65th Annual
Michigan in Perspective
Local History Conference
March 24-25, 2023

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The conference will take place in Novi, Michigan, at the

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9-10 a.m. Opening Keynote

**Hitsville USA:**
The Motown Museum Story
Robin Terry, Chairwoman and CEO of Motown Museum

The Motown Museum encapsulates the history of the renowned record label founded by Berry Gordy Jr. in 1959. “The Little House That Rocked the World” stands today as a testament to the authentic, humble beginnings of Motown—as well as its breakthrough as the “Sound of Young America” and lasting musical impacts. This keynote will detail not only the history of the museum but also its ongoing expansion efforts.

New for 2023!

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Transforming Detroit: The First Great Migration
David Goldberg, Wayne State University

The First Great Migration was one of the largest population shifts in U.S. history. Learn about the people who sought better lives in Detroit, the formation of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, and the living and working conditions that migrants faced.

The Kosher Meat Riot of 1910
Jeannie Weiner, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

In April 1910, the prices of kosher meat in Detroit soared. Inspired by events in New York and New Jersey, local Jewish women organized and enforced a boycott of kosher meat—even opening a co-op market to help feed the community.

Viola Liuzzo and the Civil Rights Movement
Becca Hayes, University of Missouri

Detroit activist Viola Liuzzo is often considered to be the only white woman killed during the Civil Rights Movement. Learn how her story has been used for complex, complicated, and often conflicting sociopolitical and cultural purposes over time.

Detroit-Style Pizza: An International Sensation
Karen Dybis, JCK Magazine

Detroit-style pizza first hit the scene in 1946 at Buddy’s Rendezvous—a former bar turned pizzeria. Explore the history of pizza, its evolution into the cheesy blend of Sicilian and something completely new, and its impacts on Detroit and the pizza industry.

Forever Changed: The Detroit Race Riot of 1943
Thomas A. Klug, University of Detroit Mercy

Decades of racial tension and conflict erupted in June 1943—forever changing the lives of Detroiters and the way the nation viewed the city. Join the speaker in examining the photographs and written records that tell the stories of the Race Riot.

The Forgotten Iron King: Eber Brock Ward
Michael W. Nagle, West Shore Community College

Though Eber Brock Ward began his career as a mere cabin boy, he was the richest man in Michigan when he died in 1875. Examine his vast, innovative business empire and the scandals, family squabbles, and national conflict that overshadowed his legacy.
Join us for a luncheon as Rick Snyder—the forty-eighth governor of Michigan—shares a retrospective of his time serving the state and its people in an interview with Chuck Stokes, WXYZ’s director of editorial and public affairs. From 2011 to 2019, the former governor navigated various issues and policies that affected Michiganders. Follow the path of Snyder’s tenure as he reflects on his time as the Head of State.

**Friday, March 24**

11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Lunch Keynote

**In Conversation:**

**Governor Rick Snyder**

Rick Snyder, Former Michigan Governor
Interviewed by Chuck Stokes, WXYZ Detroit

1:45-2 p.m. Exhibit Hall and Networking Time

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2-3:15 p.m.

Presidential Foundations: The Ulysses S. Grant House
Maud Lyon, Independent Consultant

In 1849-1850, Julia and Ulysses Grant rented a house in Detroit. The valued historical structure was moved to Eastern Market in 2019. Explore both the past and future of the house—and the opportunities it offers for history, learning, and connection.

Water Colors: Artists View the Detroit River
Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society (Ret.)

Prior to the advent of photography, painters and illustrators captured the waterfront scenes of Detroit and Windsor. See the story of the Detroit River through the work of artists who preserved it for us with paint, brush, pencil, and camera.

Here Lies Chief Pontiac: An Apple Island Myth
Catherine Cangany, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

Nineteenth-century lore places the burial site of Chief Pontiac on Michigan’s Apple Island—though most scholars agree he was probably buried in St. Louis. Where did this tall tale come from, and what can it tell us about Michigan’s settler colonists?

Josephine Gomon: The Conscience of Detroit
Michelle McClellan, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

A dedicated social justice advocate, Josephine Gomon served in influential roles in Detroit and was active in the labor movement. She stood for racial justice, civil liberties, and reproductive rights. Join the speaker for an illustrated overview of Gomon’s life.

Students on Strike: The Northern High School Walkout
Judy Walker & Panel, Social Activist & Leaders of the Movement

In 1966, Black students at Northern High School staged a walkout following racist treatment by the administration. Follow the history of the event—which garnered more than 2,000 participants—and see how young Detroiters played a crucial role in the Civil Rights Movement.

A Hub of History: Hamtramck at 100
Greg Kowalski, Hamtramck Historical Museum

Explore the notable events and milestones of the city of Hamtramck’s 100-year history, which features three national historic districts, six Michigan Historical Markers, increased cultural diversity, and one of the last remaining Negro League baseball stadiums in the country.
Michigan Avenue: The “Old Chicago Road”  
Jon Milan & Gail Offen, Arcadia Publishing & Lawrence Technological University

Join the presenters on a pictorial road trip along the section of Michigan Avenue called the “Old Chicago Road”—the only automobile route between Detroit and Chicago prior to the construction of I-94. Along the way, discover its historical and cultural significance over the years.

