
Defining Detroit is a series of Detroit-related lectures, readings, panel discussions, exhibits, and performances sponsored by the Marygrove College Institute for Detroit Studies.

Punching the Clock
A public reading by poet Jim Daniels, Carnegie Mellon University
October 6, 2000, 8 p.m.

Dancing in the Street: Motown and the Cultural Politics of Detroit
A public lecture by cultural historian Suzanne E. Smith, George Mason University
October 11, 2000, 8 p.m.

Ecclesia Semper Reformanda: John Cardinal Dearden and the Papal Encyclical on Birth Control, 1968
A public lecture by historian, Leslie Woodcock Tentler, the Catholic University of America
January 18, 2001, 8 p.m.

"Unimaginable Apart from Detroit"
A public reading by National Book Award Winner Joyce Carol Oates, Princeton University
January 25, 2001, 8 p.m.

To Do Justice: Reinhold Niebuhr’s Detroit Years
A public lecture by Dr. Ralph Cushing
February 11, 2001, 8 p.m.

Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit
A public lecture by historian Thomas J. Sugrue, The University of Pennsylvania
February 15, 2001, 8 p.m.

The Poetry of Lawrence Joseph, The Art of Nancy van Goethem
Gallery exhibit by figurative artist Nancy van Goethem and poetry reading by Lawrence Joseph, St. John’s University
March 18, 2001, 3:30 p.m.

"I Wish to Make Your Acquaintance" Madame Cadillac and the French Historical Dance Tradition
A public workshop and demonstration by dancer and dance historian Harriet J. Berg and the Madame Cadillac Dance Theatre
March 30, 2001, 8 p.m.

“Sister Said”: Women’s Religious Orders and Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Detroit
A public lecture by historian JoEllen McNergney Vinyard, Eastern Michigan University
April 8, 2001, 3 p.m.

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Detroiter
A public reading by poet Toi Derricotte, The University of Pittsburgh
April 27, 2001, 8 p.m.
Our Village: Detroit’s Old West Side
A gallery and photo exhibit of photographs and artifacts presented by the Westsiders Reception
September 9, 2001, 3 p.m.

Made in Detroit
A public reading by Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Philip Levine
September 28, 2001, 8 p.m.

The Polish Presence in Detroit
A public lecture by Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, St. Mary’s College
October 14, 2001, 3 p.m.

Living for the City
A public reading by poets Alvin Aubert, Wayne State University and Terry Blackhawk, Inside-Out
October 25, 2001, 7:30 p.m.

Inspired: Detroit Choral History
A reminiscence and public music presentation by Brazeal W. Dennard and the Brazeal Dennard Chorale
October 28, 2001, 4 p.m.

Poetry in Motion: The Social Dances of the Motor City Plus Motown Choreography and Broadside Poets
A lecture-demonstration by Penny Godboldo, Marygrove College and choreographer Cholly Atkins, with poetry by Ron Allen, Al Ward, and Leslie Knight-Reese
November 5, 2001, 6 p.m.

Before Motown: Jazz in Detroit
A presentation by jazz historians Lars Bjorn, The University of Michigan Dearborn, and broadcaster and jazz expert Jim Gallert
February 24, 2002 7:30 p.m.

A City of Women: Detroit in the 1920's
A panel discussion with JoEllen Vinyard, Eastern Michigan University; Victoria Wolcott, University of Rochester; and Jane Morris-Crowther, Madonna University
October 10, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

Detroit Politics in the Sixties and Seventies: Tumultuous Past, Contested Legacy
A public lecture by historian Heather Thompson, University of Michigan
February 13, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

Detroit Trials and Tribulations: The Courtroom Art of Jerry Lemenu
Gallery exhibit and presentation
January 18, 2004, 1:30 p.m.

