Michigan**

67 E Kirby St

**Co.act Detroit**

6568 Woodward Avenue

**Motown Museum**

2648 West Grand Boulevard

**NW Goldberg Cares Art Park**

6102 16th Street

**Cass Community Social  
Services**

World Building, 11745 Rosa Parks

**Charles H. Wright Museum of  
African American History**

315 E Warren Ave

**Yum Village**

6500 Woodward Ave

**Ottava Via**

1400 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48216

**PizzaPlex**

4458 W Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI  
48209

**The Tuxedo Project**

7122 Tuxedo St, Detroit, MI 48204

**Grace Episcopal Church**

1926 Virginia Park St, Detroit, MI  
48206

**Zachary & Associates**

76 E forest Ave, Detroit, MI 48201



**Ioannis Agapakis**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Asia Ali**  
2016 John Lewis Fellowship



**Alen Amini**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Sofia Avramopoulou**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Chanel Beebe**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Meredith Blake**  
2018 Warsaw Fellowship



**Ndeye Diobaye**  
Journalist  
2014 Paris Fellowship



**Valeriya Epshteyn**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Ioana Fotopoulou**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Emmanouil Koulianos**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Viktoriia Muliavka**  
2019 Berlin Fellowship



**Stefan Norgaard**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Ronald Norwood**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Athina Ntvasili**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Paul Schreiber**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Inès Seddiki**  
2013 Lyon Fellowship



**Despoina Souroviki**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Andrea Thompson**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship



**Jianhang Xiao**  
2016 John Lewis Fellowship



**Jordan Yagiela**  
2019 Detroit Fellowship

# FELLOWS





## **IOANNIS AGAPAKIS**

Ioannis is currently an intern in the Development Law Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He is conducting legal research and assists in project management and policy monitoring with a main focus on women's, indigenous and rural communities' rights, especially in the contexts of development and climate change. He is an LL.M. graduate from the University of Utrecht, specialized in the fields of International Environmental Law and its interaction with human rights. He has a diverse volunteering and activism background in Thessaloniki and Berlin, supporting initiatives for the promotion of feminism and LGBTQIA+ rights as well as refugee and migrant inclusion. He was born and raised in Crete, Greece.



## **ASIA ALI**

Asia is currently a consultant in the public sector, working in the fields of integration, child services and education. Asia holds a bachelor's degree in English and International Studies and a Master's in Cross-Cultural Studies from Copenhagen University. Since starting her academic career, Asia has been exploring topics relating to global studies, human rights and urbanization. She has experience as a community organizer, volunteer coordinator and educator. In regards to civic engagements, Asia is currently a member of the Dialogue Ambassadors, a cross-cultural initiative by DEDI and DUF, which aims to train young professionals to become facilitators of dialogue across borders and cultures. She is also an advisory member of the Ethnicity forum at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Asia was born to refugees (from Egypt, Iraq and Iran), and grew up in northern Denmark, but has since considered many places home: most recently Copenhagen and New York. Asia is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (2016 John Lewis Fellowship).



## **ALEN AMINI**

Alen is a current management consultant at the Bridgespan Group, a social impact consultancy. A proud midwesterner, he was a former Teach For America math teacher and vice-principal in Southeast Arkansas, and the former executive director of the

Southeast Arkansas Community Foundation. A Fulbright alum, he enjoys serving as the managing editor of a local Philadelphia-based dance publication, thINKingDANCE, and he formerly helped run a small food truck in New Hampshire. He received his MBA at the Dartmouth College Tuck School of Business and his MPA at the Harvard Kennedy School.



## **SOFIA AVRAMOPOULOU**

Sofia Avramopoulou is an architect focusing on the relationship between the urban environment, social realm and infrastructure. She is a project manager in PERA Non-Profit Organization based in Athens implementing projects that promote the development of innovative social spaces and quality of life improvement within contemporary urban environments. In this role she works with City Governments, Foundations, community members and various stakeholders. She has experience in design and construction in the United States (2012-2013) and Greece (2017-) and worked as a designer and researcher in the interdisciplinary Studio Urban-Think Tank of ETH University, Zurich, (2013-2016) where she was involved in a variety of projects ranging from public infrastructure design, to prototype development and publications. Sofia received a professional degree in Architecture and Urban Design from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, followed by a post-professional Master degree from the University of California, Berkeley, as a Fulbright and Leventis Scholar.



## **CHANEL BEEBE**

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Chanel Beebe is a creative artist, writer and educator who designs, implements and conducts research on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) programming. Chanel has a passion for nourishing the critical and social consciousness of youth and is the founder and C.E.O. of a research and design firm focused on social and educational equity (Beebe Arts LLC.)

In 2021, Chanel will graduate with both a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering and a Ph.D. in Engineering Education and plans to continue to study

socially-situated design and learning experiences. As a growing “socio-technical activist,” Chanel seeks to blend her values of equity, health and sustainability with her formal training as an Industrial Engineer. Ultimately, Chanel hopes her contributions will transform the experience of social reform and well-being for historically disenfranchised people.



## **MEREDITH BLAKE**

Meredith Blake is the Research Coordinator for the Women in War Program (WiW) at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Her research focuses on gender, peace and security in fragile states, community resilience, sexual and gender-based violence and diversity and inclusion in humanitarian action. She previously served as the executive producer and host of the Humanitarian Assistance Podcast and coordinated diplomatic visits for heads of state and thought leaders from government, business and media industries at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics. In her spare time, she works as a consultant for VOICE, a feminist think tank combatting discrimination and violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and disaster settings. She holds a BA in Government and International Relations, cum laude, was a 2018 Humanity in Action Fellow in Warsaw, Poland, and has worked on humanitarian and human rights challenges across Europe, North and Central Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.



## **NDEYE DIOBAYE**

Ndeye is a partnerships consultant at the Africa Investment Forum, a brand new platform launched by the African Development Bank to promote investment opportunities on the African continent. A French and Senegalese national, Ndeye takes pride in her dual heritage and supports the development of new narratives of and from African countries as well as promoting and empowering the voices of her peers. She enjoys basketball and poetry. Ndeye is a London School of Economics and Sciences Po Paris graduate. She joined Humanity in Action in 2014 through the Paris Fellowship.



## **VALERIYA EPSHTEYN**

Born in Kharkiv, Ukraine and raised in Metro Detroit, Valeriya graduated in 2017 from the University of Michigan with a concentration in Environmental Justice and Activism. Radicalized by impending ecosystem collapse, Valeriya dove into the University of Michigan's fossil fuel divestment movement and entered local organizing through Semester in Detroit. Valeriya is a member of the Iyengar Yoga Detroit Collective and is passionate about cooperatives, vegetable gardening and fermentation, and gathering people for embodied Jewish rituals such as Shabbat Dinner Murder Mysteries.



