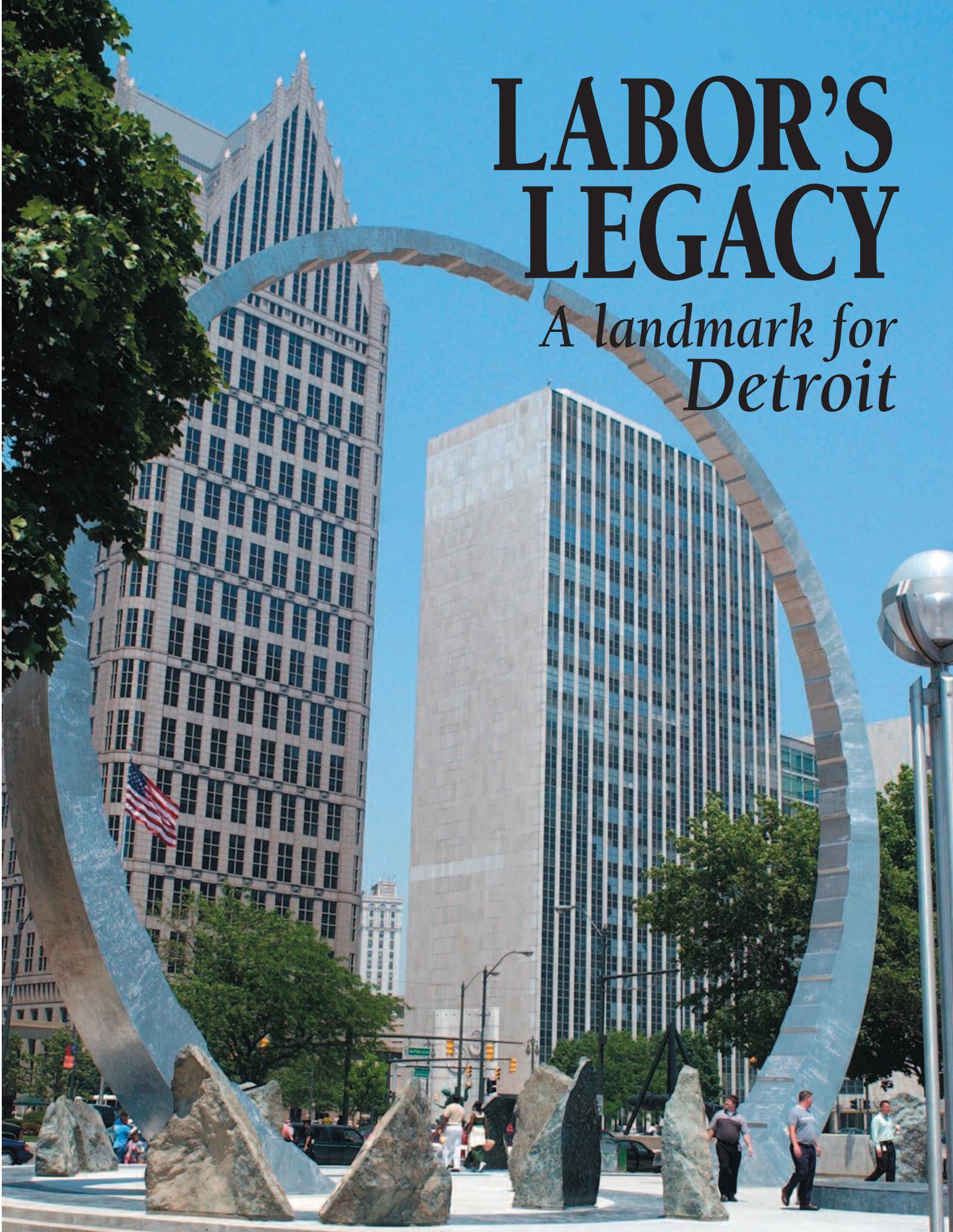


LABOR'S LEGACY

*A landmark for
Detroit*



THE MICHIGAN LABOR LEGACY PROJECT, INC.

Gerald Bantom, President
Donald Boggs, Secretary-Treasurer
Ken Terry, Trustee
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David Hecker, Fund Raising Committee Chair

**CREATORS OF "TRANSCENDING":
DAVID BARR AND SERGIO DE GIUSTI**

WITH SPECIAL THANKS FOR THEIR WORK ON THE LABOR LEGACY PROJECT TO

Mike Kerwin, UAW Local 174
Lisa Canada, Metro Detroit AFL-CIO
Richard Berlin Steven P. Bieda Sheryl Singal
Al Carnes James V. Settles Jr. Alberta Asmar Mary Ellen Riordan Patrick Devlin
Marilyn Wheaton, director, Detroit Dept. of Cultural Affairs
The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs
City of Detroit Mayor's Office; City Council; Planning, Recreation, and Civic Center Depts.
And to our jury, which chose the winning design from 55 entries:
Dr. Graham Beal, director, Detroit Institute of Arts; Camille Billops, co-director, Hatch-Billops Collection, New York;
Bill Black, director, legislative and community affairs, Teamsters Joint Council;
Dr. Melba Boyd, director, Dept. of Africana Studies, Wayne State University; Paul Krell, director, UAW Public Relations Dept.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT AND PROJECT COORDINATOR

Merz & Associates, LLC
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SITE CONTRACTORS

Turner Construction: Steve Berlage, vice-president and general manager;
Ron Dawson, project executive; special thanks to Charlie Hornacek and Sean Hollister
Aristeo Construction: James E. Like, vice-president, William Litz, project director
Barton Malow: Douglas L. Maibach, vice-president and chair, AGC Greater Detroit chapter,
and John Csont, superintendent, trade labor
Walbridge Aldinger: David B. Hanson, senior vice-president; E.G. Clawson (recently deceased), group vice-president;
Michael Smith, Associated General Contractors (AGC), Greater Detroit Chapter

Kirlin Electric Motor City Electric Guideline Plumbing Herman Rousseau Booms Stone

Arcs Fabricated by David Barr with Capitol Welding

LEGAL COUNSEL

David Radtke and Lisa Smith (Klimist McKnight Sale McLow and Conzano)

SITE CONSTRUCTION BY MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING UNIONS:

Ironworkers Local 25 • Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58
Tile Marble and Terrazzo Workers Local 42
Laborers International Union of North America
Intl. Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 • Carpenters and Millwrights
Plasterers and Cement Masons

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE OTHERS WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME, INCLUDING

Mark Alexander Steve Babson Barbara Barefield Natasha Bradley Nancy Brigham Shawn Ellis
Barb Ingalls Frank Joyce Ann Kerwin Susan Kramer Norris Krastes Tom Lonergan
Maude Lyon Dennis McCann Patrice Merritt Dori Veda Middleton Jim Pedersen
Jim Pita Mike Poterala Phil Schloop Larry Sherman Frank Singer Mike Smith
Ann Steel Reina Sturdivant Beth Thoreson Laurie Stuart and many others

A VISION — Rises —

More than 120 artists and sculptors from throughout the U.S. gathered in downtown Detroit in early March 2001. Under a bright winter sun, they walked along the river side of Jefferson Avenue just west of Woodward with cameras and sketchbooks in hand imagining what they could build there to tell the story of working men and women.

