

Building Community Together: Housing Leaders Gather at The District Detroit



The Community Housing Network is a coalition of more than 15 housing-focused nonprofit organizations working collaboratively to expand access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for Detroit residents. Together, the network supports individuals and families across the city through housing development, homelessness prevention, rental assistance, financial counseling, and wraparound services designed to promote long-term housing stability and economic mobility. Members of the organization hosted a planning session and staff luncheon at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, using the gathering to align priorities, share best practices, and strengthen partnerships in support of Detroit's most vulnerable communities.

Future Innovators Connect: Emerging Tech Event Brings Students and Startups Together

Emerging Tech Connect is a networking event hosted by Global Detroit that connects Michigan university students with high-growth startups and companies driving innovation across mobility, artificial intelligence, health tech, advanced manufacturing, and other emerging sectors. Designed to strengthen Michigan's innovation ecosystem, the event creates direct pathways for students to explore careers, internships, and mentorship opportunities, while helping startups access diverse, skilled talent to fuel growth. Hosted at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, the event brought together students, founders, and industry leaders to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and long-term economic opportunity in the region.



Honoring Our Heroes: Veterans Experience a Day with the Detroit Red Wings



In honor of Veterans Day, the Detroit Red Wings Community Impact and Corporate Partnerships team, in partnership with The District Detroit Opportunity Center, welcomed two dozen local veterans for a special behind-the-scenes experience at Little Caesars Arena. The group attended an exclusive Red Wings practice, followed by a hosted lunch and time to connect with fellow service members. Courtesy of Corporate Partnerships and Chevy, each veteran also received two tickets to attend the Red Wings' Military Appreciation game on November 19, 2025. The experience is part of the Red Wings' ongoing commitment to honoring veterans and supporting military families through year-round community activations, partnerships, and recognition programs that celebrate service and strengthen connections across the region.



Empowering Employees, Celebrating Craft: Pingree Detroit Opens Its Doors

Pingree Detroit, a worker-owned maker of shoes, bags, and accessories handcrafted from upcycled automotive materials, opened its first-ever retail location on Columbia Street in The District Detroit on Veterans Day. Founded as a social enterprise, Pingree is structured as a worker-owned cooperative, giving employees an ownership stake in the business and a voice in its long-term success. The company is also committed to inclusive hiring practices, including employing and supporting military veterans through meaningful, living-wage jobs. More than a storefront, the new retail location is a celebration of Detroit craftsmanship, sustainability, and the power of local ownership taking root in the city's most dynamic district. This activation is part of The District Detroit Presents program, which is designed to open doors for businesses of all types and sizes that want to bring unique, authentic dining and retail experiences to The District Detroit.



Opening Doors to Opportunity: Local Contractors Engage on UMCI Housing Project

Local contractors were invited to attend an introductory meeting to learn about construction and construction-related opportunities associated with the new University of Michigan Center for Innovation (UMCI) Residential Housing project for students and faculty, located at 2205 Cass Avenue in The District Detroit. The Contractor Fair, hosted by Related Companies and Olympia Development, was held in December at the Union Carpenters and Millwrights Skilled Training Center. The event is part of The District Detroit's Community Benefits Agreement and is designed to create pathways for Detroit-based businesses to learn about and compete for skilled trade and construction work. In addition to sharing project details, the fair fostered collaboration among local trades by creating space for contractors to connect, form partnerships, and pursue joint bids. As the construction industry continues to face a nationwide labor shortage, events like this help strengthen Detroit's workforce pipeline by supporting local talent, promoting workforce development, and ensuring major projects create lasting economic opportunity for the community.