## **IOANA FOTOPOULOU**

Ioanna is an engineer, entrepreneur and public speaker since 2008. For her social initiatives, she has been recognized by international organizations like One Young World, Clinton Global Initiative (CGIU) and Social Impact Awards among others. She has been the president of Rotaract Anatolia, the student engineer department and the curator of Global Shapers Athens Hub of World Economic Forum. Ioanna has also worked as a political activist for 2 years in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the European Parliament, the Greek Ministry of Education and currently runs her 2 companies. She runs a digital agency that focuses on helping SMS businesses create strategies to achieve sustainability and find through the internet the right clients at minimum cost because she truly believes that employment & self-employment is the most empowering gift! The second company focuses on body positivity. She believes that people are all equal and fashion should follow needs not create them.



## **EMMANOUIL KOULIANOS**

Emmanouil holds a master's degree in Sustainable Tourism from the University of Barcelona - CETT. He currently resides in Athens and comes from Kalymnos, Greece. His professional interests center around tourism and its potential to promote and preserve the culture of islander communities. He believes that traveling should be accessible to everyone, as it is a powerful educational tool that allows young people

to understand diversity and increase their empathy for communities that face challenges. Emmanouil has worked in a variety of touristic companies and has volunteered in different NGOs.



### **VIKTORIIA MULIAVKA**

Viktoriia Muliavka is a PhD student in Sociology at Graduate School for Social Research (GSSR), Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IFiS PAN) and Visiting Research Student in Eastern European Studies in School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, University College London. She obtains an MA in Economy and Society of GSSR and Lancaster University. Viktoriia is working on a dissertation reassessing the concept of grievance in the context of contemporary protest events, specifically the international youth movement of Fridays for Future. In IFiS PAN she is participating in the research projects studying political voice and economic inequality and surveying demonstrations. Apart from that, Viktoriia is a managing editor and author of Ukrainian critical media Commons Journal. Her research and civic interests include social movements, socio-economic inequalities, post-socialist transformations, political economy.



### **STEFAN NORGAARD**

Stefan Norgaard is a first-year PhD Student in Columbia University's Department of Urban Planning. He is passionate about urban governance and participatory democratic practice, particularly how cities' historical and contemporary public/private arrangements affect equitable development outcomes. This past summer, Stefan worked as a research fellow with the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, developing analytic cases of transformative city leadership. Previously, Stefan worked in the Urban Design and Art division of New York City's Department of Transportation, and on the Ford Foundation's Equitable Development team. Stefan holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree in urban studies and public policy from Stanford University. Stefan spent a formative year studying the enduring legacies

of apartheid planning in post-apartheid Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa. Originally from Boulder, Colorado, he is passionate about political economy, urban governance and social justice.



### **RONALD NORWOOD**

Ronald Norwood is a rising leader with a demonstrated history of working in non-profit community development, youth capacity building and the social planning sectors. As a burgeoning young leader in Detroit, he is committed to a holistic neighborhood approach that enriches and strengthens resident's capacity in the city. It is an honor for Ronald to promote the economic and upward mobility of Detroiters with his work. In the past year, he has embarked on a new endeavor to start his own business. He has taken the liberty to expose the world to Detroit through the lens of art, culture and social awareness on bikes and he began to get involved with the Live6 organization on community development in the Livernois and 6 mile community of Fitzgerald. They are cultivating the next vanguard of leadership by engaging the youth with activities that will allow them to become an asset.



### **ATHINA NTASILIS**

Athina is a Greek Attorney at Law, currently working at the NGO Arsis' Informal Education Centre for Refugee Children on Kos, representing the unaccompanied minors. She is also a member of the Registry of Attorneys at Law of the Greek Asylum Service. Athina has developed an advanced understanding of the refugee issue that Greece is dealing with, as she previously provided legal assistance to asylum seekers and got involved in local movements championing solidarity and social justice. To her, the refugees' presence is not a disaster, but provides a twofold opportunity for refugees and Kos residents alike to reshape the island's economy, disproportionately hit over the past decades from a one-size-fits-all tourism-focused investment boom. She received her LLM in Public International Law from Leiden University and her undergraduate law degree from Democritus University of Thrace. She was born and raised on Kos Island, Greece.



## PAUL SCHREIBER

Paul is currently a Master of Architecture candidate at Lawrence Technological University. He is exploring issues of Queer Space development with focused attention on the relationship between transgender identities and architecture's expression, discourse and practice. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Program in the Environment (PitE) with a concentration in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. In between his undergraduate and graduate studies, Paul has worked as a farmhand at Tantre Farm and Rising Pheasant Farms, a Food and Health Fellow for Detroit's Eastern Market and as a research and teaching assistant for Woodbury University in Los Angeles. He was born in Detroit and currently lives in Hamtramck, Michigan.



## INÈS SEDDIKI

Inès Seddiqi is a French-Moroccan young activist and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) professional. Born and raised in the northern projects of Paris, Inès battles on various fronts for social justice and youth empowerment: as a Corporate Responsibility professional in major corporations, in the policy field at the European Parliament but also as a social entrepreneur with GHETT'UP, the NGO she founded in the "Banlieue" of Paris. On another note, she has watched "The Office", "The Wire" and "Sopranos" twice and has a passion for singing and drinking lots of latte. Inès is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (2013 Lyon Fellowship).



## DESPOINA SOUROVIKI

Debbie is the Founder of Knit2Lead, a social enterprise aiming to empower socially excluded women in Greece using fashion as a medium. She has studied Law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a Masters Degree in International Financial Law from King's College London. She is a Resolution Project Fellow and an ONE YOUNG WORLD Ambassador. She is passionate about volunteering, traveling and community work. Most recently, she travelled to Nepal where she participated in the reconstruction of the houses destroyed by the earthquake of 2015. She speaks seven languages. She was born in Veria, Greece in 1995.



## ANDREA THOMPSON

Andrea is a community leader, organizer and educator. She is Founder, CEO, Chairman and President of Ladies Entrepreneur Empowerment Circle (LEEC). LEEC is a Detroit based platform with over 4,725 members of Lady Business Owners & Entrepreneurs of color united to build a stronger economy in effort to make a difference in communities of color across the nation. Andrea has over 22 years' experience working as a Community Relations Consultant in Detroit and in Detroit Public School Community District as a College Advisor. Andrea's work as an educator and community organizer has been featured on TV and in the Detroit Native Sun, the New York Times, the Associated Press, as well as other local, national and international media. Andrea volunteers widely in her community as a book club president, dance coach, and more. She currently serves as a board member for Revive Detroit Community Development Corporation. Andrea loves to sing and has been a member of the Joseph Derrico & Latter Rain choir for over 10 years.



