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For immediate release: April 1, 2024

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### **Michigan Museums Association to Celebrate Annual Awards**

*Awardees will be Recognized at a Ceremony in Rochester Hills on April 25th*

**Rochester Hills, Michigan:** Michigan museum professionals, volunteers, and supporters will gather at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm on April 25 to present the Michigan Museums Association's (MMA) 2024 member awards. At the awards celebration, MMA members will be recognized for special service to their communities, colleagues, and others in four different award categories.

#### **President's Award**

The President's Award is bestowed annually to individuals, companies, or organizations by the current MMA Board President. The award recognizes exemplary support of MMA, service to the Michigan museums field, a career of distinction or for any other criteria deemed appropriate by the MMA Board President. For 2024, MMA Board President Caitlyn Perry Dial has selected Tim Chester and Henry Matthews in recognition of their longtime commitment and service to the profession.

#### **Peninsulas Prize**

The two Peninsulas Prize awards support MMA's mission and professional development goals and objectives by providing visibility for individuals and organizations that strive for excellence and best practice. The first award recognizes an individual who has provided strong leadership to their colleagues, organization, or the museum community. The second award recognizes a museum project or program that addresses issues related to social justice in museums and diversity, equity, access, and inclusion.

The ***Peninsulas Prize for Leadership*** will be presented to Tami Fauver, Executive Director and Chief Curator at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Michigan. In that role, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing the center's mission of providing accessible arts experiences and educational opportunities to the St Joseph and Benton Harbor communities and beyond. Under her guidance, the Krasl Art Center has flourished as a vibrant cultural institution, offering innovative exhibitions, dynamic programming, and impactful outreach initiatives that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

The ***Peninsulas Prize for DEAI*** will be presented to the Detroit Historical Museum for its multi-year initiative, The Hustle: Celebrating Detroit's Unsung Entrepreneurs. This project chronicled the inspiring stories of Black Detroiters entrepreneurs through a series of quarterly exhibitions at the Detroit Historical Museum that were complemented by public events and education

programs, celebrations, and a day-long resource summit. Highlighting basic issues of equity and inclusion in Detroit, these narratives brought to life the social justice and civic rights issues Black entrepreneurs in Detroit have confronted along their path to success and offered inspiration and context for conditions today.

## Colleague Champions

Finally, MMA members were invited to nominate their colleagues to acknowledge special service, excellence in their work, or some other contribution to the museum field this year. This year's awardees were nominated for a multitude of reasons, including assisting with museum renovation projects, managing museum finances, serving as mentors to others, developing new programming, community engagement, collaboration, making exhibits and institutions more inclusive and accessible, and for being supportive colleagues and leaders in the field. Twenty-three MMA members will be presented with a Colleague Champion award at the awards celebration, including:

- **Chris Allen** – Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum
- **Austin Eighmey** – Henry Ford Estate
- **LeeAnn Ewer** – Mackinac State Historic Parks
- **Grace Gardziella** – Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- **Malea Howard** – Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
- **Sarah Humes** – Grand Rapids Public Museum
- **Heather Jackson** – Flint Institute of Arts
- **Davina Kuh Jakobi** - Applewood
- **Heather Lehman** – Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- **Ricki Levine** – Holland Museum
- **Hannah McCready** – Henry Ford Estate
- **Joe O'Neal** – Argus Museum
- **Melanie Parker** – Ilitch Holdings, Inc.
- **Melanie Raupp** – Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
- **Ashley Ross** – Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
- **Ashley Rotarius** – Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- **Libby Sheldon** – Flint Institute of Arts
- **Loren Stevens** – Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
- **Kelly Sullivan** – University of Michigan Museum of Natural History
- **Cameron Voss** – Zekelman Holocaust Center
- **Michelle Walk** – Mackinac State Historic Parks
- **Patience Williams** – Zekelman Holocaust Center
- **Geoff Woodcox** – Sloan Museum of Discovery & Longway Planetarium

To learn more about this year's awardees, visit <https://michiganmuseums.org/2024-Awards/>.

**About the Michigan Museums Association:** The Michigan Museums Association is a catalyst for advancing Michigan's museum community through shared learning, advocacy, and collaboration. MMA has been supporting the work of Michigan museums for over sixty years. Our members include the institutions, professionals and volunteers of the Michigan museum

community who believe that strong museums help us better understand ourselves and our world. Every type of museum is represented and welcomed, including art, history, science, military and maritime, and youth museums, as well as aquariums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, historic sites, and science and technology centers. For more information about the Michigan Museums Association, visit [www.michiganmuseums.org](http://www.michiganmuseums.org) or call (313) 334-7643.

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Editor's note: Photo credit to Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. Attached are two photographs:

- Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- Michigan Museums Association logo