The Michigan Labor History Society had invited the artists to Detroit after deciding to present a gift of public art to mark the city's tri-centennial. Detroit officials were enthusiastic, and designated the Jefferson site, just north of Hart Plaza, as an appropriate place. It was a location rich with history. A few blocks west, at Third Street, Huron Indians had established a community at the time of the arrival of French settlers in 1701. Fur traders, ship builders, and other workers had plied their trades nearby. In the modern era, auto and other industrial plants had set up shop just a few blocks to the east. And whenever the labor movement rallied, downtown Detroit was a magnet. The big organizing rallies of the 1930s, the Labor Day parades of the 1950s, and the historic civil rights march of 1963 all had taken place within a few blocks of this site.

At the nearby UAW-Ford National Programs Center, the artists met with Labor History Society officers who laid out a challenge: come up with a work of art to inform the public about labor's history, honor the working women and men who built our city, and inspire visitors with labor's vision for a better future.

Two months later, 55 proposals ranging from simple sketches to complex drawings had been received. A panel of five jurists — Graham Beal, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts; Camille Billops, director of the Hatch-Billops gallery in New York; Bill Black, community affairs director of the Teamsters Joint Council; Melba Boyd, poet and teacher; and Paul Krell of the UAW President's staff pored over the submissions on which the names of the artists had been masked out to insure impartiality. After selecting three semi-finalists, the jury agreed on a joint collaboration by David Barr and Sergio De Giusti, both of whom have created public art installations throughout the world. "It was," said Detroit 300 Director Maud Lyon, "a wonderful example of democracy in action in selecting a plan for a major work of art."

Transcending, as Barr and De Giusti named their design, was to rise 63 feet above street level in the form of two stainless-steel arcs, geared on the inside to reflect Detroit's industrial might, and open at the top to symbolize labor's unfinished work. At night, the gap would be lit as a reminder of the energy of working people. A spiral walkway at the base would lead visitors to eight granite boulders split in half, with the inside faces holding bronze reliefs telling labor's story. Embedded in the walkway would be milestones describing labor's achievements. A raised dais would include quotations from prominent activists for labor rights and social justice. Beneath the dais would be a time capsule holding letters, badges, newspapers, and other labor mementos of the first years of the 21st Century.

The Barr-De Giusti vision excited the labor community, and over the next several months, unions, rank-and-file members, and various enterprises would contribute some \$1.6 million to bring the vision to reality. Members of several building and construction trades unions laid the foundations, erected the arcs, and embedded the tiles that, two years later, would complete *Transcending*. On August 22, 2003, hundreds gathered under a blazing sun to dedicate the new landmark, hailed as the largest work of public art in the nation honoring workers. At the dedication, members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, represented by the Detroit Federation of Musicians, composed and played an original fanfare.

Since its dedication, *Transcending* has been visited by thousands of residents and tourists and has been hailed in local and national news media both for its artistic merits and for the story it tells. On any day, you can find people sitting on the benches that surround the Landmark, walking along the spiral pathway past the bronze sculptures, or standing on the dais to read the words that reflect hopes for a better world. Visitors often pause in front of one of the two engraved tiles at the base of each arc to read the moving words of Martin Luther King Jr.:

"The arc of history bends toward justice."



DREAMING —of a better— FUTURE

“All skilled labor in Detroit is organized into trade unions,” wrote streetcar driver Malcolm McLeod in 1901. “And through the efforts of those unions we have bettered our conditions, reduced the hours of labor, and increased wages so that we now can find time to educate ourselves and our children and take the place in society which has been denied them.”

Malcolm McLeod was the head of the street railway workers union at the beginning of the 20th Century. In this letter, buried in a time capsule opened a hundred years later, in 2001, he described how during his lifetime he saw streetcars pulled by horses replaced by ones powered by electricity. And he told of his dreams for the future. “It is my earnest hope,” he wrote, “that the union movement will continue to grow and prosper and that class society will be wiped out of existence in this new century, and that we will all stand on the same plane.”

While McLeod’s hopes have not yet come true — the gap between rich and poor is still wide and growing wider — the labor movement has never stopped dreaming about, or struggling for, a better future. “What does labor want?” asked AFL President Sam Gompers. “More schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge.” Much later, UAW President Walter Reuther echoed that call: “If it was just a question of winning six cents an hour, I wouldn’t be interested... I will be dissatisfied as long as one American child is denied the right to education. As long as one American is denied his rights, I will do all I can to dispel the corruption of complacency in America and seek a greater sense of national purpose.”

Dates in Detroit’s LABOR HISTORY

1818

Detroit Mechanics’ Society founded

1837

Carpenters march for high pay, shorter worktime

1839

Printers strike

1852

Detroit Typographers Union, oldest continuing union, founded

1885

First Labor Day parade

1891

Detroit trolley workers strike with strong community support

1892

Detroit Council of Trades and Labor Unions (later to become Detroit Federation of Labor) founded

Years of Struggle

When Malcolm McLeod spoke of labor’s achievements at the turn of the 19th

Century, he did not have to look far to remember what life had been like for many Detroiters — particularly those who were not part of the skilled trades or crafts. In 1883, the first annual report of the Michigan Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics described life in the suburb of Springwells, where children as young as seven were put to work in a brickyard several hours a day next to their mothers, while their siblings of 10 years or older were working hard from sunrise to sunset in the same brickyard, living with their families in “filthy, dilapidated, little hovels” situated in muddy alleyways. “The inmates of our houses of correction and our prisons are better fed, more comfortably clad and housed than these people are,” declared the report. Indeed that same year dozens of Detroiters were seeking voluntary admission to the Detroit House of Corrections, even though they had committed no crime, in order to be housed and fed.

Abolishing child labor, providing decent working conditions, raising wages, and helping to end poverty were the dreams that motivated many of Detroit’s labor leaders and social reformers over the years.

The labor movement had its earliest beginnings here in 1818, when the Detroit Mechanics’ Society was founded. More of an educational and fraternal organization than a





Photo courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

union, the Society was able to bring skilled workers and businessmen together to create a mutual insurance fund and a library. In the 1830s, carpenters and printers organized. Carpenters struck for shorter hours and higher pay in 1837 in what was probably the first strike in the city's history, and printers struck two years later. By 1852 the printers had established the Detroit Typographical Union, the oldest continuing functioning union in the city's history. Three years later, the city's clerks demanded and won shorter work hours. In 1863, railroad workers struck and two years later dockworkers in the city's growing port sector went on strike. In 1865, the burgeoning labor movement marched as a separate division in the Fourth of July parade. By 1886, the labor movement was strong enough to bring more than 10,000 workers out for a Labor Day parade.