## JIANHANG XIAO

Born and raised in China, Jianhang completed his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in global studies from Binghamton University. He has a deep interest in studying comparative politics and has participated in research with a focus on human rights and global labor laws. He has also studied abroad in both Peru and Chile and is dedicated to helping immigrants through public service. In recent years, he has worked at the Office of Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez as a community liaison and served as an AmeriCorps member at the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs in the Department of Social Services. Currently, he works at the Department of Finance where he helps elderly and disabled people with housing affordability. He wants to ensure that vulnerable individuals have access to the Rent Freeze Program and the Homeowner Tax Benefit Program offered at the Department of Finance. Jianhang Xiao is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (2018 John Lewis Fellowship).





## **JORDAN YAGIELA**

Jordan is the executive director of NW Goldberg Cares. Over the past year, she has been able to triple the operating budget of the grassroots neighborhood revitalization non-profit. She has led the implementation of three placemaking projects in the neighborhood transforming formerly blighted land into usable public spaces. She currently is working to restore a formerly blighted house purchased from the Detroit Land Bank Authority to live in. Jordan is aware that her experiences as a white woman raised in the suburbs are different than of a long-time Detroit resident. She is committed to understanding varying perspectives and working collaboratively to find the best solutions to neighborhood issues. The Michigan State University graduate aims to use her passion for community and economic development to revitalize the NW Goldberg neighborhood.



# STAFF



## CAITLIN MURPHY

Caitlin Murphy is the Director of Knowledge Exchange at the Live6 Alliance, a non-profit community development organization in Northwest Detroit. Working with city government, community partners and local residents she oversees a pilot project in the Fitzgerald neighborhood called Reimagining the Civic Commons. Caitlin is passionate about creating and activating dynamic public spaces and is committed to the revitalization of Detroit's neighborhoods. Caitlin is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Detroit Fellowship 2017) and is excited to be working more closely with the HIA community as the Action Project Strategist and the Detroit 2019 Fellowship Co-Director.



## TOSIN AGBABIKA

Tosin Agbabiaka is an early-stage investor at Octopus Ventures, a global venture capital firm. There he provides capital, strategic advice, and operational support to high-growth companies, specializing in companies that provide financial services to consumers and other entities. He has worked on economic development efforts domestically and globally, from supporting local development efforts in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's District 4 to recently lending finance and legal support to build clean energy projects in Africa. He is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Copenhagen Fellowship 2011 and Pat Cox Fellow 2012), migration policy advocate, lawyer, and ardent Duke basketball fan. This year, Tosin serves as the Detroit 2019 Fellowship Co-Director.



## **Yael HERSKOVITS**

Yael Herskovits is the US National Director of Humanity in Action. Yael has worked across the private, public and social sectors before joining Humanity in Action. Her recent work has focused on advancing educational equity both in the cultural education and in human rights education fields. Yael holds a BA in Comparative Politics and International Law from the American University of Paris, an MA in International Affairs from the New School and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Organization Development. She is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Berlin Fellowship 2011 and Pat Cox Fellow 2012). Yael bridges the European and US context through her work and lived experience. Yael lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and is deeply interested in behavioral psychology.



## **JUDITH S. GOLDSTEIN**

Judith S. Goldstein founded Humanity in Action in 1997 and has served as its Executive Director ever since. Under Judith's leadership, Humanity in Action has organized educational programs on international affairs, diversity and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and the United States. She received her PhD in history from Columbia University and was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar for her MA studies. Judith has written several books and articles about European and American history, art and landscape architecture. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and several boards and advisory groups. Judith grew up in Great Neck, Long Island.



# COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



## LIVE6 ALLIANCE

Live6 Alliance is a nonprofit planning and development organization that has a mission to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunity in Northwest Detroit. The organization acts as a conduit between the institutions and their surrounding communities, with a particular focus on the McNichols and Livernois corridors. The organization actively serves the community in the following six program areas:

1. Real estate development
2. Business attraction & retention
3. Placemaking
4. Residential stabilization
5. Safety
6. Engagement



*Asia Ali*



*Despoina (Debbie)  
Souroviki*



*Ioanna  
Fotopoulou*



*Paul Schreiber*



*Viktoriia (Vicky)  
Muliavka*

At the center of Live6 Alliance's place-based investment strategy is Detroit's Livernois and McNichols (6 Mile) commercial corridors. These corridors have long served as a vital backbone for the City, hosting a mix of shopping, employers, housing, and institutional activities, while connecting people and neighborhoods. Two of Detroit's primary higher education institutions, University of Detroit Mercy and Marygrove College, are located at the meeting of these corridors. The area is defined by some of Detroit's greatest assets — the Detroit Golf Club and Palmer Park offer world class open spaces, the historic Avenue of Fashion hosts businesses built on a long-legacy arts and culture, and strong and stable neighborhoods offer a diverse mix of housing that Detroit families have called home for decades. Live6 Alliance was formed in 2015 through a partnership of community, philanthropic and city stakeholders led by the University of Detroit Mercy.





## URBAN FARMERS INC.

Urban Farmers, Inc. (UFINC) is a socially motivated, for-profit real estate development firm. UFINC balances architectural creativity, social responsibility, and shared prosperity to develop unique residential and commercial real estate projects throughout the United States. Rooted in modern design, sustainable construction, and innovative job creation, our unique perspective enables UFINC to do more with less, set a higher bar by taking calculated risks, and aid through economic empowerment. Each project becomes an opportunity to train, mentor and employ local at-risk citizens in the field of construction. Our on-the-job training model allows us to partner with local agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to meet their social enterprise goals. As a result of these strategic partnerships we ultimately reduce the cost of construction and provide greater returns on invested capital. Beyond the traditional return on investment, we create community stakeholders, fuel micro enterprises, and offer solutions to a broken real estate development system.



*Chanel Beebe*



*Inès Seddiki*



*Ioannis (Aeon)  
Agapakis*



*Ndeye  
Diobaye*



*Stefan Norgaard*

## THE TUXEDO PROJECT

The Tuxedo Project is a community-based literary and community center founded on the west side of Detroit by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and WDET public radio host Stephen Henderson. The Tuxedo Project's mission is to revitalize the writer's childhood neighborhood by creating public space and programming centered on five pillars of community vitality: the Arts, education, food security, housing security, and economic opportunity.