Holiday Magic for Detroit Families: Disney and Toys for Tots Give Back

In partnership with Disney Consumer Products, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, and Little Caesars Love Kitchen Ilitch Companies hosted Holiday Magic Giveaway at Women's City Club in The District Detroit. This immersive, family-centered event benefited more than 120 local Detroit families. This first-of-its-kind celebration built on Disney's nearly 80-year tradition of supporting Toys for Tots, a program of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that distributes toys to children in need during the holidays. Families invited to the historic Women's City Club "shopped" for the year's most desired toys at no cost, selecting items provided by Disney Store, Mattel, Hasbro, Jazwares, and other partners, along with festive Disney-themed pajamas and books. While parents chose gifts, children enjoyed Disney-themed play zones, holiday treats, and a special visit from Stitch, part of Disney's Holiday Magic Tour designed to spread joy and connection across communities nationwide. The event was also supported by Olympia Development and Little Caesars Love Kitchen, who donated the space and provided warm meals and treats respectively, reinforcing the spirit of care and community during the season of giving.



Keeping Commitments: Community Benefits Update Highlights Impact

Detroit's Community Benefits Ordinance requires developers to proactively engage with the community to identify community benefits associated with development projects. Each year, Olympia Development and Related Companies welcome members of The District Detroit Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the public to receive an update on the status of The District Detroit Community Benefits Agreement, which is in full compliance. To date, The District Detroit has provided the city with numerous benefits including \$1,050,000 for the city's affordable housing fund; the opening of The District Detroit Opportunity Center, which has served 1,728 Detroiters in person and over 5,000 online since it opened in August 2023; and the creation of Olympia Development's Co-Developer Program that provides real estate development opportunities for Detroit development companies.



Warm Welcome on Parade Day: Families Celebrate Thanksgiving in The District Detroit

America's Thanksgiving Day Parade, produced by The Parade Company, is one of the largest and most beloved holiday traditions in the Midwest, drawing more than 300,000 spectators annually and reaching millions more through local and national broadcasts. The parade benefits a range of children's and community organizations and brings together volunteers, sponsors, and performers from across the region. In celebration of this iconic Detroit tradition, The District Detroit Opportunity Center, perfectly located at the corner of Woodward and Montcalm, welcomed families to enjoy free children's activities and hot cocoa, offering a warm, family-friendly space to gather and escape the cold November weather while enjoying the parade.

Community Voices at the Table: Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets with Developers

The District Detroit Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) is a group of residents who serve as formal community representatives, working in ongoing partnership with the Olympia Development and Related Companies team to ensure development plans reflect community priorities and deliver meaningful, measurable benefits for Detroiters. The NAC plays a key role in promoting transparency, accountability, and two-way dialogue throughout the development process. NAC members were welcomed to The District Detroit Opportunity Center for a breakfast working session focused on sharing progress updates, exchanging ideas, and continuing collaborative discussions that support responsible growth and long-term community impact.





Preserving Detroit History: Woodborn Partners Selected to Restore The Woodstock

Olympia Development of Michigan announced the selection of Detroit-based Woodborn Partners to pursue the restoration of the historic Woodstock buildings at 475 Peterboro Street in The District Detroit. Originally opened in 1914 as The Woodstock Apartments, the Beaux-Arts-style property spans approximately 47,500 square feet and historically included 71 apartments, located between Cass Avenue and 2nd Avenue. The planned renovation of 475 Peterboro and selection of Woodborn is part of Olympia Development's Co-Developer Program designed to create real estate development opportunities for Detroit-based, Detroit-headquartered, or Detroit resident-owned development companies. Woodborn Partners is an emerging, Black-owned, Detroit-based developer with multiple residential projects underway or completed in the city.



Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: Michigan Women Forward Gathers at The District Detroit

Michigan Women Forward is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing economic opportunity for women and underserved communities across Michigan. Through small business lending—including microloans—along with coaching, technical assistance, and resource navigation, the organization helps entrepreneurs start, sustain, and scale businesses that strengthen local neighborhoods and create jobs. Michigan Women Forward also supports broader financial empowerment through programs that promote stability, mobility, and long-term community investment. Members of Michigan Women Forward hosted their holiday staff luncheon and end-of-year meeting at The District Detroit Opportunity Center, using the gathering to celebrate progress, align on shared goals for the year ahead, and continue building a strong, mission-driven community committed to inclusive growth.