But most of the organizing took place not in the brickyards or other areas of unskilled labor. The dominant American Federation of Labor concentrated its efforts among the crafts and the skilled workforce. As they gained members, struck, and won shorter worktime and higher pay, employers sent spies into the unions and established a blacklist of union activists. In the early 20th Century, efforts were made to organize the growing industrial workforce in the

auto industry. The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), staged the first auto strike at Studebaker in 1913, and tried to organize the Ford plant in Highland Park where thousands labored on Henry Ford's new assembly line. Still, little progress would be made in organizing along industrial lines until two decades later.

The Turbulent Thirties

In March 1932, thousands of unemployed workers marched through Detroit and Dearborn to Ford's River Rouge plant, not far from where the brickyard workers had labored fifty years earlier. Facing the hunger and homelessness of the Great Depression, they brought petitions asking Ford for jobs and health care. As they approached the plant, these hunger marchers were met with a barrage of bullets from Ford's security forces. Five workers died from their wounds and thousands honored them at a funeral service a few days later, some bearing signs reading "We asked for food; Ford fed us bullets."

A year earlier, at a Kroger grocery warehouse, workers led by Jimmy Hoffa, who would become president of the Teamsters Union in later years, struck to protest the sudden layoff of two of their crew members. With a load of straw-

1901
Machinists strike for shorter worktime

1913
Industrial Workers of the World leads strike of Studebaker workers

1931
"Strawberry Strike" wins contract at Kroger's

1932
Ford Hunger March

1935
UAW founded

1937
Sitdown strikes hit Detroit

1941
UAW wins contract at Ford



Previous page: Organizing in the 1930s.

Left: Solidarity during the 1995-2000 newspaper strike.

Building and construction trades workers have continued to train increasing numbers of workers from previously underrepresented groups, including women and African Americans, as journeymen. Workers in music and the arts bring new cultural experiences to fellow union members and

berries in danger of rotting, management agreed to talk with the union, rehired the workers, and signed a contract.

As the Depression continued, events like the hunger march and the “strawberry strike” and sporadic strikes in industry began to embolden the growing industrial workforce. In 1935, auto workers met to form the UAW and, in late December, 1936 began the sitdown strike in Flint that would force General Motors to recognize the union and bargain. Sitdowns spread to Detroit — not just in auto plants but at hotels, department stores and cigar factories. The result was a massive membership increase in the newly founded Congress of Industrial Organizations and the signing of dozens of union contracts across Detroit. By 1941, Ford, the last holdout in auto, had agreed to a representation election, and when the UAW won, it signed a contract. The decades of struggle to organize the unorganized had succeeded on many fronts.

Economic Gains, Social Justice

Over the last six decades, Detroit’s labor unions have sought to build on their early successes, widening their reach, strengthening ties to their communities, and expanding their fight for social and economic justice. When teachers and other public workers won the right to collective bargaining in the 1960s, thousands joined the labor movement.

the broader community.

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marched down Woodward Ave. in June, 1963, thousands of union members joined him in the quest for human rights. Detroit union members were among the strongest supporters of the grape and lettuce boycotts led by Cesar Chavez to bring justice to farm workers. Groups like the Interfaith Committee on Workers Issues and Jobs with Justice continue the tradition of bringing together labor and faith communities for building a community of justice. The Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Trade Union Leadership Council, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Latin American Coalition for Labor Action, Pride at Work, and other groups seek to unite all sections of the labor movement to work for social justice. As the globalization of the economy continues, some of Detroit’s unions have reached out to their colleagues in Canada, Mexico, and other countries to build solidarity without borders — a global alliance of workers.

The vision that inspired early labor leaders like Malcolm MacLeod today faces challenges that those early unionists could not have imagined. Labor’s work, as symbolized by the gap at the top of the Labor Legacy Landmark, is never finished. We continue to strive, as Sergio De Giusti’s final sculpture at the Landmark reminds us, to “bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old.”

Dates in Detroit’s **LABOR HISTORY**

1946 UAW strikes General Motors	1963 Workers march with Martin Luther King, Jr.	1965 Public workers win collective bargaining rights	1970s Detroiters join grape boycott	1995-2000 Newspaper strike	2003 Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark dedicated
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RISING HIGH

— Labor Builds a —

Landmark for Michigan

At first, it sounded like a typical construction job for Ken Gilbey, Joe Malaneo, and Craig McEntyre — three skilled “skywalkers” who are used to placing, welding, and bracing steel structures high above the ground. Their goal: erecting a six-story 30-ton structure in downtown Detroit.

But the trio and their co-workers in the building and construction trades soon discovered that this would be no ordinary job. The 63-foot-high stainless-steel twin arcs they were asked to erect would be a lifelong tribute to each of them and to the hundreds of thousands of other union members in southeast Michigan. Sculptor David Barr had worked carefully over many months to polish the arcs to a gleaming finish before they were trucked to downtown Detroit.

The two graceful, curving arcs would soon become the centerpiece of the Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark, rising from the green space in front of Hart Plaza on Jefferson just west of Woodward, a site passed daily by thousands of pedestrians and vehicles.

Working with Barr was sculptor Sergio De Giusti. The two won the commission for the art with their collaborative proposal that they call “Transcending.” Both have labor roots: Barr was one of the founders of the faculty union at Macomb Community College and served on its bargaining team, and De Giusti’s father was a cement worker who emigrated from Italy. The two journeyed to a union quarry in Vermont to select the granite boulders that would be placed at the site. Workers sliced them in two and polished one face on each half before shipping them to Michigan, where they were carefully placed along the spiral walkway to hold De Giusti’s bronze reliefs.

Ironworkers, Operating Engineers, Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Cement Masons, Tile and Terrazzo workers and other union members all helped construct the arcs, marking a new chapter in this area’s rich labor history.

Many of them were moved by the idea of building a monument to honor labor.

‘I Want it to be Perfect’

As the arcs rose in sections day by day in early May, union workers would cross Jefferson to view the structure from all different angles. Because the arcs do not touch at the top, it was critical that the two sides line up both horizontally and vertically. On the last day of construction, most eyes would have judged the job okay, but to the workers it needed more fine-tuning.

“My name may not be on this arch,” said one Ironworker, “but my labor is in it and I want it to be perfect.” The Ironworkers and Operating Engineers spent an extra four-and-a-half hours unbolting, moving, and refastening the two bases ever so slightly until the tops lined up to their satisfaction.

It was no easy job. The steel in the arches weighed 30 tons, even before cement was poured into the hollow interior to stabilize it. Meanwhile, members of Electrical Workers Local 58 ran connectors from the bases to each top, where a light between the two sides illuminates the night sky, symbolizing labor’s energy.

The workers installed a raised dais for speakers and musicians, and surrounding benches that offer a place for visitors to sit and rest after viewing the sculptures and reading the 40 quotations on labor and social-justice themes. They also placed a dozen paving stones that recall labor’s milestones, from ending child labor to providing paid pensions and health care. Aristeo, Barton Malow, Turner Construction, and Walbridge Aldinger, all union firms, did the major construction work at the site with help from Motor City Electrical, Boom Stone, and Associated General Contractors.