*Andrea  
Thomson*



*Emmanouil  
Koulianos*



*Meredith  
Blake*



*Sofia  
Avramopoulou*



*Valeriya  
Epshteyn*

Henderson's determination to find solutions to the city's complex issues—solutions designed to make life better for the people who live in Detroit's most challenged neighborhoods—led him to create The Tuxedo Project. The idea is simple: If one person looks back to where he's from, and decides to take action, what might it inspire? What's the power of one to become many, of the small to become large, of a symbolic gesture to become significant, in a city so desperately in need of collective will to make real change?

The Tuxedo Project Literary Center opened in September 2017 and hosts workshops, book readings, author visits and other events. It is also helping to build community by providing space for meetings and other organizing activities on the 7100 block of Tuxedo. The Tuxedo Project will also improve the other blighted properties on the block—17 of the roughly 40 properties are distressed—in cooperation with the neighbors who live there, and who want and deserve better.





## ZACHARY AND ASSOCIATES

Zachary and Associates is an economic planning and development group specializing in sustainability that has been a consultant to Detroit's non-profit community for over 30 years. Diane Van Buren and Ernie Zachary have been two of Detroit's busiest and most respected strategists in the development scene for decades securing more than \$50 million in grants for projects totaling over \$300 million. Projects include the Brush Park Facade Easement; adaptive re-use of four houses in Midtown's Cultural Center that became the Inn on Ferry Street; the Woodward Gateway that helped diversify the business district in New Center; the Mexicantown International Welcome Center and Mercado just to name a few. The firm has given direction to Hamtramck's Downtown Development Authority when it sought to upgrade the Jos. Campau commercial strip in the late 1990s.



*Alen Amini*



*Athina Ntvasili*



*Jianhang Xiao*



*Jordan  
Yagiela*



*Ronald Norwood*



# SPEAKERS

## DR. ABDUL EL-SAYED

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed is a physician, epidemiologist, public health expert, and progressive activist. He is the Chair of Southpaw Michigan. His forthcoming book, "Healing Politics" (Abrams Press), diagnoses our country's epidemic of insecurity and the empathy politics we will need to treat it, and he is the host of "America Dissected," a podcast by Crooked Media, which goes beyond the headlines to explore what really matters for our health. In 2018, Abdul ran for Governor of Michigan on an unapologetically progressive platform. Though he finished second of three earning over 340,000 votes in the Democratic primary, his bid was endorsed by Senator Bernie Sanders, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and The Nation. Prior, he served the City of Detroit as Health Director, appointed to rebuild Detroit's Health Department after it was privatized during the city's bankruptcy. He was the youngest health official in a major American city and was awarded "Public Official of the Year" by the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and "40 under 40" by Crain's Detroit Business in view of his leadership. Prior to entering public service, he was Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health where he lead Columbia's Systems Science Program and Global Research Analytics for Population Health. He has over 100 peer reviewed scientific publications that have been cited over 1200 times. Abdul earned a Doctorate in Public Health from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He also holds a Medical Degree from Columbia University where he was an NIH-funded Medical Scientist Training Program Fellow and Soros New Americans Fellow. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Highest Distinction from the University of Michigan, where he was chosen to deliver the student remarks alongside President Bill Clinton. He is a native Michigander who was born and raised in Metro Detroit, where he lives with his wife Sarah, a psychiatrist, and daughter Emmalee. He is a proud member of UAW Local 1981 and AFT local 477. He enjoys good people, good coffee, good food, and University of Michigan football.

## AMY PETERSON

Amy Peterson is co-founder and CEO of Rebel Nell, a social enterprise in Detroit with the mission to employ women facing barriers to employment in Detroit, educate them on financial management, life wellness and entrepreneurship, and empower them to transition to a life of independence. Prior, she was the Vice President of Special Projects & General Counsel for RISE. Amy, an attorney, moved to Detroit in 2007 to pursue her childhood dream of working in the sports industry and spent 10 years with the Detroit Tigers in various capacities and departments, including community affairs, corporate sales and as associate counsel. A Jamestown, New York, native, Amy earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where she served as captain of the women's rugby team for two years. She earned her law degree

from New England School of Law in Boston and her master of business administration degree from Suffolk University in Boston. Amy is active in the community and a proud Detroit. Amy, her husband, Antonio, and son, Odin, love to travel and climb mountains.

## **ANGELICA JONES**

Angelica Jones is the Interim Director of the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT). Angelica is responsible for running all facets of the transit system. She has a proven executive management track record and over 20 years of experience driving change in the transit industry. She held several leadership roles within city government prior to being appointed in January 2018. Under Ms. Jones leadership, DDOT accomplished the new brand logo rollout, implementation of the Connect Ten routes, restructured the fare policy, launched the mobile payment app, and currently deploying customer facing amenities; such as, WiFi capability, bus shelters, and new bus stop signage to enhance the customer experience on city buses. Her mission is execute DDOT's vision to transform the transit system from Good to Great and a make it system of choice for everyone. Angelica serves as co-chair on the board of directors of the Detroit Transportation Corporation (Detroit People Mover), a member of the board of directors for the Michigan Public Transit Association, as well as an active transit member with the America Public Transit Association. She earned a MS degree at Walsh College in Accountancy and a BS degree from Davenport University.

## **DR. ASHA SHAJAHAN**

Dr. Asha Shajahan, MD, MHSA is a board certified family physician and assistant professor in the department of family medicine and biomedical sciences at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. She also has a Master's degree in Health Services Administration. She is the medical director of community health for the Beaumont Hospital in Grosse Pointe, MI. Dr. Shajahan is the co-host of Beaumont Health's first podcast, Beaumont House Call which focuses on various health topics to empower the community to live smarter and healthier lives. She had done extensive work for the homeless and vulnerable populations through Street Medicine outreach. Dr. Shajahan won the 2019 Joyce Ivy Woman of Impact Award and is a 2017 Crain's Detroit 40 under 40 winner for her work in health disparities. She believes in natural therapies for wellness which includes empowering her patients to create their own toolbox for health by combining art and medicine. She is the founder of the DIA's Arts and Health Symposium and Dance Medicine, MD a volunteer organization of health professionals that serve predominantly underserved populations who cannot afford to pay for exercise, have limited access to cultural dance forms, and those striving for social connection. She co-designed the 8 Dimensions of Wellness course that has been taught in various communities and colleges

across Metro-Detroit. She sits on numerous nonprofit boards. Dr. Shajahan is dedicated to educating physicians on improving community health through understanding social determinants and cultural dexterity.

## **BARRY CHECKOWAY**

Barry Checkoway is the Director of Youth Civil Rights Academy. He is an internationally-recognized scholar and practitioner on youth empowerment, neighborhood development, and community change. His projects and publications draw on work with grassroots groups, community agencies, and government programs in the South Bronx, Detroit, Mississippi Delta, central Appalachia; and in South America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, with support from the World Health Organization, Ford Foundation, Kellogg Foundation and other institutions.

