

# THINGS TO DO IN DETROIT



**W**ith NALC's 71st Biennial Convention at the Cobo Center in Detroit less than four months away, it's time to take a look at attractions in the city. Delegates will converge on a city reinventing itself while celebrating its heritage—as reflected in several of Detroit's nicknames: Motor City, Motown, America's Comeback City.

After a period of dwindling population and shuttered dwellings, Detroit is roaring back with the help of entrepreneurs who are creating new businesses and restoring old homes and grand buildings, fueled by the belief that the city's best days are yet to come.

Here we present some highlights of things to see and do in or near downtown Detroit when the convention isn't in session.

## The Motown Museum

### MOTOWN MUSEUM

Along with automobiles, Motown music is what many visitors associate with Detroit. While some homes across the country are celebrated as the birthplaces of famous people, this modest house, dubbed "Hitsville, U.S.A.," is where the father of Motown, Berry Gordy, lived and where he recorded dozens of Motown hits. The house is now a museum celebrating this unique American musical genre.

In a city full of grand monuments and skyscrapers, this small museum is modest but packs a punch. Visitors can stand in the place where hits like "Stop! In the Name of Love" (Supremes), "Shop Around" (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles) and even

"Please Mr. Postman" (Marvelettes) were recorded. The recording equipment and many of the original instruments, which were played by unionized musicians, are on display.

With more than 180 No. 1 hit songs, the Motown sound produced many iconic entertainers and had an enormous influence on popular culture.

"When I look back on that magical time in Detroit," Gordy once said, "I'm reminded of how a company, based on love, fairness and competition, came together to create something special." The photos, costumes, artwork and other sights and sounds of the Motown Museum will bring you back to a special time, too.

The museum's address is 2648 W. Grand Blvd. For more information, go to [motownmuseum.org](http://motownmuseum.org).

### THE FORD PIQUETTE AVENUE PLANT

The oldest automobile factory open to the public in the world, this plant is almost unchanged since Henry Ford used it to build the car that brought automobiles to the masses, the Model T.

This three-story building with large windows and wooden floors was built in 1904 to serve as Ford Motor Company's second home (the first was in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn) and its first factory constructed specifically to make cars.

It was built in a late Victorian style modeled after New England textile mills. Its 355 windows provide ample



sunlight—a reminder that electric lighting on this scale was a novelty in Ford’s day. Though his company was about to make cars a standard mode of transportation for millions of Americans, Ford usually walked or biked to the factory from a duplex he rented a few blocks away.

Ford sold 7,000 Model N’s before moving on to new designs. In his “experimental room” inside the factory, Ford gathered the best minds in the business, along with his teenage son, Edsel, to develop new ideas and new models.

The famous Model T was developed and produced here, with the first one rolling off the assembly line in 1908. More than 12,000 Model T’s were assembled here before Ford left for larger quarters. Along with a selection of rare early Ford cars on display, Henry Ford’s office is shown as it appeared in the first days of the automotive revolution he sparked.

The building is located at 461 Piquette St. For more information, visit [fordpiquetteavenueplant.org](http://fordpiquetteavenueplant.org).

## DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Famous for housing one of the best art collections in the United States, the Detroit Institute of Arts showcases everything from mummies to modern art, African masks to Monets, in its collection of more than 65,000 works. Artwork from all over the country and the world fills the Institute’s hallways. Perhaps its most famous work of art is Diego Rivera mural painted in the 1930s that paid tribute to the genius and dignity of working people—a portion of which is recreated in the lobby of the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, DC. No matter your taste, you will find something intriguing and enlightening somewhere in the building’s 100-plus galleries.

Don’t forget to look up at the building, a work of art in itself. Built in 1927, the Beaux Arts-style building was

designed to recreate the aesthetics of European house museums, so each gallery was fashioned as the characteristic backdrop for the art displayed there. The building’s 658,000 square feet include the galleries, a 1,150-seat auditorium, a 380-seat lecture hall, an art reference library, a conservation services laboratory, two dining areas and a museum shop.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. See [dia.org](http://dia.org) for more information.

## EASTERN MARKET

Eastern Market is more than an old-fashioned farmer’s market—it is a 43-acre district just northeast of downtown. The district is centered on several red-brick open market buildings, or sheds, each sporting hundreds of farmers and other vendors selling fresh produce, meat, cheese, seafood, spices, nuts, candy, flowers, baked goods and other delights. Other shops and restaurants fill the spaces between the sheds, and public art and music complete the outdoor urban sensation.

The market began in downtown Detroit in 1841 and moved to its present location in 1891. Today, Eastern Market has three market days—Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday—each with a different vibe.

Going to Eastern Market on a Saturday is a great way to experience the real Detroit. More than 40,000 visitors enjoy the markets on Saturday during the summer months. The Saturday Market is open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Sunday Street Market takes over the area’s streets, showcasing the work of local artists, cooks, jewelers and musicians along with traditional market fare. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday’s market is a smaller event but still features food and entertainment from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Most of the shops and restaurants throughout the neighborhood are open



The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant



Detroit Institute of Arts



Eastern Market





Michigan Labor Legacy Monument

## Deadlines for convention

Delegate eligibility lists for the 71st biennial national convention in Detroit have been mailed to all branches. The lists must be completed and returned to Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine's office at NALC Headquarters no later than May 17 in order for branch representatives to be registered as delegates to the convention. The convention is set for July 16-20.