‘TRANSCENDING’ ARTISTS *A Monumental Achievement*

Sculptors David Barr and Sergio De Giusti, who collaborated to create “Transcending,” the Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark, reflected on their work in remarks at the dedication ceremonies for this new work of public art on August 22, 2003.

Art for People, Not for Aristocrats

By DAVID BARR

Designer and sculptor who created the arcs

Historian Howard Zinn asserts, in his book *A People's History of the United States* that “art plays a critical role in any social movement, because it intensifies the movement’s messages.”

This was true in European history where art was funded by the aristocracy and the result was art glorifying that aristocracy. Painting and sculpture depicted the conquering general, but rarely ennobled the dead peasant. The arch of triumph welcomed the living soldier, but obscured the distant fields of those slaughtered in war.

The American experiment can produce a new art. We are capable of funding, creating, constructing, and installing art appropriate for a democracy. *Transcending* is one of the rare examples of such art. Individual workers, one hundred dollars at a time, their unions, and their friends funded this art. It is art initiated by the labor movement, representing the efforts of Michigan workers, and intensifying the message of Labor. I challenge others who believe in their causes as passionately to produce works of art in this uniquely American manner.

True Nobility Depends on Workers’ Values

In the process of creating *Transcending*, I’ve learned a great deal about labor’s message from construction workers, architects, lighting designers, steel fabricators, engineers, quarrymen, stone workers, and union organizers. I have been reawakened to the fact that true nobility depends on the fundamental values of the worker, and not the arrogance of those who have heartlessly and frequently exploited them for personal profit.

I have been reminded that America was built by workers

unafraid of defiance and sacrifice. Defiance without a goal is adolescent. Sacrifice without a worthy purpose is a waste. But defiance for a higher value, and the willingness to sacrifice is heroic.

Transcending is an artwork in response to Labor’s history of defiance and sacrifice, in mind, body, and spirit. For example, building the sculpture required splitting and polishing massive boulders which have resisted reshaping for 100 million years. Two steel arcs defy gravity, forming a gear that metaphorically moves the earth. Engraved stones defy time with quoted voices that warn us, encourage us, and liberate us.

Translating Labor History into Art

My challenge was to translate Labor’s ideals, into vibrant and fresh metaphors. I began with images and forms of sacrifice and defiance—a circle that defies the architectural grid of rectangles around it, with stones of ancient history that could only be split open and polished by Labor’s ingenuity and will, a spiral that flows from an opened circle, and bronzes that express the historical sacrifices of workers.

Wherever we look, we see the victories of organized labor: the buildings, the roads, the automobiles, the electrical system, the water system, the treatment of the air we breathe, our education and that of our children, the care of our elderly, the food on our tables, our medical care, our safety and well being.

As Howard Zinn notes, “Americans often point with pride to the high standard of living of the working class—the families that own their own homes, a car, a television and can afford to go away on vacation. All of this—the eight-hour





The team that built “*Transcending*”:
David Barr, left, and Sergio De Giusti

this country. Only then can we finally make real the promise of the Declaration of Independence, to give all men—and women and children—the equal right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’”

Our Challenges Continue

The average American in an industrial city can expect to live 40 years longer and far better than he or she could anticipate 100 years ago. This is due in large part to the enormous impact of organized labor on our quality of life.

But still the ruling class sends the children of the working class to war.

day, a fairly decent wage and vacations with pay—did not come about through the natural workings of the market or through the kindness of government. It came about through the direct action of workers themselves in their labor struggles or through the response of state and national governments to the threat of labor militancy.

“None of this has been sufficient to bring about economic justice in this country of wealth and poverty, gigantic production and colossal waste, glittering luxury and miserable slums. If we are going to make the radical changes to produce a situation we can call economic justice, much more will be required. People will have to organize and struggle, to protest, to strike, to boycott, to engage in politics, to go outside of politics and engage in civil disobedience, to act out the equalization of wealth.

“Only when wealth is equalized (at least roughly) will liberty be equalized. And only then will justice be possible in

The ruling class dictates school budgets and school enrollment policies. The ruling class fattens its financial and social advantages while draining the health plans, education, social security, and environment of the children of the working class. All these represent the old aristocracy at work. It is clear that our struggle is not over.

It is also clear what labor has given to us. Now it’s time for this city and this state to embrace labor with the power, dignity, and glory it has earned. We are here today to unveil its landmark as a tribute to its valiant history, the crucial present, and the exciting future.

While aristocratic and totalitarian societies tend to build monuments to victorious generals, or maniacal dictators, the American challenge is to find our own voices, our own vision. By soaring out of the earth, but embracing humanity below it, by forming an excitement for the future, yet paying homage to the past, I hope *Transcending* will speak to many.

We Become Part of the Art

By SERGIO DE GIUSTI

Sculptor of the bronze reliefs that surround the arcs

Stones have a great presence and have always been used to commemorate events. They are markers of a people and a generation. *Transcending* marks the existence of our people, of our labor generation.

Great works of art inspire people. Already, this work of public art is being used by the public. Last Saturday, we wit-

nessed enthusiastic picture-taking by a large wedding party under the arcs and among the stones. You don’t see that happening in front of The Joe Louis Fist!

Explaining the Art

Some people ask me for an explanation of the sculptures.



I tell them that for me, it is like the great stone monuments of the American West — eroded giant stones like Rainbow Bridge in Arizona and Delicate Arch in Utah. It is where the gods enter Valhalla in Wagner's opera. It also has Mayan influences.

Each of us will decide what it means on a personal level. We create the art and it is what each visitor brings to it that influences our experience here. This is a place where people become part of the art by entering and wandering among the boulders and looking at the images I have created. Some panels are simple without figures, and others are more detailed. I wanted a variety of panels to convey the message of labor.

In some respects, it is like a very dramatic operatic stage. It reminds me of Bellini's *Norma* where the druids mingle among the stones of Stonehenge. David Barr created the stage set, I created the characters in the opera, and the committee members were the librettists. The chorus and orchestra are all the people who contributed funds and labor to this incredible event. The viewers visiting the site are our audience — gazing on the arch, studying the figures on the bronze reliefs, and reading the labor quotations.

Our Art Has Many Roots

It is an honor to be in the company of other sculptors of different nationalities who created monuments for the city of Detroit. Robert Graham who is Mexican American did the Joe Louis Fist. Ed Dwight who is African American made the Underground Railroad sculpture nearby and in Windsor. The incredible Japanese American, Isamu Noguchi created great symbols in Hart Plaza — the Dodge Fountain and Pylon. His influence was important to both Dave and me, in that we wanted our work to properly co-exist and relate to his simplicity of design.

Many Italians are also represented in Detroit. Giacomo Manzu, whose reliefs were part of a great Italian tradition and a great inspiration to me, has a sculpture across the street in front of the gas building.

Down the street is the Columbus bust by Augusto Rivalta, and the Dante sculpture on Belle Isle is by Raffaello Romanelli. I am Italian, David Barr is English and we are proud to have worked together to create this new public art.

LABOR'S Enduring Message

These quotations from those who have struggled for social justice are engraved on tiles on the dais and base of the Labor Legacy Landmark:

On each side of the arch:

The arc of history bends toward justice.

