



News Release

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DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMPLETES A 10-WEEK "MUSEUM MAKEOVER" AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Free Grand Re-Opening weekend events take place
Friday, September 29th – Sunday, October 1st

For the last 10 weeks, the Detroit Historical Society has taken a short break from showing and telling history to make some history of its own.

The Society's flagship attraction, the Detroit Historical Museum, has been closed since July 24th so contractors can upgrade exhibits and facilities. This massive effort, dubbed the "Museum Makeover," officially culminates with a "Grand Re-Opening" weekend celebration starting Friday, September 29th with special hours.

This celebration features free admission all weekend long, complimentary refreshments down in the Museum's signature Streets of Old Detroit, and free gifts to the first 100 people through the doors each day.

Grand Re-Opening Weekend hours are the following:
Friday, September 29th – Noon – 9 p.m. :
Saturday, September 30th – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. :
Sunday, October 1st – Noon – 5 p.m.

When guests visit the Museum, they will notice close to \$800,000 in upgrades. Specifically, visitors will notice the following changes:

Upgrades that make the Detroit Historical Museum user-friendly:
External signs to guide guests along Kirby Street to the parking lot
A brightly-lit pedestrian walkway from the parking lot to the Museum entrance
Improved signage inside the Museum to help guests navigate between exhibits
A new full-color visitor's guide
Improvements to the building that will make it a pleasant place to visit:
A totally new Museum welcome center at the Kirby Street entrance
Fresh paint inside and out
New carpet in most exhibition halls and galleries
New ceilings in some spaces
Improved lighting in some exhibition halls
New exhibits:

New to the Collection, a changing display of cool artifacts recently obtained by the Society, including hats from the late Detroit City Councilwoman Kay Everett and items from the 2005 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and Super Bowl XL; Treasures of the Collection, an "A to Z" display of over 100 of the most distinctive items from the Museum's expansive collection of historic artifacts, including an 18th century wampum belt, a baseball signed by Ty Cobb, items from the downtown Hudson's store, Vernors memorabilia, a microphone signed by legendary Tiger broadcast voice Ernie Harwell, and a dress uniform from Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings; Fabulous Five: Detroit's Music Legends, a tribute to five noteworthy musicians from metro Detroit, featuring hip hop luminary Eminem (aka Marshall Mathers), Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, techno founder Derrick May, rock and roller Bob Seger and Motown stalwart Stevie Wonder; Digital Dress: Women About Town, an interactive exhibit that displays how women's clothes evolved during the 20th century featuring pieces from the costume collections of Meadow Brook Hall, The Henry Ford, Wayne State University, and the Detroit Historical Museum; Detroit Then & Now, an outstanding collection of prints from 19th Century Detroit and photographs of our City in the 21st Century; Automobile Showplace, a rotating display of historic cars from the Museum's collection, starting with a 1910 Packard Touring Car. Improvements to popular exhibits The Streets of Old Detroit, the Museum's signature attraction, Frontiers to Factories, a look at the economic evolution of metro Detroit's first 200 years, and The Glancy Trains, will be repaired and enhanced. The Motor City exhibit, which tells the story of the region's automotive heritage, will undergo several renovations, including new lighting and the creation of an interactive design area. Doorway to Freedom, a look at the area's role in the Underground Railroad, will be enhanced to include more in-depth information. A new video presentation that tells the story of "Meier's Wonderful Clock"

Additional elements of the Society's plan call for increasing lectures, special events, and tours, as well as a similar makeover at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum in 2007.

"The Society's new vision is to create a shared sense of community and pride by celebrating the history and unique culture of our region," Bury said. "This important effort clearly moves us in that direction."

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (corner of Kirby) in Detroit's Cultural Center area, is open Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. The new regular admission prices are \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors (60+), students and youth ages 5-18, and free for children ages four and under. Permanent exhibits include the famous Streets of Old Detroit, Frontiers to Factories, The Motor City, and The Glancy Trains. For more information, call (313) 833-1805 or check out our website at www.detroithistorical.org.