From Pharmacy to Factory: Vernor’s Ginger Ale  
Keith Wunderlich, The Vernor’s Club

First introduced in 1866, Vernor’s is America’s oldest continuously produced soda pop. Using historical photos and advertising, this session will explore how James Vernor went from a full-time pharmacist to the president of Detroit’s ginger ale empire.

Exploring Faith: Orthodox Ethnicities in Detroit  
Robert Bruttell, University of Detroit Mercy

There is not much documentation on the largely oral histories of Christian Orthodox communities in Detroit, yet their cultural presence and historic influence are undeniable. Learn about the people of different ethnicities who built churches, stores, and more in the city.

Crossing the Red Line: The Legacy of Sipes v. McGhee  
Peter J. Hammer, Wayne State University Law School

In 1944, Orsel and Minnie McGhee became one of the first Black families to defy restrictive, segregated covenant housing on Detroit’s West Side. Their move led to a Supreme Court case enabling African Americans’ freedom to choose where to reside.

Shaping the Island: Early Women of Mackinac  
Katherine Mallory, Educator/Historian

Far more than fudge and forts, Mackinac Island is rich in women’s history. Explore the many female figures—including a fur trader, a tribal leader, a poet, and several others—who helped shape the iconic island’s politics and culture over the centuries.

Take to the Lakes: Michigan’s Role in Shipping  
Eric Hirsimaki, Author

We know the Great Lakes today as bountiful waters for recreation, but few consider their vast shipping history. Learn about the early exploration and settlements that made the lakes some of the most advantageous waterways for North-American industry.
5:30-7 p.m. Friday Evening Reception

An Evening at
Mill Race Village

Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold St., Northville, MI 48167

Step into the past at the Northville Historical Society’s Mill Race Village for our casual evening reception, where you can network and mingle with old friends, new acquaintances, and other conference attendees. Explore the historic heart of Northville through the buildings, artifacts, and grounds of the village, which is home to the 1845 Greek Revival-style New School Church, the Cady Inn, and much more. There will be light refreshments and a cash bar. Ticket required for entry.

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8-9:45 a.m. Breakfast Keynote

A Cultural Caretaker: The Life of Linda Woods
Linda Woods, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Join us as Linda Woods recounts her life—from Detroit to Peshawbestown and beyond, through service to her country and her community as a social worker and culture consultant, to life following retirement. Learn how she was presented with an eagle head, Migizi, to create a healing eagle staff for women veterans and their families, as she travels to tribal communities throughout Michigan, the United States, and even other countries to share her story.

9:45-10 a.m. Exhibit Hall and Networking Time
From Aladdin to Sears: America’s Kit Homes  
Ron Campbell, Economic Development Department, Oakland County

Did your house come from a catalog? Thousands of American homes did—purchased from Sears, Montgomery Ward, Aladdin Homes, and other companies. Discover the world of America’s mail-order homes, which included everything from windows to paint to nails.

Forward Down the Field: The Detroit Lions, 1934-1959  
Jeremy Dimick & Bill Dow, Detroit Historical Society & Writer

Trace the Detroit Lions’ move from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Detroit in 1934 through their glory years of the 1950s. Among other topics, you will revisit the first Thanksgiving Day game in 1934 and the Lions’ first World Championship in 1935.

The March Before the March: Detroit’s Walk to Freedom  
Jamon Jordan, Official Historian of the City of Detroit & HSM Board of Trustees

In what became known as “the largest civil rights demonstration in the nation’s history” at the time, 125,000 people marched down Woodward Avenue during the Detroit Walk to Freedom of 1963. Learn about the event’s participants and impact on the March on Washington.

Desegregating Boblo Boats: The Story of Sarah E. Ray  
Aaron Schillinger, Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale and the Sarah E. Ray Project

Many Detroiters fondly remember Boblo Island, yet few remember that the amusement park and its ferries were once segregated. Hear the story of Sarah Elizabeth Ray, who filed a criminal complaint that paved the way for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The Question of Power: Pioneer-Era Motorcars  
Jay Follis, Gilmore Car Museum (Ret.)

During the pioneer era of the motorcar, the biggest question was how the invention would be powered. Between cars fueled by steam, electricity, and gasoline, the latter was the worst seller of the group. How and why did gas cars become the standard?

The Battle of the Overpass  
Gavin Strassel, Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs

In May 1937, Ford security attacked UAW organizers as they handed out flyers outside the River Rouge Plant. Learn about the “Battle of the Overpass”—a turning point for the labor movement—and the ways it parallels labor efforts today.
11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Lunch Keynote

**Frank Murphy: Darkness and Sunshine in Detroit**
Hank Meijer, Meijer, Inc.

Although perhaps best known for his time on the U.S. Supreme Court, Frank Murphy contributed years of public service to his home state of Michigan. This keynote will offer a new look at the former governor’s days in Detroit. Serving as mayor of the city from 1930 to 1933, Murphy guided Detroiter through the early years of the Depression—when his progressive philosophy garnered the attention of President Franklin Roosevelt.
2-3:15 p.m.