Martin Luther King Jr., Civil rights pioneer

On the walkway:

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

Frederick Douglass, Anti-slavery leader

We want more schoolhouses and less jails...more justice and less revenge.

Samuel Gompers, First president, American Federation of Labor

"I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and also...to secure their influence in the political field."

Albert Einstein, physicist and member of AFT

On the dais:

Education is the golden key that unlocks the potential of human growth.

Walter P. Reuther, UAW president, 1946-1970

Women were in labor before men were born.

Myra Wolfgang, Hotel workers' leader

The future depends on what we do in the present.

Mahatma Gandhi, Anti-colonialist leader, India

We want bread, and roses, too.

Lawrence (Mass.) strike slogan, 1912

We just come to work here, we don't come to die.

Harry Stamper, Longshoreman, musician

An injury to one is the concern of all.

Knights of Labor slogan

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Martin Luther King Jr., Civil rights pioneer

'Each for himself' is the bosses' plea. A union of all will make you free.

Early Detroit Labor Day parade sign

Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.

Mary Harris (Mother) Jones, Union advocate and organizer

Don't mourn, organize.

Joe Hill, IWW organizer

El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido. The people united will never be defeated.

Cesar Chavez, Founder, United Farm Workers

If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution.

Attributed to Emma Goldman, Radical, feminist



The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people of all nations.”

Abraham Lincoln, President, 1861-65

Ten hours or no sawdust.

Saginaw lumber strike slogan for shorter workday, 1880

There is a direct relationship between the ballot box and the breadbox.

Walter P. Reuther, UAW president, 1946-70

We’re just honest working men that have been pushed so far and so hard that we can’t keep it up any longer.

Francis O’Rourke, 1937 UAW-GM Flint sitdown striker

Labor creates all wealth.

Adam Smith, 18th century economist

Some men rob you with a six-gun, others rob you with a fountain pen.

Woody Guthrie, musician and organizer

When I rise it will be with the ranks and not from the ranks.

Eugene V. Debs, Union leader and Socialist politician

There is a time to be tough, a time to be adamant, a time to be open to compromise, and a time to reach agreement.

James R. Hoffa, Teamsters union president, 1957-1971

The truly great man is he who would master no one and who would be mastered by none.

Khalil Gibran, Lebanese-American writer and artist

Power goes to two poles — to those who’ve got the money and those who’ve got the people.

Community organizer and writer

They can cut off our fingers one by one, but if we join together we will make a powerful fist.

Little Turtle, Miami Indian, 1791

If I went to work in a factory, the first thing I’d do would be to join a union.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President, 1932-1945

Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted.

*A. Philip Randolph
Union and civil-rights leader*

What is wanted by the ruling circle is a docile, spineless, unorganized and inarticulate army of workers.

*Nelson Mandela
South African freedom fighter
and president*

Black people worked 350 years without a paycheck.

*Janice Hale Benson
Wayne State University professor*

All great reforms, great movements, come from the bottom and not the top.

John Peter Altgeld, Illinois governor, 1893-1897

What labor is demanding all over the world today is. . . a right to a voice in the conduct of industry.

Sidney Hillman, First president, Clothing Workers union

The future of labor is the future of America

John L. Lewis, President, Mine Workers, 1920-1960

Eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, and eight hours for what we will.

19th century slogan for 8-hour workday

We make our own history.

UAW 50th anniversary slogan, 1985

Who will take care of you, how’ll you get by,
When you’re too old to work and too young to die.

Joe Glazer, labor singer/songwriter

Teachers want what children need.

*Mary Ellen Riordan
Detroit Federation of Teachers president*

We want liberated visions in history remembered.

Melba Boyd, Wayne State University professor

Democracy cannot be static. Whatever is static is dead.

Eleanor Roosevelt, Human rights leader; first lady, 1932-45

Cast me not out in my old age.

Isaiah

If the federal government can pay farmers for not raising food, they can subsidize honest jobs for people.

Coleman A. Young, Detroit mayor

The labor of a human being is not a commodity or an article of commerce.

Clayton Anti-Trust Act, 1914

I believe people should have the dignity of working for a living wage.”

*Clement Kern
Pastor, Most Holy Trinity Church and Detroit’s “labor priest”*

Delve Into Detroit's Labor Art

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONUMENT

Just a few yards south of the Labor Legacy Landmark, at the south side of Hart Plaza, stands the Underground Railroad Monument, a tribute to Detroit's role in helping escaped slaves flee across the river to freedom in Canada. On the river side, you will find maps showing the many routes that led from slavery to freedom and the



Photo: Dave Estlin

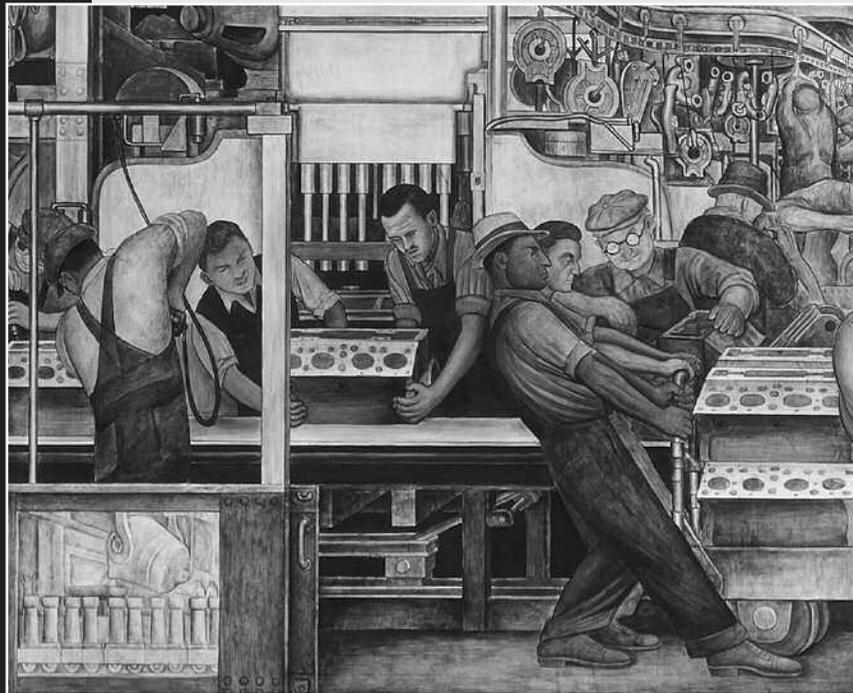
"safe houses" that dotted downtown Detroit in the years before the Civil War. Across the river in Windsor, Ontario, a companion sculpture, "Tower of Freedom," in Windsor Green on Pitt Street honors those Canadians who welcomed the freedom-seekers to their city.

Hart Plaza, Jefferson west of Woodward, Detroit.

HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Indoor and outdoor exhibits about industrial development and the contributions of workers can be found in this huge complex. Open year round.

