

Ilitch Companies Host Students at NAACP Detroit Fight for Freedom Dinner



As part of its ongoing commitment to empowering the community, expanding access to opportunity, and uplifting current and future generations of Detroiters, the Ilitch Companies proudly sponsored the Detroit NAACP’s 70th Annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner this June. Beyond supporting this landmark event, the Ilitch Companies also welcomed ten bright, local students from the Umoja Debate League and the Cody Rouge Community Alliance—helping to inspire the next generation of leaders.



The District Detroit Opportunity Center Hosts Community Days at Comerica Park

The District Detroit Opportunity Center (TDDOC) collaborates with a wide network of local partners to connect Detroiters with vital resources—from employment opportunities to housing support. This summer, TDDOC is celebrating the impactful work of these community champions through its Community Days at the Ballpark initiative. Aligned with one of the Detroit Tigers’ Marquee Weekends at Comerica Park, the program offered honorees game tickets and a pre-game reception in recognition of their service. In June, TDDOC proudly honored the Homeless Action Network of Detroit for its unwavering commitment to helping individuals and families access affordable housing and take meaningful steps toward homeownership.

Networking Event in collaboration with Detroit Tigers Black in Baseball Weekend

In a vibrant celebration of culture, legacy, and community, nearly one hundred guests from the Michigan Black Business Alliance and the Wayne State University National Pan-Hellenic Council gathered at The District Detroit Opportunity Center for a special Black in Baseball pre-game networking event. Held during Black in Baseball Weekend, the Detroit Tigers—alongside proud partner Comerica Bank—honored the trailblazers whose contributions have shaped the rich history of Tigers baseball. The weekend served not only as a tribute to past heroes but also as an inspiration for future generations to carry forward the spirit and excellence of the game.



Michigan Women Forward Lending Team in The District Detroit

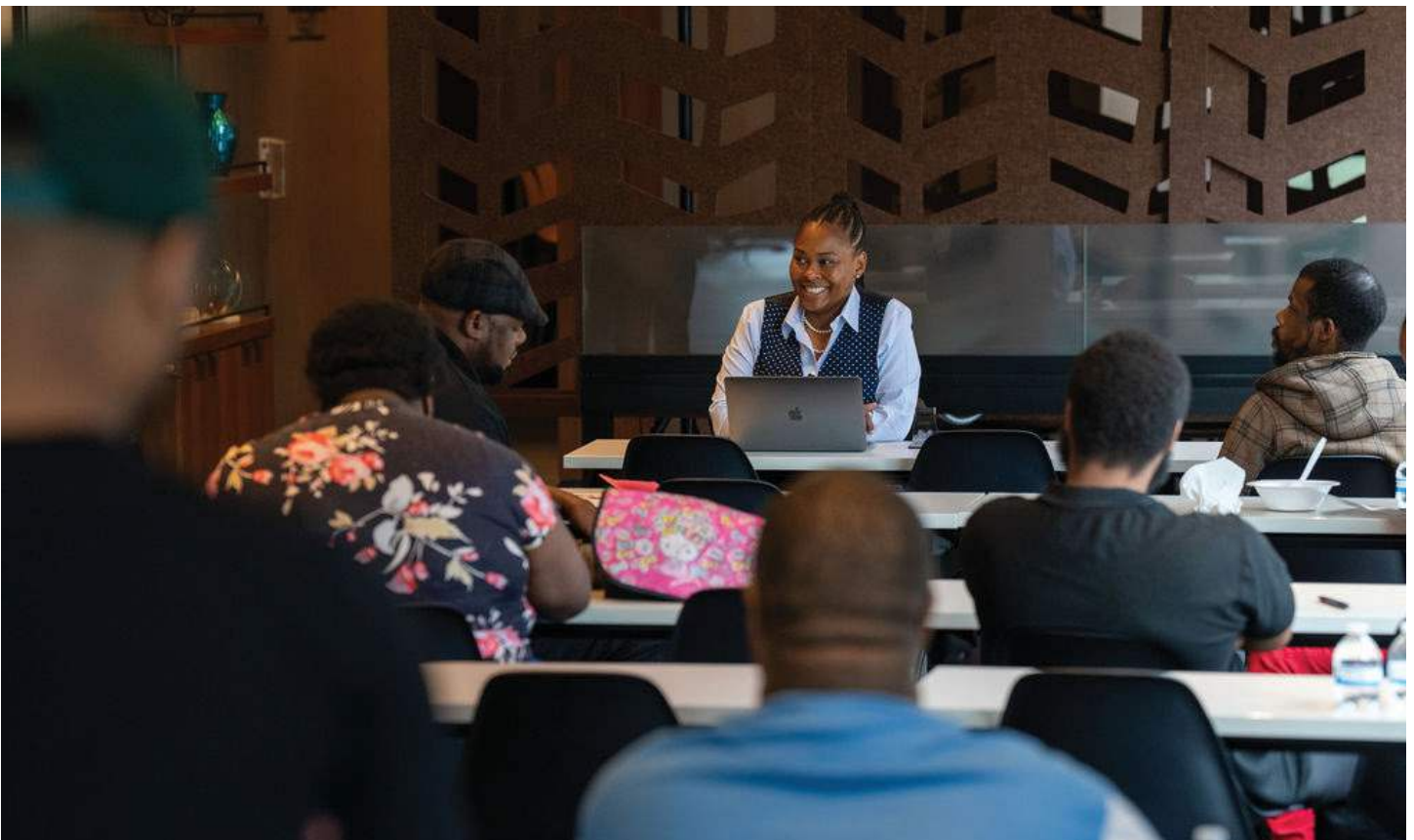


Michigan Women Forward (MWF) is a dynamic nonprofit organization committed to advancing the economic power of women and minorities through access to microloans, mentorship, and entrepreneurial support. By equipping women with the tools and resources needed to launch and grow successful businesses, MWF is helping to build stronger, more inclusive communities across Michigan. In April and May, the Michigan Women Forward Lending Team came together for an inspiring team-building retreat at The District Detroit Opportunity Center fostering collaboration, leadership, and a shared vision for empowering the next generation of women entrepreneurs.