He is the Arthur Dunham Collegiate Professor of Social Work at the School of Social Work, and Professor of Urban Planning at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan.

Barry worked with the White House in 1990 to launch AmeriCorps, then served as founding director of the Michigan Neighborhood AmeriCorps Program, Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, Michigan Youth and Community Program, and Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity.

## **CHANALE GREER**

Chanale Greer is a Youth and Park ambassador at the Greening of Detroit. She was born and raised in Detroit and grew up in the Ella Fitzgerald community. She graduated with honors at Mumford High School and now attends Henry Ford College studying Business Administration. She's been working for The Greening of Detroit since 2014 as a crew member, intern and now as a leader in her community. Her job is to engage community, encourage stewardship, promote connectivity and activate the park.

## **CHARLES EZRA FERRELL**

Charles Ezra Ferrell is the Vice-President of Public Programs at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, where he served as a consultant and founder of the acclaimed Liberation Film Series (2012-15) and Director of Public Programs (2015-16). He edited *Free the Land! Reflections in Honor of the Significant Life, Contributions, Battles and Victories of Revolutionary Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, Esq.* (Liberation Press, 2015) and authored: "Malcolm X's Pre-Nation of Islam (NOI) Discourses" (Malcolm X's Michigan Worldview, MSU Press, 2015) and "The Voice of Black Power in Detroit: General Gordon Baker, Jr.," (Black Power Encyclopedia, ABC- CLIO, 2018). His drawings are published in *KONCH MAGAZINE*, An Ishmael Reed and Tennessee Reed Publication (July, 2018). He serves as

a board member of the General Baker Institute (GBI) and a member of the General Baker Memorial Scholarship Committee at the University of Michigan—Semester in Detroit.

## **DARNELL ADAMS**

Darnell Adams is Invest Detroit's Vice President of Implementation of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF). In this role, Darnell helps implement projects supported by SNF that intends to make Detroit full of livable, walkable and vibrant neighborhoods. Darnell was raised in Ravendale and later Cornerstone Village, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Urban & Regional Planning from Michigan State before eventually returning to the city. Since then, Darnell has worked in a variety of organizations.. As the Community Development Coordinator for the Warren/Conner Development Coalition, now known as the Eastside Community Network, Darnell focused heavily on developing community relations and reducing blight on Detroit's east side. He became a key figure in the development of the Lower Eastside Action Plan, an organization focused on the development of people, places and plans for sustainable neighborhood growth. Afterward, Darnell became involved with the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA), first as a volunteer and eventually as the Director of Inventory Management. His leadership skills and passion for community development made Darnell an asset to the DLBA. He helped created new land disposition strategies focused on neighborhood stabilization. He intentionally partnered with community groups as well as the City of Detroit and was invaluable in matters regarding public space, managing and triaging nearly 95,000 publicly owned properties.

## **DEVITA DAVISON**

Devita Davison is Executive Director at FoodLab Detroit, a membership-based nonprofit focused on entrepreneurs and communities who have been traditionally under-resourced that aims to build economic power and resilience by supporting locally owned food entrepreneurs. In this position since 2014, she works to cultivate, connect, and catalyze a supportive community of food entrepreneurs with the goal of creating a new food economy that acknowledges the importance of food justice, community representation, local ownership and sustainability. Davison was previously managing director of Detroit Kitchen Connect, a board member of Hopeful Harvest, and founder/owner of Southern Pantry Company. She was a 2014 TEDx Detroit speaker, 2014 UX Urban Innovator and was named one of 100 Women to Watch in Wellness by mindbodygreen.

## **DIANA VAN BURE**

Diana Van Buren splits time as a consultant with Zachary & Associates and as program director for the WARM Training Center, where she is working

on a Rebuild Michigan grant to help businesses and nonprofits transition to energy effacing systems and create alternative energy plans. The goal is to help implement sustainable community projects in Detroit that create new energy systems that reduce waste and create new wealth in the region.

## **EARL LEWIS**

Earl Lewis is the Director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan. From 2013-2018, he served as the President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Under his guidance, the Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to the humanities, the arts, and higher education by emphasizing the importance of continuity and change. A noted social historian, Mr. Lewis has held faculty appointments at the University of California at Berkeley (1984– 89), and the University of Michigan (1989– 2004). He has championed the importance of diversifying the academy, enhancing graduate education, re-visioning the liberal arts, exploring the role of digital tools for learning, and connecting universities to their communities. Mr. Lewis also served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies at Emory University. As Provost, Lewis led academic affairs and academic priority setting for the university.

## **ERNIE ZACHARY**

Ernie Zachary is a community development practitioner and serves as Founder & Vice-President for Development at Zachary & Associates, a Detroit-based firm specializing in all phases of economic development with specific expertise in market research, historic preservation, commercial revitalization, public/private liaison, community planning, green design, sustainable planning, project feasibility and financial packaging.

For the past 27 years, Zachary has been a primary consultant to community organizations, including Midtown Detroit, Inc., the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, the Eastern Market Development Corporation, and others. Zachary packaged the first New Markets Tax Credit project in Michigan. In addition, he has been involved with the following development finance projects: The Inn on Ferry Street, Mexicantown International Welcome Center and Mercado, New Amsterdam Project, Pinnacle Aeropark, and the Wayne County Ways of Life Project. Most recently, he developed and financed two major historic buildings in the Midtown neighborhood of Detroit: Newberry Hall Apartments and 71 Garfield. He is also the part owner and developer of the Garfield Building, the Lofts at New Amsterdam, and several other buildings within the city of Detroit.

In his previous experience, Zachary was employed by the City of Detroit as Head of the Finance Division of the Community and Economic Development Department from 1970 to 1984. In this capacity he was responsible for

securing and coordinating the financing for most of the major projects undertaken by the city during that period, including Harbortown, Riverfront Towers, The Millender Center, and Joe Louis Arena.

Zachary graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and earned a Master of Arts Degree in Economics from that same institution. In addition to the University of Detroit Mercy, he has taught at Wayne State University and has spoken at other universities and national community development conferences.

## **REV. FAITH FOWLER**

Rev. Faith Fowler is the Senior Pastor of Cass Community United Methodist Church and Executive Director of Cass Community Social Services (CCSS), a Detroit nonprofit agency which responds to poverty with programs for food, health care, housing and employment. She has held these roles since 1994. Beyond her work at CCSS, Rev. Fowler has served as a Board Member for the Cass Corridor Neighborhood Development Corporation (CCNDC), an advisory Board member of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, as well as a Board Member and Trustee for the General Board of Church and Society. She currently Chairs the Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Advisory Committee.

