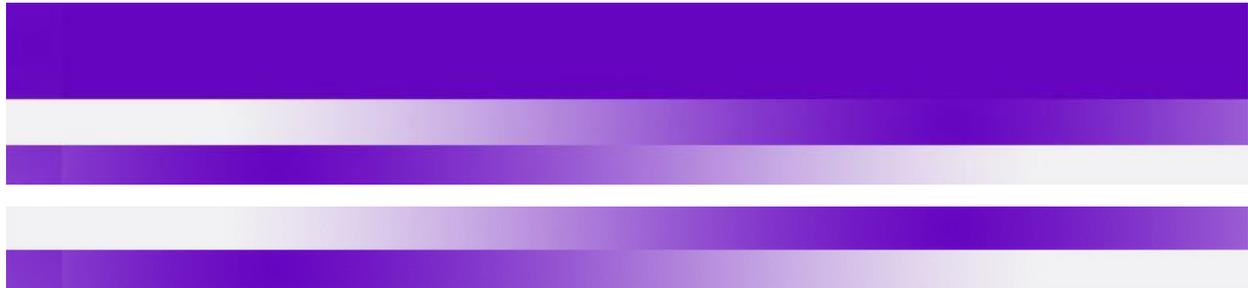




*We build economic equity,
social justice, &
racial understanding
in Southeast
Michigan*

November/December 2015



Tenth annual Youth Leadership Summit on Race



On Nov. 7, 2015, New Detroit hosted its 10th annual Youth Leadership Summit on Race in partnership with the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The summit is planned by the Youth Leadership Institute, a group of 25 high school students and five college student mentors who

met on a monthly basis. It brought together a racially diverse group of about 250 high school students from Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties.

The theme of the 2015 summit was “Is Race Real?” Among the day-long activities, the students engaged in a storytelling exercise that helped them discuss the topic, come up with their own answer to the question and to help them express their own experiences with race.

There were also performances by Inside Out, a group of literary art poets, and Mosaic Youth Theatre, a multicultural arts organization.

Since its start, more than 1,300 students have participated in the Youth Leadership Summit on Race.

The Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren update



The Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, which includes New Detroit board members and our CEO, is still hard at work trying to improve Detroit schools. After two trips to Lansing to make recommendations to lawmakers, there has yet to be any legislation passed on the issue. However, the coalition is still moving forward, working towards solutions for making Detroit’s school landscape more equitable, accessible and successful for all children.

Listed are some of the coalition's recommendations:

- Return governance of Detroit Public Schools to an elected school board.
- Charter authorizers and charter school boards should improve transparency, focus more on quality and better coordinate all charter schools.
- The state should assume DPS debt.
- Create a new nonpartisan entity, the Detroit Education Commission, to coordinate and rationalize citywide education functions in partnership with Regional Councils to incorporate neighborhood-level input.
- Establish advisory School Leadership Teams
- Empower and fund the State School Reform Office and State School Reform District
- Create shared systems of data, enrollment and neighborhood transportation.

For more information on the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, visit <http://coalitiondetroitsschoolchildren.tumblr.com/>.

Happy Holidays from New Detroit

Thank you for your continued support in both 2015 and years passed. New Detroit will continue working to identify and eliminate racial disparities in the region by building economic equity, social justice and racial understanding in the New Year. On behalf of Shirley R. Stancato, New Detroit president and CEO, and staff, we wish you the very best holiday season.



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

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