Motor City Contractor Fund Hosts Workshop

The Motor City Contractor Fund (MCCF) is a powerful business growth initiative designed to unlock opportunity for Detroit-based contractors by providing technical assistance, personalized coaching, and access to flexible, affordable lending. In May, MCCF hosted its energizing Growth Plan Workshop at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, where a new cohort of participants was warmly welcomed into the program. This workshop marked the beginning of an exciting journey for these entrepreneurs, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to scale their businesses and strengthen Detroit's local economy. Past participants have gone on to grow their operations, secure larger projects, and build lasting impact in their communities.



Detroit Green Carrot Holds Job Readiness Workshop

Detroit Green Carrot is a mission-driven organization that champions inclusive employment by offering personalized, supported job solutions for individuals with disabilities—opening doors to meaningful careers across Michigan. In April and May, the organization hosted empowering workshops at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, focusing on interview trends, dressing for success, and understanding what today's employers value. These sessions provided participants with valuable tools, practical skills, and renewed confidence—helping them take bold steps toward new opportunities and brighter futures.



Detroit Public Schools Community District Evening of Fine Arts at the Historic Fox Theatre

In a joyful celebration of creativity, talent, and youth, Comerica Bank, 313 Presents, Olympia Development, Ilitch Sports + Entertainment, and the City of Detroit's Office of Arts, Culture and Entrepreneurship proudly partnered to present the Detroit Public Schools Community District's 56th Annual Evening of Fine Arts—hosted for the fourth consecutive year at the iconic Fox Theatre on May 14. This spectacular event serves as the grand finale for the district's middle and high school fine and performing arts programs, spotlighting the remarkable talents of over 600 student artists. From music and dance to visual and theatrical arts, these young performers lit up the stage and filled the historic theatre with energy, passion, and pride—truly showcasing the vibrant future of Detroit's creative community.

Fresh Start Financial Literacy Program



Comerica Bank, the Homeless Action Network of Detroit, and The District Detroit Opportunity Center have joined forces to launch a transformative eight-week online class series aimed at breaking down barriers to employment for individuals who have experienced homelessness. Fifty determined participants were selected for this inaugural program, which not only equips them with essential job-readiness skills but also opens doors to long-term stability and growth. Upon completion, participants will take part in career fairs hosted at the iconic Fox Theatre and The District Detroit Opportunity Center, receive personalized support to open bank accounts, and select professional interview attire from a collection generously donated by company colleagues empowering them to step confidently into the next chapter of their careers and lives.



Wayne State Holds History Study Class at Little Caesars Headquarters

Wayne State University was selected by Olympia Development and Related Companies to lead The District Detroit Arts & Culture Neighborhood History Study and Report, a vital initiative aimed at honoring and preserving the city’s rich and complex history. In April, participating students presented their initial findings at Little Caesars headquarters, showcasing early insights into the cultural legacies that have shaped Detroit. This important study will document and recommend ways to memorialize the histories of key neighborhoods, including Brush Park, Paradise Valley, Cass Corridor, Black Bottom, and Cass Park, communities that have played a foundational role in Detroit’s cultural identity. The \$50,000 research initiative is a cornerstone of The District Detroit’s Community Benefits Agreement and is a collaborative commitment between developers, the City of Detroit, and The District Detroit’s Neighborhood Advisory Committee to ensure community voices and histories remain central to the city’s continued transformation.



City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods Gen-Z Youth Day

The City of Detroit’s Youth Affairs Team hosted a vibrant Gen-Z Co-Working Day at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, bringing together young adults from across the city to connect, create, and collaborate. Centered around the theme of “The Arts,” the event highlighted the vital role that creativity and cultural expression play in shaping a city’s identity, inspiring innovation, and fostering community pride. Renowned Detroit artist Philip Simpson served as the guest speaker, sharing his journey and encouraging attendees to embrace the power of the arts as a tool for personal growth, storytelling, and social change. Events like these reinforce the importance of investing in the next generation of artists and leaders who will help define Detroit’s cultural future.



Little Caesars Love Kitchen Marks 40 Years of Service

In a milestone year celebrating 40 years of giving back, Little Caesars reaffirmed its deep-rooted commitment to serving Detroit and communities across the nation through its beloved Love Kitchen initiative. As part of its 2025 hometown tour, the Love Kitchen rolled through the heart of Detroit, delivering thousands of free, hot pizza slices to individuals and families in need. This mobile kitchen of hope visited a wide range of local organizations including Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, the Salvation Army, Central United Methodist Church, St. Patrick Center, SAY Detroit, Boys & Girls Club, Michigan Veterans Foundation, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, COTS, Make-A-Wish Michigan, and several first responder stations. For four decades, Little Caesars has proudly stood alongside those working to uplift others, demonstrating the power of food, compassion, and community to make a lasting impact.



“Developed with Duffy” Holds Dialogue Session at The District Detroit Opportunity Center

The first installment of “Developed with Duffy” for 2025 kicked off with an engaging dialogue and hands-on activity centered around technology, design, and the power of human infrastructure in shaping the future. This dynamic program creates a collaborative space where local creators, innovators, and disruptors can connect - offering a platform to spark new ideas, form strategic partnerships, and discover potential customers or mentors. With expert insights in software development, creative design, and app innovation, the workshop emphasized how technology not only fuels economic growth but also unlocks pathways to opportunity, particularly for those looking to drive change and build solutions within their own communities.