Village Drive, west of Southfield Freeway (M-39), Dearborn. Call for hours. 313-982-6001



RIVERA MURALS: 'DETROIT INDUSTRY'

Mexican muralist Diego Rivera traveled to Detroit in the early 1930s to paint the powerful "Detroit Industry" frescoes in the Detroit Institute of Arts. The murals reflect his impressions of the vast automobile assembly lines at the Ford Motor Co. River Rouge plant in suburban Dearborn, and his views of modern technology and their impact on society.

Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Ave. at E. Kirby, Detroit.

Open Wed.-Sun. Call for hours. 313-833-7900

THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY

Located on the Wayne State University campus, this is one of the largest collections of labor archives in the world. Many unions have deposited their records here, and the library boasts a collection of thousands of books, periodicals, and photographs

UAW LOCAL 600 HALL

Historical photographs and murals, reflecting Detroit's labor struggles, line part of the walls in this union hall, home to Ford Rouge workers.

10550 Dix, Dearborn

BATTLE OF THE OVERPASS SITE

A historical plaque marks the site where, in 1937, UAW organizers were severely beaten by company forces as they distributed union literature on the overpass to the Ford River Rouge Plant.

Miller Road south of Michigan Ave., Dearborn

& History

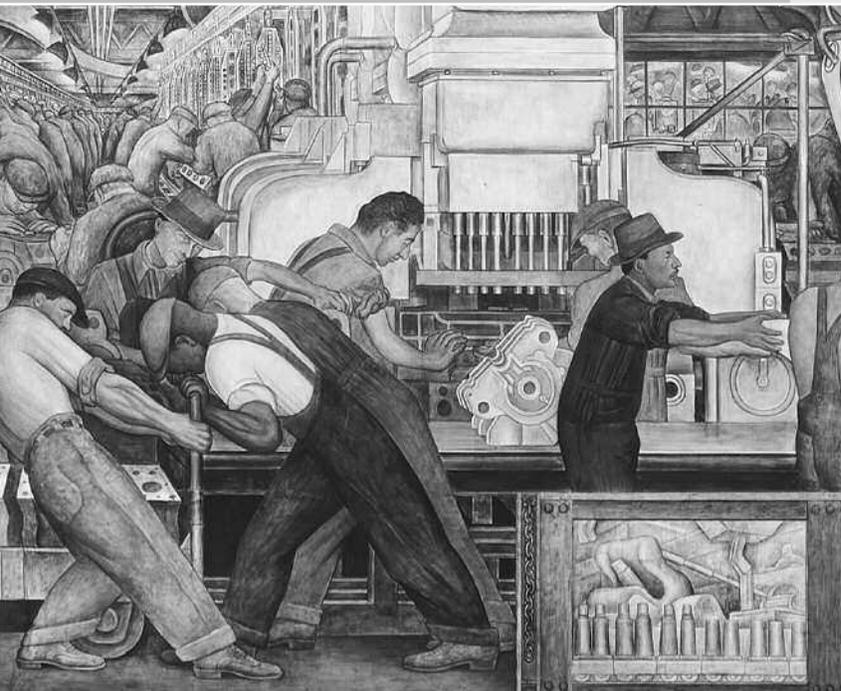


Photo courtesy of Detroit Institute of Arts

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

See how workers brought together a car body and chassis on the drop line from the old Cadillac Clark Street plant. The museum's Motor City exhibit describes the rise of the auto industry and part of the history of the United Auto Workers, which led the struggles for higher pay and better working conditions in Detroit factories. Other exhibits are devoted to immigrants as well as fur-trading and other early occupations.

Detroit Historical Museum

5401 Woodward at W. Kirby, Detroit. 313-833-1805
Open daily except Monday. Call for hours.

documenting the labor movement. The ground floor has regular exhibits on labor history and related topics.

The Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Ave. at W. Kirby, Detroit.
Open Monday-Friday. 313-577-4024

FORD RIVER ROUGE PLANT

Tours leave from the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn to one of the world's first integrated auto assembly plants.

Schedule and information: 313-982-6001

AIRPORT MURAL

Opposite baggage carousel 11 at the new Detroit Metro

WPA MURAL: ORGANIZING THE UAW

Artist Walter Speck painted this historic mural depicting the 1937 UAW organizing drives.

UAW Local 174

29841 Van Born Rd., Romulus. 734-728-7600



FORD HUNGER MARCH GRAVES

Headstones reading "His Life for a Union" mark the graves of five unemployed workers who were shot and killed while peacefully demonstrating for jobs and relief in front of the Ford River Rouge Plant on March 7, 1932.

Woodmere Cemetery

West Fort St. and Woodmere, Detroit.
Graves in Fernwood Section, Block 18, Nos. 20-24

'VOCATIONS'

A collection of 19 wood carvings depicts the many occupations of working people.

Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

1345 Gratiot, Detroit. 313-567-3100

Airport terminal is a colorful mural featuring Detroit labor leaders and civil-rights and political figures.

WORKERS' ROW HOUSE

The oldest example of a workers' residence in Detroit is a 150-year-old row house in Detroit's historic Corktown district.
1430 Sixth St., Detroit. Information: 313-965-5853



Labor's Achievements Are America's STRENGTH

*These Milestones of Labor are engraved on stones
throughout the spiral walkway at the Labor Legacy Landmark*