Breaking Barriers: Cornelius L. Henderson
Howard Lindsey & David L. Head, Association for the Study of African American Life and History - Detroit & The Black Historic Sites Committee

Cornelius L. Henderson accomplished great feats of architectural and civil engineering throughout the Great Lakes region. The second African American to graduate from the U-M College of Engineering, he is known for his work on the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel.

Artifacts in Austria: An Odawa Lens
Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

In the late nineteenth century, two Austrian collectors compiled hundreds of Anishinaabe artifacts to bring back to Europe. Today, a partnership between the Weltmuseum Wien and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians seeks to accurately portray this material culture.

Preserving Local History: Dearborn, Livonia, and Northville
Tyler Moll, Emily Tchorz-Fielder, & Leanie Bayly, Dearborn Historical Museum, City of Livonia, & Northville Historical Society

Join city leaders from Dearborn, Livonia, and Northville to discuss their initiatives to save historical buildings and artifacts in their communities. Rich in culture and history, these three cities strive to preserve the stories contained within the structures of the past.

Ukranians in Michigan: Community and Culture
Paul M. & Maryna Hedeen, Wartburg College (Ret.) & Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools

Since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Ukrainian immigrants have come to call Michigan home. Follow their path of nation building and learn how the community remains strong and ever-present through its culture, literature, music, and more.

The Trailblazing Harriet Tenney
Valerie R. Marvin, Michigan State Capitol

A trailblazer of formidable talent, Harriet Tenney was the first woman to serve as a state officer and state librarian in Michigan. Learn about her groundbreaking work within the state government, as well as her efforts to improve the Lansing community and educational opportunities for women.

Albert Kahn’s Legacy on Belle Isle
Chris Meister, Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation

The 1900 competition to design the Belle Isle Aquarium & Horticultural Building posed a challenge to city architects. Determined to improve his struggling business, Albert Kahn took inspiration from the discoveries of natural scientists in preparing his winning entry.
An Unseen Enemy: The PBB Crisis

Brittany Fremion, Central Michigan University

In early 1974, the Michigan Department of Agriculture quarantined more than 500 farms following a catastrophic mistake at Michigan Chemical Corporation, whereafter a fire retardant was accidentally mixed into animal feed at a Farm Bureau Services co-op. While the agricultural and economic impacts were immediately apparent, it took decades to demonstrate the long-term health implications for exposed Michiganders. This keynote examines the history and memories of the PBB disaster, as well as what we’ve learned 50 years later.

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The Historical Society of Michigan is offering event apparel for conference attendees! Join HSM in celebrating this historic conference with your exclusive event T-shirt. Order yours today on the registration form.

Order your shirt* with your conference registration on the next page or at hsm.pub/lhc2023

*Conference shirts will be given to attendees with their on-site registration materials during the event.

Questions? Contact HSM at (800) 692-1828 or email hsm@hsmichigan.org

Conference Hotel

Hyatt Place Hotel

46080 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48374
Call (800) 233-1234 and Request Group Code “G-HSOM”

Conference Rate: $139/night
On-site event parking included with booking

Request the Historical Society of Michigan rate when you make your reservation. Rate is guaranteed until February 23, 2023. If there are still rooms after that date, rate may still be available. You can make your reservations online by scanning the QR code on the left or by calling (800) 233-1234 and requesting group code G-HSOM.

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Friday-Saturday, March 24-25, 2023

Early-Bird Registration Ends: February 13, 2023
Standard Registration Ends: March 17, 2023*
Walk-In Registration Ends: March 24-25, 2023*

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Full-conference registration includes all conference breakout sessions, both the Friday Morning Keynote and Friday Evening Reception, the Saturday Closing Keynote, and exhibit-hall access. Saturday-only registration includes all Saturday conference breakout sessions, the Saturday Closing Keynote, and exhibit-hall access. Learn more about those events within the booklet.

Please select your meal choice:
- Regular
- Friday Lenten/Regular
- Vegetarian
- Gluten-Free

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On-site parking is $5 per vehicle, per day. Day-of parking permits are available for cash only; pre-purchased parking vouchers will be available online. Guests staying at the Hyatt Place will receive a parking voucher when they check in for complimentary parking.

*Cut-off for Standard Registration is Friday, March 17, 5 p.m. Registrants who sign up after that time will not be able to select the paid keynote add-ons (Friday Lunch, Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Lunch).

Register online at hsmichigan.org • Call (800) 692-1828 • Mail this form one per attendee and your payment (payable to the Historical Society of Michigan) to Local History Conference, 7435 Westshire Dr., Lansing, MI 48917