All proposed amendments to the *NALC Constitution* to be submitted for consideration at the convention must be received by Rhine's office by May 17. That date is 60 days in advance of the convention, as prescribed by the *Constitution*. Proposed amendments will appear in this June's *Postal Record* for the membership to review.

Resolutions to be considered by delegates also must be received by the May 17 deadline in order to be printed in the *Resolutions and Amendments* book provided to delegates. Resolutions received after May 17 still may be considered at the convention.

Go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) for more convention news. PR



daily, though each has its own hours and some are closed on Sunday.

The Eastern Market Welcome Center is located at 1445 Adelaide St. For more information, go to [easternmarket.org](http://easternmarket.org).

## GREEKTOWN AND GREEKTOWN CASINO

The Greektown Historic District is billed as "one of the last surviving Victorian-era commercial streetscape in downtown Detroit." The district, located downtown about six blocks from the Detroit River, was once a thriving neighborhood with a mix of ethnicities, including German, Polish, Italian, Lebanese, Mexican and African-American, as well as a large Greek population. When the area was threatened by development in the 1960s, the Greek community led a revival to protect the area's heritage, beginning with an annual Greek Festival.

That Greek heritage helped rebuild the area, which now is a hub of Greek and other restaurants and shops. The Greektown Casino and Hotel, which features slot machines and table games, towers over the neighborhood.

The Greektown Historic District is centered on Monroe Avenue west of Randolph Street to I-375. The casino is located at 555 E. Lafayette St.

Go to [greektowndetroit.org](http://greektowndetroit.org) and [greektowncasino.com](http://greektowncasino.com) for more.

## DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Motor City Exhibition, where visitors see how a Cadillac is assembled, is just one of the many interesting displays at the Detroit Historical Museum that tell the story of Detroit.

The museum has several permanent exhibitions showcasing more than 300 years of the city's rich history, including "Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and

the Underground Railroad" that explains the city's pivotal role in helping slaves escape to freedom, and "Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at Work, 1701-1901," which shows how working men and women transformed the city in its first two centuries.

The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. Go to [detroit-historical-museum/plan-your-visit/general-information](http://detroit-historical-museum/plan-your-visit/general-information) to learn more.

## MICHIGAN LABOR LEGACY MONUMENT

In Hart Plaza, a riverside park on the eastern side of the Cobo Center, a large sculpture stands as a monument to the rich heritage of the labor movement in Michigan.

Designed by a pair of Michigan artists, the monument's official name is "Transcending." It consists of two steel arches that weigh a combined 30 tons. They nearly form a complete circle as they meet 63 feet in the sky, but there is a small gap. The gap represents the work that remains for today's labor leaders to complete. Plaques with quotes that speak to the labor movement line the base of the monument, including "Without struggle, there is no progress," (Frederick Douglass) and "Some men rob you with a six-gun; other men rob you with a fountain pen," (Woodie Guthrie).

Transcending is a good place for labor activists to find inspiration, and it makes a great photo opportunity.

Be sure to check future issues of *The Postal Record* for more Detroit activities and other useful information for delegates as the convention approaches. PR



From l: Timothy O'Malley, Randall Keller, Peter Moss, William Lucini and Timothy Dowdy

# SALUTE TO RETIRING NATIONAL OFFICERS

**A**ll retiring national officers will be honored at a reception and dinner on Thursday, July 19, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center during the national convention.

The Retiring Officers' Dinner will honor the five members of the NALC Executive Council who have already retired: Executive Vice president Timothy O'Malley, Trustee Randall Keller, Region 8 National Business Agent Peter Moss, Region 12 NBA William Lucini and Region 13 NBA Timothy Dowdy. Several other national officers also will be honored who plan to announce their retirement by the end of the 2014-2018 term.

National auxiliary officers and NALC regional administrative assistants who retire from their positions during the 2014-2018 term will also be recognized.

The event will begin with a reception at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. A program honoring the retirees will follow, and the event will continue with dancing until 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$80 each, sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Regions, branches and individual members must use the Retiring Officers' Dinner order form below to buy tickets. Those planning to attend should buy tickets as soon

as possible by sending the order form with full payment to: Retiring Officers' Dinner, NALC Secretary-Treasurer, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. Checks or money orders payable to "Secretary-Treasurer, NALC" must be received by May 18. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope. There is a maximum of eight guests per table.

Tickets and table assignments will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area. **PR**

## Retiring Officers' Dinner order form

Thursday, July 19

I would like to reserve tickets to the NALC Retiring Officers' Dinner on Thursday, July 19, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. Tickets will be held for pickup at the Retiring Officers' Dinner ticket booth located in the convention registration area. Guests wishing to be seated at the same table must submit their ticket orders and payment together in the same envelope. Maximum eight guests per table.

**(Please print clearly)**

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$80 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Total enclosed)

Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Person ordering tickets contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual picking up the ticket(s) at the convention: \_\_\_\_\_

Person picking up tickets contact number: \_\_\_\_\_ cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you or anyone in your party has dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail order form and payment to:**

**Retiring Officers' Dinner, NALC Secretary-Treasurer, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20001-2144**

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