Free Public Education

Ending Child Labor

Equality for Women

Protection of Civil Rights

Social Security

Shorter Worktime/
More Leisure

Right to Organize

Collective Bargaining
Agreements

Job Security

Health Insurance

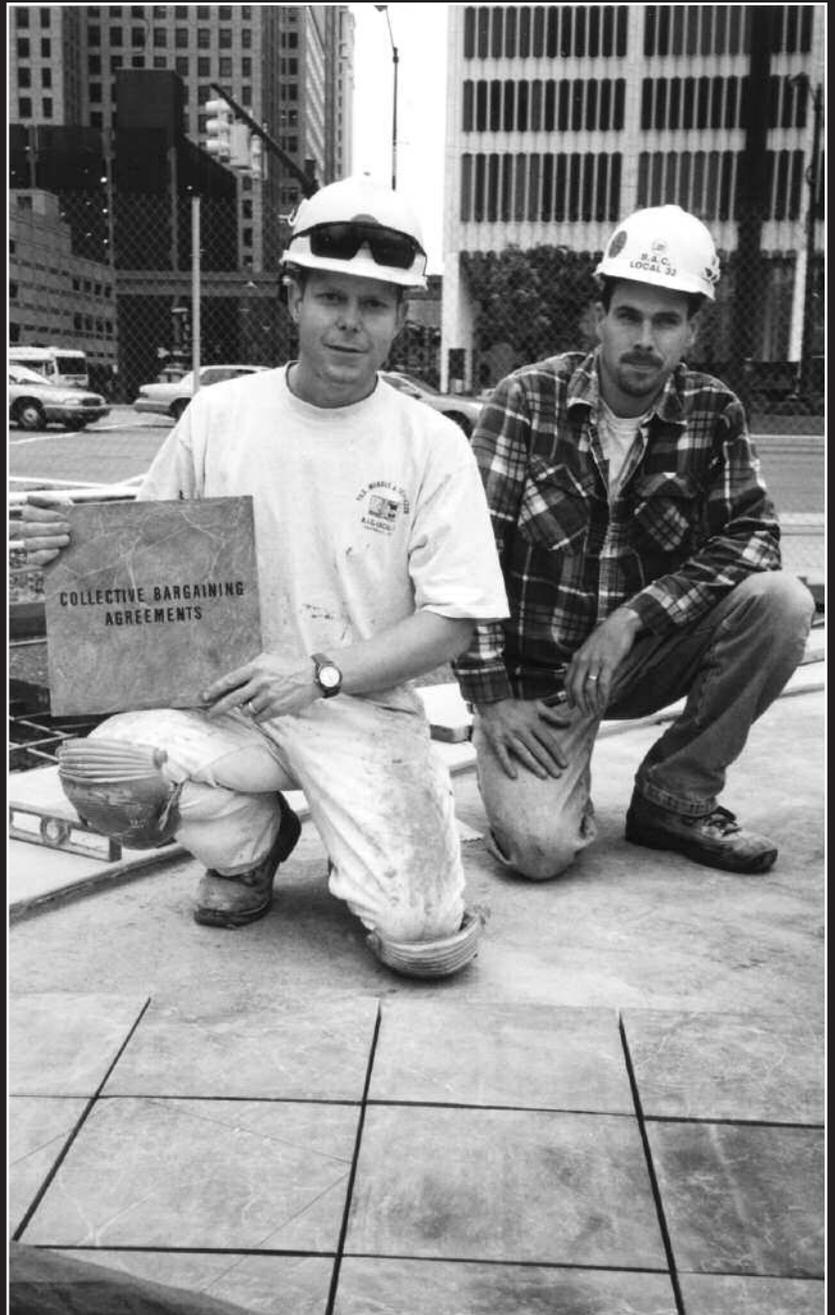
Guaranteed Pensions

Grievance Procedures

Health and Safety
Protection

Human Rights

Solidarity Across Borders





‘TRANSCENDING’

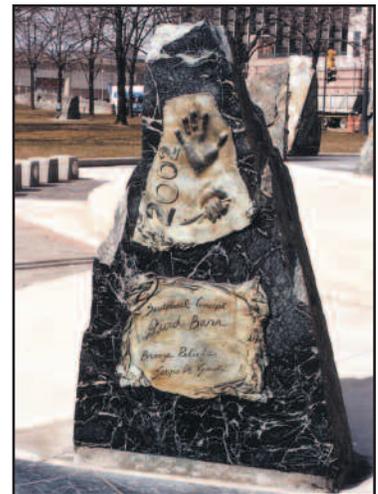
A Guide to the Michigan Labor Landmark

The spiral walkway at the Labor Legacy Landmark takes visitors past 16 sculptures that tell the stories of labor. Here is a guide to the sculptures. A map is on the next page.



I-A & I-B Entry stones to “Transcending:”

As you enter the spiral walkway, you will see the title “Transcending” and bronze castings of the hands of artists Sergio De Giusti and David Barr. De Giusti’s hand holds the sculpture tool that he used to create the panels on the stones along the pathway. The opening panels also hold the date, 2002, when the artists started the project as well as their signatures.





2-A

Our Roots, Our Traditions: From its founding in 1701, Detroit has been a city of workers. Fur trading, farming, and lumbering in the 18th Century gave way to small factories employing skilled workers in a variety of trades. By the end of the 19th Century, Detroit had developed a thriving shipbuilding and carriage-making industry; soon after, it would begin its development as the Motor City.



2-B

The Birth of Industrial Unionism: The Great Depression that started in 1929 left thousands of workers without jobs. In 1937, a wave of sit-down strikes hit auto and parts plants, cigar factories, retail shops, and hotels as workers sought higher wages and union recognition.



3-A

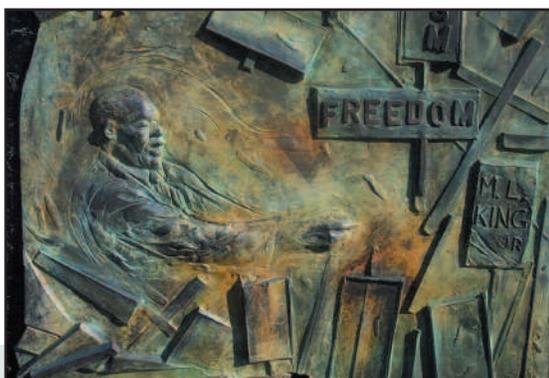
Our Crafts, Our Skills:

These are the tools used by the skilled trades workers who construct our homes; who design and build our buses, trains, ships, and autos; who teach our children; who work in our hospitals, and who do all the other jobs that improve our lives.



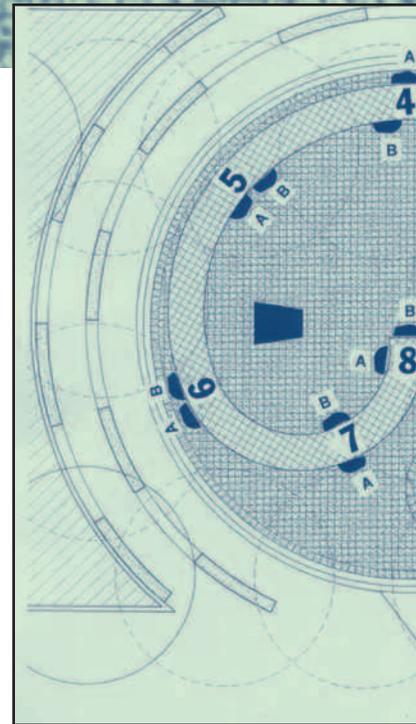
3-B

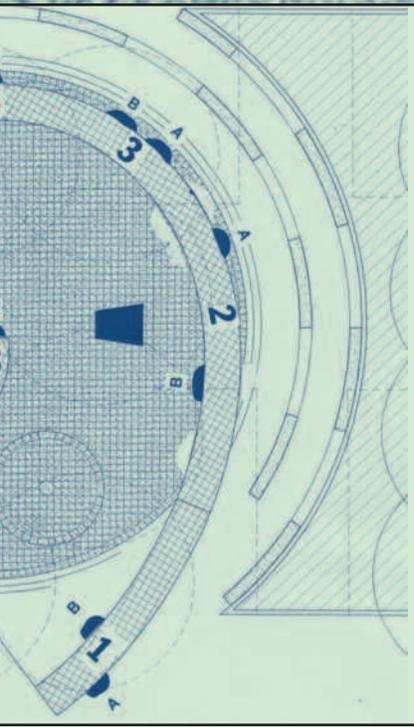
The Art of Labor: Art and music have been a part of Detroit's labor movement for decades. Today, composers, musicians, artists, actors, writers, photographers, and film-makers — many of them union members — continue to enhance our lives with their art.