## **GARRY D. BULLUCK**

Garry D. Bulluck is the deputy chief of mobility innovation at the City of Detroit within the Mayor's office. In this role, he is responsible for improving resident's ability to access resources and opportunities in the city and region. These efforts include working with local public transit officials to optimize existing transit, introduction of new mobility as a service options and preparing the city and residents for the infrastructure needs and impact of automated and connected vehicles. Previously, Bulluck served as the Mayor's district manager in City Council District 3. During his tenure, he was charged with leading efforts to address blight and crime, implementation of city-wide initiatives that developed and fostered opportunities for business and residents, as well as building neighborhood leadership through the establishment of block clubs, business and community development associations.

Prior to his City service, Bulluck has worked with higher education and government institutions in Michigan, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Michigan State University where he holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, as well as bachelor's degree in Political Economics.



## **GARY RINGER**

Gary Ringer is the Founder of Eco-Environmental Solutions, a company eradicating abandoned, blighted, and fire-damaged properties from the Cody Rouge neighborhood through deconstruction services that provide a greener, more sustainable alternative to traditional demolition. He is a 20-year veteran of the Detroit Fire Department and the founder of Eco-Environmental Solutions a company eradicating abandoned, blighted, and fire-damaged properties from the Cody Rouge neighborhood through deconstruction services that provide a greener, more sustainable alternative to traditional demolition.

## **JAMON JORDAN**

Jamon Jordan is the Founder of Black Scroll Network History & Tours. He is an educator, writer & historian. Also known as Baba Jamon, he has been a teacher of African & African American history for 20 years and a researcher of Black history for decades. He taught at the African centered Nsoroma Institute in Detroit for 10 years. He now runs Black Scroll Network History & Tours, where he leads tours and presentations dealing with African & African American history in the Detroit area, and throughout Michigan and the United States. He has given over 100 tours and presentations for Detroit Public Schools, Walled Lake Public Schools, and numerous charter schools, as well as university class groups from Wayne State, Michigan State, Georgetown, New York University & the University of Michigan. He has given hundreds of lectures and presentations for schools, churches, and organizations, including the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Jewish Historical Society, and the Underground Railroad National Conference.

## **JERRELL HARRIS**

Jerrell Harris is the Vice President of Development at Urban Farmers Inc. His career has spanned the entire spectrum of transportation planning and real estate development and he has worked on projects for non-profit, for-profit, and government entities. He is a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional and works to ensure equitable economic development is as the forefront of the projects he's participated in. Jerrell has worked with CDBG, HOME and NSP funds as well as 4% & 9% tax credit projects. He recently served as Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City of Detroit and was responsible for removing barriers and eliminating inefficiencies in government operations. He is also the former Planning and Zoning Director for the City of Riviera Beach and was intimately involved with the creation of the city's Master Plan and other updates to the zoning and land use code. Jerrell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and a Masters Degree in Urban Policy Studies from Georgia State University.

## JOEL BATTERMAN

Joel Batterman is the Co-Founder and Board Member of The Motor City Freedom Riders, an organization of metro Detroit bus riders and allies, working together across the region to build a movement for better public transit service to achieve transportation freedom. Brought together by the conviction that transportation is freedom, we work together towards the following goals: Quality DDOT bus service in the city of Detroit; Restored and expanded SMART bus service in the Detroit suburbs; Rapid and reliable regional transit throughout the metropolitan Detroit area, connecting Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland, and Macomb Counties; Prioritization of public transit expansion over highway widening in the region and state.

## KAITLIN POPIELARZ

Kaitlin Popielarz is a course instructor, clinical instructional coach, and PhD Candidate in Wayne State University's College of Education. Kaitlin is a former secondary and adult education social studies teacher, which is where she developed her passion for empowering learning communities. She is a community action researcher with We The People of Detroit and an active member of MIStudentsDream.

Kaitlin's research and teaching interests include connecting teacher education programs to local communities in order to provide future educators the opportunity to learn place-conscious and culturally sustaining pedagogies for education rooted in social justice.

## KWAME SIMMONS

Kwame Simmons is a dynamic educator who uses an innovative approach to revolutionize urban education. He has dedicated his career to educating students in the urban centers of Detroit, Michigan, Saint Louis, Missouri and in the District of Columbia. His enthusiasm and depth of knowledge regarding current research in school culture, quality instruction, technology integration and assessment makes him a rarity in education. Mr. Simmons has worked tirelessly within each of his roles as an educator to turn urban schools into national models of success. He has managed to do this while creating an atmosphere that is motivating and designed to raise student achievement. Mr. Simmons is a product of the Detroit Public School System. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampton University in History and graduate degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University in Organizational Development and Leadership and Macdonough School of Business, Georgetown University in Executive Masters in Education. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. Kwame Simmons is a lifelong learner who believes that all students can learn, and deserve the opportunity to receive a high quality education no matter where they reside.

## LAUREN HOOD

Lauren Hood is the founder of Deep Dive Detroit. Passionate about the city's cultural heritage, Hood has spoken & written extensively on Preserving Black Space. She currently serves on the City of Detroit Planning Commission and as an advisor to Detroit Sound Conservancy and Urban Consulate. She has previously served as a mayoral appointee of the Detroit Historic District Commission and board member for Preservation Detroit. Through her consultancy Deep Dive Detroit, Hood conducts workshops & designs curricula on community engagement, equitable development & racial justice for civic, philanthropic & institutional clients. She also hosts popular Dinner & Dialogues for national conferences, including Meeting of the Minds and the Congress for the New Urbanism. Hood holds a Masters Degree in Community Development from the University of Detroit Mercy. A voracious traveler, she has studied cities around the world—from Cairo, Egypt to Reykjavik, Iceland.

## LATOYA MORGAN

LaToya Morgan is the founding principle of Moreé Strategic Insights. Moreé Strategic Insights is a consultancy that partners with public focused organizations to provide strategic consulting and advising in public policy, community development, and nonprofit management. The organization's holistic approach focuses on people and organizations to translate ideas into tangible action.

## LISA NUSZKOWSKI

Lisa Nuskowski is the founder and executive director of MoGo, Detroit's nonprofit bike share system, which currently serves 10 Detroit neighborhoods with 480 bikes at 44 stations and will expand to 620 bikes and 75 stations in Detroit and five suburban communities in Spring 2020. Prior to this, she has worked on urban mobility initiatives, real estate development projects, and public safety enhancements for Wayne State University's Office of Economic Development. Lisa has served in two City of Detroit administrations, as Chief of Staff to former House Majority Floor Leader in the Michigan legislature, and as Director of the statewide Michigan Foreclosure Task Force. She serves on the board of directors of the Tour de Troit and chairs its Community Support & Investments Committee.