"Wrestling with the Muse"
Public reading and presentation by poet and Dudley Randall Biographer Melba Joyce Boyd, Wayne State University
February 5, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Urban Sprawl and Regional Justice
A panel discussion with Jim Dulzo, the Michigan Land Use Institute; Rev. Kevin Turman, Pastor, Second
Baptist Church and President of MOSES; and Douglas Kelbaugh, the University of Michigan
March 18, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

*Arc of Justice*: The Sweet Case (1925-26) and the Course of Civil Rights
A lecture by historian Kevin Boyle, The Ohio State University
September 23, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

What Went Wrong with the Detroit Public Schools? What Can be Done to Fix Them?
A lecture by educational historian Jeffery Mirel, University of Michigan
November 10, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

"Connected Islands": An Evening with Detroit’s Poet Laureate, Naomi Long Madgett
A public reading of new and selected poems
February 24, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

"So Many Selves": The Poetry of Lawrence Joseph, St. John’s University
A public reading of new and selected poems
October 20, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Detroit Factory Elegies: The Fiction of Lolita Hernandez
A public reading of recent short fiction
November 17, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Historic Preservation in Detroit: Aesthetics and Sustainability Presentations and panel discussion
featuring Royce A. Yeater, AIA, Midwest Regional Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation;
Francis Grunow, Executive Director, Preservation Wayne; and James A. Turner, Michigan Advisor,
National Trust for Historic Preservation
February 23, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

“All Swirl and Hubbub”: Jeffrey Eugenides and Detroit
A reading by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Virgin Suicides* and *Middlesex*
October 29, 2006 4:00 p.m.

“True vs. False Religion”: How Faith Mattered in Detroit’s Radical History
A lecture by historian Angela D. Dillard, University of Michigan,
April 12, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

*Stranded at the Corner: The Battle to Save Historic Tiger Stadium*
A documentary film produced by Gary Glaser
January 17, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

*Black Bottom and Paradise Valley: The Forgotten Legacy*
A documentary film produced by Sharon Sexton
February 7, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Development, Planning and Race in Detroit: Past Struggles, Future Challenges
A public lecture by professor of urban and regional planning, June Manning Thomas, University of Michigan,
March 27, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Legacy in Bronze: The Sculpture of Sergio De Guisti
A documentary film produced by John Prusak and Kathryn Vander
February 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

An Evening of Recent Detroit Fiction
A public reading by Peter Markus, Susan Messer, and Michael Zadoorian
March 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Brothers in Law: Ernie Goodman & George Crocket in Dark Times
A public lecture by historian and labor educator Steve Babson
March 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

Marketing the "Free Market": Public Policy and Racial Segregation in Metropolitan Detroit
A public lecture by historian David M.P. Freund, University of Maryland, College Park
October 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Henry Ford and the Rise of Protest Politics in Black Detroit
A public lecture by Beth Tompkins Bates, Wayne State University
October 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Out of Paradise Valley: The Poetry and Friendship of Robert Hayden and Dudley Randall
A public presentation by Melba Joyce Boyd, Wayne State University and Frank D. Rashid, Marygrove College
October 10, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

“We're Not Gonna' Leave, We're Gonna' Fight”: Interrogating the Housing Crisis in Detroit
A public panel discussion with housing activist Jerry Cullors, attorney Robert Day, attorney Ted Phillips of the United Community Housing Coalition, and Mia Jones, Property Foreclosure Specialist
February 20, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

The Roots of Institutional Racism in 1920s and 1930s Detroit
A public lecture by Karen R. Miller, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York
October 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Creative Vitality = Healthy Neighborhood?
A panel discussion on the arts and urban life
Rose E. DeSloover, Marygrove College; Dan Pitera, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, University of Detroit Mercy; Michael Stone-Richards, College for Creative Studies and Co-founder of Detroit Research; Jamii Tata, Director of Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition and Lead Organizer with Create Northeast Detroit
March 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Rowing Inland: An Evening with Jim Daniels, Carnegie Mellon University
A public reading of new and selected poems
February 24, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Updated November 28, 2017