

[←←TEAA: home page](#)  
[←← Hotel: to reserve](#)  
[←← Register: your share of expenses](#)  
[←← Who's Coming](#)



## DETROIT IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!

**The City.** All of us know that Detroit has had some rough times in recent decades. Many of us know that the city was forced into a bankruptcy that threatened to liquidate its museum's spectacular \$8 billion art collection. Few of us know that in the 21st Century, Detroit's downtown has been undergoing a major renaissance. Much of the area, including the international river-front, has been restored, renewed, rebuilt or re-purposed, and our conference hotel stands in the center of all this action. Detroit is now being referred to as a central city of the emerging Great Lakes Megalopolis! Who knew?

## THINGS TO DO

### Ride on a Train

**The Detroit People Mover**, an elevated 3 mile monorail, is one of Detroit's most popular attractions! It provides access to nearly all of the features described below, along with views of parks, murals, the city-scape and the river front. As mentioned elsewhere, one of its 13 stations is actually on the 5th floor of our hotel. It costs 75 cents a ride, less for seniors. <http://www.thepeplemover.com/>

### Go to a Fair

**The 35th African World Festival**, a free street fair celebrating the cultures of the African diaspora, will occur in 2017 on three days of our conference, August 18-20. The festival will feature African drumming and dance, other performances, poetry, story telling, arts and crafts, music, hundreds of vendors, many kinds of ethnic food, walking tours and a book fair. It will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. <http://thewright.org/african-world-festival>

## Take a Walk, Ride a Bike ... or Rent a Segway

**The River Walk** runs the full 5 mile length of the renewed **International Riverfront**, providing picturesque viewpoints across the river into Canada. The walk is wide, with separate lanes for pedestrians and bicyclists and features pavilions, fountains, bike rentals, fishing piers, river cruises, benches and many other amenities. There is even a carousel with unique handcrafted creatures instead of horses.

<http://www.detroitriverfront.org/>

## Gamble

Detroit is the largest city in the U.S. to offer **casino resort hotels**. There are only three allowed in the city, and two of them are near the People Mover: the **MGM Grand Detroit Casino** and the **Greektown Casino Hotel** (soon to be renamed, probably to *The Jack Detroit Casino-Hotel Greektown*). They are open 24/7. The income from these, all constructed in the last ten years, has provided funding for the renewal of the city.

**Tour the City:** There are **walking tours, segway tours, van tours and river cruises**. Get moving!

### Walking Tours:

#### Detroit: The Rise, Fall and Renewal Walking Tour

<https://www.viator.com/Detroit-tours/Walking-and-Biking-Tours/d22934-g16>

#### Van Tours: Show Me Detroit:

[www.showmedetroit.com](http://www.showmedetroit.com)

### Segway Tours:

<http://detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do/riverfront-segway-tours>

### Sightseeing River Cruise:

<https://diamondjack.com/sightseeing-tours/>

## Ogle Cars

Detroit is still the world's largest car manufacturing city – and has been for a long time. And on the Saturday of our conference weekend, August 19, 2017, it will host the 22nd annual **Dream Cruise**, a street parade of over 30,000 classic cars, most of which are 1950s, 60s and early 70s American models, largely muscle cars and street rods, in pristine condition. Strangely, this parade is not accessible by People Mover, but we should see a number of these cars on the city streets throughout the weekend. <http://woodwarddreamcruise.com/>

### **View Graffiti as Folk Art**

You can walk or bike, the 2 mile **Dequindre Cut Greenway**, a re-purposed former rail line intersecting the downtown River Walk, where notable graffiti have been deliberately preserved. <http://detroitriverfront.org/riverfront/dequindre-cut/dequindre-cut>

Or drive and walk through the **Heidelberg Project**, an entire neighborhood of preserved graffiti and re-purposed objects made into art. The HP is highly recommended by Committee Member Ron Stockton. <http://www.heidelberg.org/>

### **See a Major League Baseball Game**

Detroit has four major league sports teams. Now that the NBA Pistons have returned from the suburbs, all four are accessible by People Mover. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday of our conference weekend, the MLB Detroit Tigers will be playing the Los Angeles Dodgers at home in charming Comerica Park, two People Mover stops away from our hotel. [http://detroit.tigers.mlb.com/index.jsp?c\\_id=det](http://detroit.tigers.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=det)

