



*We build economic equity,
social justice, &
racial understanding
in Southeast
Michigan*

July 2015

New Detroit Board Members in Lansing



New Detroit President and CEO Shirley Stancato, nine New Detroit Board Members, and more than 50 parents from the Detroit Parent Network-- all who are part of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit's Schoolchildren-- traveled to Lansing recently to ask key legislators to support the Coalition's recommendations.

"It is important that we continue to advocate for Detroit schoolchildren," said Stancato. "The Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren includes educators, civic, philanthropic and business leaders. Together we are using our influence to urge our legislators to make decisions that are critical for the success of Detroit's schoolchildren."

The Coalition made a series of recommendations to improve schools, tackling everything from academic achievement to oversight. One example is the Coalition's recommendation that a Detroit Education Commission be created to oversee school openings and closings for both public and charter schools.

The Michigan State Board of Education has commended the coalition for its hard work and dedication and urged the Governor and Legislature to give the recommendations full consideration. You can view the Coalitions' recommendations [HERE](#).

New Detroit Partners with Starr Commonwealth



New Detroit is partnering with Starr Commonwealth to present the Art of Resilience Summer Youth Festival at the Carr Center in downtown Detroit Saturday, July 25.

The Festival aims to recognize, celebrate, and showcase the resilience and strengths of young people, families, and neighborhoods in Detroit through special performances and with an array of films created by young people. It will also shine a light on the stories of young people in our community. This year's special honoree is renowned artist Tyree Guyton, founder of Detroit's Heidelberg Project.

The Starr Commonwealth organization serves thousands of children, adults, families and communities around the country through community-based early intervention and preventative services, specialized residential programs, and education services. For more information click [HERE](#).

Civic Engagement: The Changing Face of America



New Detroit staff recently made a presentation on the Changing Face of America to more than 150 Comerica employees at three different locations: Detroit, Livonia, and Auburn Hills. The presentation included the contents of our Regional Race Equity Report and additional data that shows the nation is on

the road to a “minority majority” U.S. population by 2042.

New Detroit’s Regional Race Equity Report published in 2014 identified clearly measurable disparities among racial and ethnic groups in the tri-county region on educational achievement, per capita income, home ownership and other key areas.

The report concluded, “No matter what measurement is used - housing patterns, educational achievement, income or home and business ownership - there is a very definite and substantial divide between the races in the Detroit region. And it is a pervasive divide, present in all three counties and in Detroit.”

If you have not read the report, you can download a copy [HERE](#).

International Race and Equity Issues



New Detroit staff recently met with international delegates from the Leadership Program of the International Visitor Council of Metro-Detroit, sponsored by the U. S. Department of State. Annually, New Detroit is asked to meet with the European Leaders who visit Detroit to study the social, political, and economic Issues faced in our country.

The visitors included a radio journalist from Belgium, the Chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Director of International Relations from Germany, a legal specialist from Hungary's State Secretary for Social Inclusion, the Vice Mayor for the City of Vicenza, Italy, the Vice President of the National Democratic Revival for Macedonia, the Spokesperson for the Socialist Democratic Party of Montenegro, the Advisor to the Deputy Parliamentary Speaker of Slovakia, a member representing the Parliament of Catalonia, and the Editor and Executive Producer for Murnagham News, United Kingdom.

Staff presented the delegates with racial demographic information for Southeast Michigan followed by a discussion and an exchange of thoughts about race relations and equity issues on some of the respective countries represented on the delegation. For more on the International Visitors Council click [HERE](#).

<http://www.newdetroit.org/cms/>

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