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Central Michigan University and a Master of Public Policy from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She was recognized as one of Crain's Detroit 40 Under 40 in 2016; was a member of the Detroit Regional Chamber's Leadership Detroit Class of XXXIV; and was selected as a 2011 Marshall Memorial Fellow with the U.S. German Marshall Fund. As a proud Detroiter of nearly 16 years, she loves connecting with the city's people and places by bike and on foot.

## MALIK YAKINI

Malik Yakini is the founder and the Interim Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, which operates a four acre farm in Detroit and spearheaded efforts to establish the Detroit Food Policy Council, which he chairs. He is an activist and educator who is committed to freedom and justice for African people in particular and humanity in general. He served as a member of the Michigan Food Policy Council from 2008 – 2010. He serves on the facilitation team of Undoing Racism in the Detroit Food System. From 1990 – 2011 he served as Executive Director of Nsoroma Institute Public School Academy, one of Detroit's leading African-centered schools. In 2006 he was honored as "Administrator of the Year" by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Timbuktu Academy of Science and Technology since 2004. He is C.E.O. of Black Star Educational Management.

Malik is dedicated to working to identify and alleviate the impact of racism and white privilege on the food system. He has an intense interest in contributing to the development of an international food sovereignty movement that embraces black farmers in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa. He views the "good food revolution" as part of the larger movement for freedom, justice and equality. Yakini has presented at numerous local community meetings and national conferences on food justice and implementing community food security practices. He is featured in the book *Blacks Living Green*, and the recent movie "Urban Roots." He is a vegan and an avid organic grower. He is a musician who plays guitar, bass and dundun drums. He has traveled to Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He is the father of three.

## MARSHA MUSIC

Marsha Music is a historian and public figure dedicated to Detroit. Daughter of a legendary pre-Motown record producer, Joe Von Battle, was born in Detroit and grew up in Highland Park, Michigan, during its lush, prosperous days. She is a self-described "Detroitist," and for many years she has written about the city's music, its past and future. She is a noted presenter and she has contributed to important anthologies, oral histories, and films, including an HBO documentary. In 2012, she was awarded a Kresge Literary Arts Fellowship, and in 2015 she received a Knight Arts award, and read her poetry onstage with the Detroit Symphony. She has received accolades for her "One Woman Show – Live From Hastings Street!" and is partnered with executive producer Juanita Anderson on a documentary film project about her father's record shops, "Hastings Street Blues". Her extended essay, "The Kidnapped Children of Detroit," and epic poem, "Just Say Hi – The Gentrification Blues," have been acclaimed for creatively engaging readers in impactful historical narratives of Detroit, and will be featured in her inaugural book, scheduled for publication in November 2019. Ms. Music resides in the Palmer Park neighborhood of Detroit.

## MICHELLE SMART

Michelle Smart is the founder of Bags To Butterflies, a social enterprise that empowers formerly incarcerated women with transitional employment immediately upon their return to the community. The concept of empowering women returning home from prison began in 2014 when the daughter of a close friend was incarcerated. As a result, Bags To Butterflies became the impetus for offering female returning citizens resources to help them better their lives. The organization supports its mission by manufacturing handmade handbags that are created using repurposed wood. Our hands-on approach for our handbag production is used to demonstrate how something considered as having no value can be transformed into something new and beautiful. The ladies are shown how that same transformation can take place in their lives. The handbag collections function as a reminder to the women to “let go” of their past, “live life” with a sense of purpose, and “fly” towards their dreams. Michelle’s professional career spanned over 20 years in Corporate Communications in the automotive industry.

## MEGAN OWENS

Megan Owens is the Executive Director of Transit Riders United. Committed to the public interest, she works to help people understand how government decisions impact them and enable them to demand change, whether that’s preventing identity theft, decreasing air pollution, improving bus service, or more.

For the last decade Megan has worked to revitalize greater Detroit and improve the quality of life by improving and promoting public transit throughout the region, because great transit is critical to Michigan’s economic development, job creation, and success in the 21st century.

As Executive Director, her work spans public education, media outreach, coalition building, volunteer management, direct advocacy, fundraising, organizational management, strategic planning, and more. She is also on the Executive Committee of the RTA’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee and the Oakland County Public Transit Authority, which oversees SMART bus service in Oakland County. Dedicated to ongoing learning, she completed fellowships with Detroit Regional Chamber’s Leadership Detroit, the Michigan Nonprofit Association’s Executive Leadership Fellowship and the Center for Progressive Leadership. Previously, Ms. Owens spent six years with PIRGIM (the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan) leading the passage of state identity theft laws and advocating a reduction air pollution from coal-burning power plants. She has also worked on several political campaigns and taught environmental education in the Michigan State Parks. A nearly lifelong Michigan resident, she graduated from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and the Environment where she co-lead the nation’s largest voter registration drive and promoted community

service. She currently lives in Hazel Park with her husband and daughters and enjoys traveling, baking, video games, and Detroit's wonderful festivals.

## **MONICA LEWIS-PATRICK**

Monica Lewis-Patrick is the Co-Founder and President of We the People of Detroit. Monica (aka The Water Warrior) is actively engaged in almost every struggle on behalf of Detroit residents as an educator, entrepreneur, and human rights activist/advocate. She is an active member of the People's Water Board Coalition, US Human Rights Network, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and D-REM.org, and was named to the World Water Justice Council in October of 2015. As a former Lead Legislative Policy Analyst for Detroit City Council, Monica has authored legislation, conducted research and delivered constituency services to thousands of city residents. Monica attended the historic Bennett College. She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a Bachelors degree in Social Work and Sociology and a Masters of Arts of Liberal Studies degree with a concentration in Criminal Justice/Sociology and Public Management. She is currently one of the leaders at the forefront of the water rights struggle in Detroit.

## **NW GOLDBERG CARES DANIEL WASHINGTON, JORDAN YAGIELA**

NW Goldberg Cares is a 501(c)(3) located in the heart of Detroit's NW Goldberg neighborhood, aims to improve upon the lives of residents in the predominantly African American community by incubating neighborhood businesses, building a strong community and ensuring a family friendly neighborhood. Daniel Washington is the founder and president of NW Goldberg Cares. As a life-long resident of NW Goldberg, Daniel sees his community as a prime example of a neighborhood in need of investment. With an education from Detroit's renown Wayne State University - the 25-year-old has years of experience in marketing and communications. To Daniel, founding ORIGINAL CREATIVITY was his way of making sure the work he did as a child is spread beyond 15th St and is inclusive to all NW Goldberg residents. Jordan Yagiela is the Executive Director of Northwest Goldberg Cares. Jordan is a 2019 Humanity in Action Senior Fellow. For more information, view her Fellow bio.

