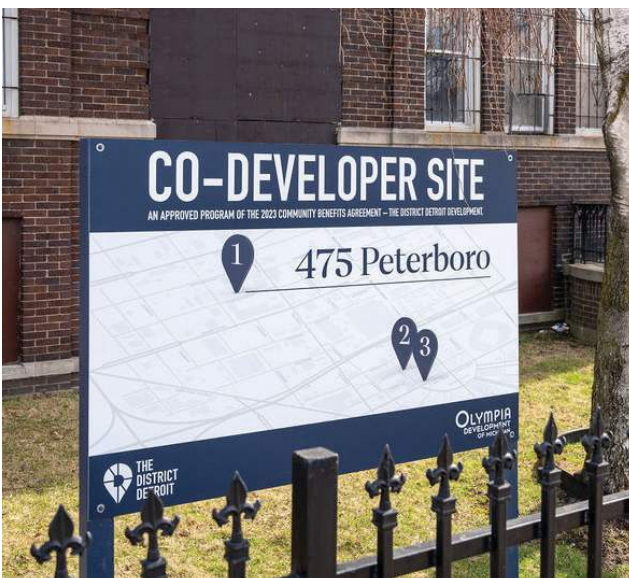


The District Detroit Opportunity Center Welcomes 200 Visitors, Hosts 12 Events in 2025



The District Detroit Opportunity Center is off to a fast start and has welcomed more than 200 visitors and hosted 12 community events so far in 2025. The District Detroit Opportunity Center has also expanded its partnerships with various Metro-Detroit based businesses and organizations such as, Michigan Women Forward, Detroit Means Business, Motor City Match, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Comerica Bank, Detroit Housing Network, Motor City Contractor Fund, and the University of Michigan Center for Innovation.



Olympia Development and Related Companies Submit Annual Community Benefits Agreement Update

Olympia Development and Related Companies submitted The District Detroit's second Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) annual update to the City of Detroit Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity department. The report highlighted progress on a wide variety of community benefits tied to the CBA including an update on the successful operation of The District Detroit Opportunity Center, contributions to the Detroit Affordable Housing Development and Preservation Fund, and progress on Olympia Development's Co-Developer Program.

The University of Michigan Center for Innovation Holds Community Input Session

The University of Michigan Center for Innovation (UMCI) will be a world-class research, education and entrepreneurship center that will have a variety of academic programs, including new interdisciplinary graduate degrees and certificate programs aligned to the skills of the future needed to attract startups as well as major employers to the region. Representatives of the UMCI held a community engagement session to receive input on the projects and services that members of the public would like to see in their community. The UMCI is now under construction in The District Detroit at the corner of Columbia Street and Grand River and is expected to welcome students in 2027.



Olympia Development Seeks Detroit-Based Partners for Third Co-Developer Site



Invitations for Olympia's third Co-Developer opportunity were sent to Detroit-based development teams. The next redevelopment opportunity is for the two parcels at 44 & 48 W. Adams. Olympia Development's Co-Developer Program provides opportunities for Detroit-based, Detroit-headquartered, or Detroit resident-owned development companies to combine expertise and revitalize buildings. Development proposals currently under consideration are 475 Peterboro (Woodstock) and 88 W. Columbia Street (Blenheim).



IMAGINE Networking Event & Book Signing

The mission of the IMAGINE Mentoring Program is to teach young women who have experienced trauma to imagine the power of their potential, increase their self-esteem through self-awareness, and encourage them to pursue their dreams despite the obstacles they face in their lives. Latonya Garth celebrated the publication of her first children’s book “When Kids IMAGINE,” at The District Detroit Opportunity Center and signed copies for the many visitors.

Candidly Speaking Hosts a Community Conversation

Candidly Speaking is a black-owned greeting card and stationery house creating heartfelt and comedic messages for every occasion. The company hosted a community conversation centered on romantic love, parental love and the grief of the loss of love with a primary focus on how these topics particularly affect African Americans at The District Detroit Opportunity Center.



Strong Towns Holds Membership Meeting Focused on Improving Communities

The Strong Towns Detroit Chapter is part of a national nonprofit volunteer and advocacy group dedicated to safe streets, clean parks, mobility infrastructure, affordable housing and other goals that make Detroit a more livable and enjoyable community. Members recently volunteered to maintain overgrown sidewalks and alleys in North Corktown and participated in Michigan Department of Transportation meetings to discuss upgrades to Michigan Ave. The group held a membership meeting at The District Detroit Opportunity Center to coordinate upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and general operations.

Wayne State University Students learn about new Neighborhood & History Study



Olympia Development of Michigan and Related Companies selected Wayne State University to complete The District Detroit Arts & Culture Neighborhood History Study and Report. The study and report will include research, documentation, and recommended memorialization of Detroiters history with a focus on Brush Park, Paradise Valley, Cass Corridor, Black Bottom and Cass Park. The \$50,000 research initiative was defined in The District Detroit's Community Benefits Agreement, an agreement between developers, the city of Detroit, and The District Detroit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC). Students participating in the study visited The District Detroit Opportunity Center in February and discussed the project with representatives of the city, the development team, and the NAC.

Wayne State University Men's Baseball Team Celebrates Accomplishments

In collaboration with the Detroit Tigers Community Impact initiative, the Wayne State University Men's Baseball team met at The District Detroit Opportunity Center for a celebratory team breakfast to recognize their accomplishments throughout the season. After breakfast, the team enjoyed a private tour of the world-class Little Caesars Global Resource Center.





OWL Social Innovations Holds “123” Real Estate Fireside Chat

The OWL By Drake Wilkins hosted the second installment of their “123” series aimed at helping local entrepreneurs navigate business challenges at The District Detroit Opportunity Center. The series focused on customer engagement, new pathways to exposure and how to generate new customer leads. The organization works to support entrepreneurs in Detroit to build their communities from within via training, business services, and loans.

Detroit City Councilman Scott Benson hosts Staff Retreat

The District Detroit Opportunity Center hosted Council Member Scott Benson’s annual staff retreat and planning session where he and his staff discussed goals, best practices, and constituent concerns. Providing meeting space to local governments and community groups is a complimentary service of The District Detroit Opportunity Center.



Detroit Home Accessibility Program Holds Training Session

The Detroit Home Accessibility Program (DHAP) provides eligible Detroit residents with grant-funded modifications to the entries and exits of their homes so that homeowners can enter and exit their homes safely and independently. The DHAP training session welcomed 18 members at The District Detroit Opportunity Center.



Wise Guys Chess Club Open House for Youths

The Wise Guys Chess Club empowers youth to learn and define their identity while gaining the mental fortitude that will carry into their everyday lives through the game of chess. The organization held an open house and networking mixer where they presented their goals for 2025 at The District Detroit Opportunity Center.



Motor City Contractor Fund Supports Members

The Motor City Contractor Fund is a business growth initiative that provides technical assistance along with flexible and affordable lending to Detroit-based contractors. Participants receive 10 months of technical assistance, coaching, and supportive resources. The Motor City Contractor Fund held a free growth and financial tracking event for 14 of their members at The District Detroit Opportunity Center.

Detroit Housing Network Holds HOPE Training for Members

The Detroit Housing Network (DHN), comprised of more than 15 housing-related non-profits across the City of Detroit, held a training session for more than 40 attendees on the 2025 DHN-Salesforce HOPE application at The District Detroit Opportunity Center. HOPE stands for Homeowners Property Exemption, which is a City of Detroit program that allows homeowners to be exempt from their current year property taxes based on household income or other circumstances.