## **PLACES TO GO**

**The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)** holds the collection endangered by the city's bankruptcy, but it emerged from court with its holdings intact, an outcome the judge called "miraculous." It is ranked as one of the **six best museums in the United States**, with 100 galleries showcasing its encyclopedic collection. Nearly 700,000 visitors a year come here. It is especially noted for its **African art**, its impressionist paintings and its gigantic (and valuable!) **Diego Rivera frescos** of auto factory workers in the 1930s. Click here to see the murals: <https://www.theclio.com/web/entry?id=14457>

**The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History** sponsors the African World Festival described above and has **one of the largest African American collections** in the United States. Architecturally, it is notable for its glass dome that is nearly as large as that of the U.S. Capitol. The museum will have extended hours and a reduced admission during the festival weekend, part of which is held on its grounds. It has a gift shop featuring both African American and **African art**. <http://thewright.org>

**The Detroit International Riverfront** has been entirely rebuilt in the last 25 years. Running 5.5 miles along the Detroit River, it contains many parks, restaurants and shops, as well as marinas, skyscrapers and a cruise ship terminal. The Riverfront contains both **The Cobo Center**, a convention center with resort-casino gambling, and **The Renaissance Center** (free guided tours) featuring the GM world headquarters, a shopping mall, and the tallest hotel in the western hemisphere. It is walking distance from our hotel and is also accessible by People Mover. <http://www.detroitriverfront.org>

**Greektown**, Detroit's oldest ethnic neighborhood, is a major entertainment center for the city. It has wonderful restaurants, many of them Greek. It also has nightclubs, theaters, dancing and 24/7 casino gambling. It's a happening place very close to our hotel by People Mover. <http://greektowndetroit.org/>

**Music, music, music.** Detroit is a famous music city. Motown originated here and dominated pop music in the 1960's and 70s. **The Motown Museum, aka "Hitsville USA"** holds timed ticket, guided tours daily of the original Motown recording studios and features the work of Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, the Four Tops and Michael Jackson. More recently, Eminem has dominated the Detroit music scene. <https://www.motownmuseum.org/>

**Cars, Cars. Cars.** Detroit is the Motor City, and it reminds you of that everywhere, from the 2005 **GM World Headquarters** in the Renaissance Center with its **GM Showroom** of vintage cars, present models and conceptual vehicles, to the 1904 **Ford Piquette Avenue Plant Museum**, featuring the car that changed the world. <http://www.fordpiquetteavenueplant.org/>

In the nearby community of **Dearborn, Michigan**, the car exhibits continue, beginning with the spectacular **Henry Ford**, a museum which contains much on the development of the automobile, as well as some famous vehicles, such as Rosa Parks' bus and the JFK assassination limousine. The Ford adjoins **Greenfield Village**, 90 acres, featuring vintage transportation you can ride in and historic buildings like the Wright Cycle Shop. The Ford is also the beginning point for the **Ford Rouge Tour** where you can observe modern trucks being made. You need comfortable shoes and lots of time for The Ford, and you will probably have to drive there (Uber maybe?). This link may not work: <https://www.thehenryford.org/>

## GENERAL INFO

**Conference Program Planning** is on-going. If you have ideas or suggestions, let us know! If you want to join the committee, we'd be glad to have you. You don't have to live in Detroit. So far an interesting and varied program is taking shape. We are meeting with scholars and business people who have an interest in East Africa. We also want to hear from our own members who have visited the East African schools which have received grants from us. We'd like to hear too from TEAAers who believe that their time in African significantly changed their lives. In format, we will begin on Thursday with a welcoming reception in the late afternoon. Friday and Saturday, we will have meetings only in the morning, with the afternoons and evenings filled with activities such as city tours, festivals and baseball games. On Sunday morning, we will have our final meeting as an in-person group.

**Planning Committee Chair:** Mary Ryan Taras [mrtaras@earthlink.net](mailto:mrtaras@earthlink.net)

### **Committee Members:**

Ron Stockton [Rstock@umd.umich.edu](mailto:Rstock@umd.umich.edu) or [Rstock@Umich.edu](mailto:Rstock@Umich.edu)

Larry Thomas [LaurenceWT@aol.com](mailto:LaurenceWT@aol.com)

Linda Donaldson [donaldsonlinda1@gmail.com](mailto:donaldsonlinda1@gmail.com)

Sharon Hartmann (Kudos for this document) [slybeck@ca.rr.com](mailto:slybeck@ca.rr.com)

Dick Ramsdell [ramsdellrichard@gmail.com](mailto:ramsdellrichard@gmail.com)