## **ORLANDO BAILEY**

Orlando Bailey is the Detroit Urban Consulate host, interviewing native Detroiters and people from all over the world every Wednesday evening in front of a live audience who work to make cities better in a parlor talk format. Orlando also serves as the Chief Development Officer at Eastside Community Network (ECN). Orlando's current role allows him to build

strategic organizational partnerships, grow discretionary revenue, and expand resources for ECN that will enable the organization to better serve the southeast side of Detroit. He constantly advocates for the co-creation of projects, plans, and development efforts with existing residents and partners for sustainable and equitable neighborhoods. Orlando believes that practical application of lived experience coupled with technical expertise could be advantageous to neighborhoods if properly facilitated. He's is a regular contributor to 105.9 KISS/FM on the "Mildred Gaddis Show" with his own segment entitled the "The Millennial Moment." He's had the privilege to stand on many stages in his career including the TEDx stage. Orlando is Knight Foundation Fellow in their Emerging City Champions program with 880 Cities in Toronto. He was a part of the "Detroit Delegation" of PlaceLab Fellows that traveled to Chicago regularly for salons with Theaster Gates to learn about Ethical Redevelopment Principles. Orlando serves as Chairman of the Board for One Detroit Credit Union and serves on other boards and committees all throughout southeastern Michigan.

## **DR. PAUL THOMAS**

Dr. Paul Thomas is a board-certified family medicine physician practicing in Southwest Detroit. His practice is called Plum Health DPC, a Direct Primary Care service that is the first of its kind in Detroit and Wayne County. His mission is to deliver affordable, accessible health care services in Detroit and beyond. He has been featured on WDIV-TV Channel 4, Crain's Detroit Business and CBS Radio. He has been a speaker at TEDxDetroit and is a graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine. You can find out more at <https://www.plumhealthdpc.com>.

## **STEPHANIE HARBIN**

Stephanie Harbin is the San Juan Block Club President. She graduated from Mumford High School, attended Detroit College of Business now known as Davenport University where she graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. She received a Master's Degree of Theology from Destiny Christian University. She was employed with General Motors Company for 30 years and retired in January, 2017. Stephanie began her community journey as a volunteer while employed with General Motors. She is a Board Member with Fitzgerald Community Council, President of the San Juan Block Club, partners with the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), a member of the College Core Block Club, and an active participant with the Fitzgerald Revitalization Project. She received "The Power of One Dedicated Woman" award from the Michigan Community Resources Organization.

## STEPHEN HENDERSON

Stephen Henderson is host of Detroit Today and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. A native of Detroit, Henderson is a graduate of University of Detroit High School and the University of Michigan. His resume includes stints at the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and four years covering the Supreme Court for Knight Ridder's Washington Bureau. Henderson's reputation and ability to have fact-based, fair and compelling conversations makes him a leading figure in the Detroit community. He is the founder of the Tuxedo Project, a community-based literary and community center on the west side of Detroit. The Tuxedo Project's mission is to revitalize the Stephen's childhood neighborhood by creating public space and programming centered on five pillars of community vitality: the Arts, education, food security, housing security, and economic opportunity.

## TANYA SALDIVAR-ALI

Tanya Saldivar-Ali is the co-founder of AGI Construction and the 18th Street Design Build Hub. Her company, AGI, provides commercial interior remodeling, retrofitting, and building services to community development projects. Through the 18th Street Design Build Hub project, Tanya is developing a local construction industry pipeline by creating a space in Southwest Detroit where residents and local businesses can collaborate on development processes. At the 18th Street Design Build Hub, neighborhood residents can explore careers in construction, design, and placemaking while receiving on-the-job training.

## TODD SCOTT

Todd Scott is the Executive Director of the Detroit Greenways Coalition. The Coalition is a non-profit organization committed to making Detroit a world-class city for biking, walking, trails, Complete Streets and more. Scott began working with the Coalition in 2008 as Detroit Greenways Coordinator for the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA). He has led advocacy efforts and helped encourage much greater support for trails and biking in Detroit. One result is the miles of bike lanes and pathways in Detroit have grown from a dozen to over 240. Other milestones include development of the Joe Louis Greenway concept, a Detroit Greenway Network Vision, and bike/pedestrian access on the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Prior to working in Detroit, Scott was executive director for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association. In his spare time he enjoys exploring Detroit on bike and ultra-running.



# ABOUT HUMANITY IN ACTION

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Humanity in Action is a transatlantic non-profit organization that educates, inspires and connects a community of students and young professionals committed to the values of pluralism, human rights and civic engagement in their own communities and around the world. Our goal is to inspire responsible leadership to meet the local and global challenges of social division and social conflict.

Antisemitism, racism, islamophobia, trans- and homophobia, misogyny, and other forms of discrimination and hatred are testing pluralistic and democratic societies. Our programs address these issues head-on. Since its founding over two decades ago, Humanity in Action has engaged over 2,000 leaders in a variety of educational human rights programs in Europe and the United States. They now form a unique international alumni community committed to

informed civic engagement and human rights.

Our programs are testing grounds for thinking anew with activists, experts, policymakers, artists and business leaders about complex issues of pluralism. We identify new

generations of social, cultural, political and other change makers and offer them multifaceted and collaborative education that bridges the

historical with the contemporary.

Humanity in Action's annual Fellowship brings together about 150 European and US college and university students, as well as young professionals based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the United States. Throughout a four-week, on-site program, Humanity in Action Fellows meet emerging and established leaders of diverse backgrounds and collectively look at historical and contemporary issues.

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HUMANITY IN ACTION  
EDUCATES, INSPIRES  
AND CONNECTS A  
TRANSATLANTIC  
COMMUNITY

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Upon completing the on-site component of the Fellowship, Fellows return to their communities and implement an Action Project as a way of giving back and sharing their newly acquired knowledge and skills. Action Projects are as diverse as Humanity in Action Fellows; they are a valuable resource to the communities in which they are rooted.

Humanity in Action maintains an international alumni community of students, young professionals, established leaders and experts in various fields, providing Fellows and Senior Fellows with a range of educational and career opportunities. These have included seminars, workshops, study trips and other Professional Fellowships at leading civic and political institutions, such as the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio and Georgia. Through its programs and partnerships with outstanding civic and educational organizations including the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, The New School, The POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Anne Frank House and the Bertelsmann Foundation North America, Humanity in Action

contributes in innovative ways to advance human rights and democratic freedoms.

Humanity in Action is a non-profit organization with governing and advisory boards in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States. Humanity in Action's international headquarters are in New York City. Major supporters of Humanity in Action have included the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the William H. Donner Foundation, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Dutch Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport and the U.S. Department of State.

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## NOTES

## NOTES

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