4-A

Labor and Civil Rights: On June 23, 1963, 125,000 people marched down Woodward and Jefferson. At the conclusion of that Detroit Walk for Freedom, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, two months before he gave it on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.





4-B

Our Movement Grows: This sculpture represents some of the growing occupations at the start of the 21st Century, including jobs in electronics, computer programming, retail stores, health care, science, agriculture, and education. Workers in these fields are building unions and winning collective bargaining contracts.

5-A

The Builders: Skilled construction trades workers who build the skyscrapers and other buildings surrounding the Landmark are depicted in this sculpture.

5-B

The Assemblers: For over a century, workers in the auto industry have left an indelible mark on Detroit — putting us on the map as the “Motor City.” Workers in auto and auto parts factories in Michigan turn out millions of vehicles annually.

6-A

The Transporters: By truck, rail, air, and ship, workers in the transportation industries carry Detroit’s products to the nation and the world. The Detroit River is one of the links between the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, while rail lines and interstate highways fan out to the rest of the U.S.





6-B

Serving the People: Public service workers keep our community a safe and pleasant place to live. They include teachers, nurses, and firefighters, as well as the workers who clean our streets, who maintain our parks and roads, who light our neighborhoods, who keep our drinking water safe, and who do all the jobs that enhance our lives.

7-A

Solidarity Knows No Borders: Union workers in Detroit are linking up with workers all over the world to effectively fight for labor rights, living wages, and better working conditions for all.

7-B

We Can Bring To Birth a New World:

The anthem of the labor movement, “Solidarity Forever,” inspires us build a world where all are free: “When the union’s inspiration through the workers’ blood shall run, there can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun. For what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one. For the union makes us strong.”



8-A

From Slavery To Freedom: As a stronghold of abolitionism in the 19th Century, Detroiters helped break the chains of slavery and usher in an era of free labor and worker rights. The city was a terminus of the Underground Railroad, leading slaves across the river to freedom in Canada, an event commemorated by a monument just south of here on the river’s edge.

8-B

The Future Belongs to the Young: At the end of the walkway, the final sculpture bears the handprints of children cast in the year 2002, reminding us that today’s young people will be tomorrow’s workers, carrying on the traditions of the labor movement for economic justice, social progress, and peace.



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GREETINGS

*Let Us Always
Remember.*

Ken Morris
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Retired, Local 212

Making History

The Labor Legacy Landmark
Celebrates Our Proud History

At the Labor School,
You Can Learn How Our Mothers and
Fathers Made that History,

And How You Can Make Your Own

The **Labor School** at Wayne State University is a certificate program that stresses cooperative learning. Classes are designed for leadership development and focus on a full range of topics including labor history, collective bargaining, economics for workers, labor law, power and politics, and communications skills.

Contact us at

(313) 577-2191

Or on the web at www.laborstudies.wayne.edu

UAW LOCAL 228

*Working in Solidarity
To Protect Health Care,
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**Executive Board
Retiree Chapter
and Active Members**

*The Labor Legacy Landmark reminds us
that workers and Union organizers have fought and died
to protect their rights and to create our Unions.*

In November 1940, FDR said:

*"I see ... an America where the workers are really free; and
through their great unions ... the dignity and security of the
working man and woman are guaranteed by their own
strength and fortified by the safeguards of law."*

Today, workers feel the attack of the economy, the employer and the
government on our Unions and on our rights to bargain collectively.

If we don't learn from history, we are destined to repeat it!



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

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...for the health of
Michigan's
organized labor.

MONROE COUNTY COUNCIL C.I.O.
SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION



*The Monroe County
Labor History Museum
expresses our deepest gratitude for
your efforts to preserve and share
the struggles and accomplishments
our forebears fought
and died for.*

*This beautiful gift of public art
is a great venue to share
labor's milestones which result in
the standard of living enjoyed
by so many workers today.*

*What does labor want? We want more
schoolhouses and less jails; more books and
less arsenals; more learning and less vice;
more leisure and less greed; more justice and
less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities
to cultivate our better natures.*

Samuel Gompers



Michigan AFL-CIO State Federation

Don't Mourn, Organize!

Join Detroit Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
as we strive to create a better community and a more humane world.

Detroit DSA has been a dynamic and active participant in winning five local living-wage campaigns, in getting Wayne State University to bar the sale of products made in Third World sweatshops, and in working with the AFL-CIO in its Voice at Work campaign to support the Employee Free Choice Act. We remain the backbone of the state single-payer health-insurance coalition, and we are founding members of the Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Medicare, fighting the Bush privatization efforts.

Send to: **DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA)**
180 Varick Street, 12th Floor • New York NY 10014

Yes! I want to join or renew my membership in DSA and receive a subscription to Democratic Left magazine.

My annual dues are enclosed: \$50 (sustainer)
 \$40 (regular) \$20 (low income/student)

Please send me more information about DSA and democratic socialism.

Name _____

No. & Street _____

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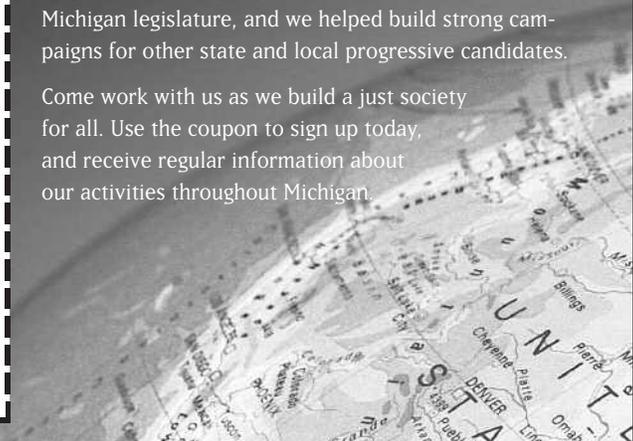
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Union/School/Organization _____

Visit Our Web Site at: www.dsausa.org

On the political front, our vigorous campaign efforts helped elect three progressive Democrats to the Michigan legislature, and we helped build strong campaigns for other state and local progressive candidates.

Come work with us as we build a just society for all. Use the coupon to sign up today, and receive regular information about our activities throughout Michigan.



THE ELISE BRYANT EDUCATIONAL GRANT FOUNDATION

*Is Proud To Help Celebrate
The Achievements of Michigan's
Working Women and Men as
Commemorated in the
Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark.*

*And We Salute Steve Jones, Elise Bryant,
Bill Meyer, and the Entire Cast and Crew of
FORGOTTEN, the Labor Jazz/Blues Opera
Which Returns to the Detroit Stage on the
Second Anniversary of the Labor Legacy Landmark!*





The UAW-GM Center for Human Resources
is proud to support the
Michigan Labor History Society
as it celebrates the second anniversary of the
Labor Legacy Landmark

The UAW and General Motors applaud the
Society's continued efforts to honor the
working men and women of our community.

*Assembly Line to Goal Line...
Teamwork Wins*

People Making a Difference



Our Congratulations

to all who have dedicated their talent and lives
in bringing the story of Lewis Bradford to the stage

Welcome to
FORGOTTEN:
Murder at the Ford Rouge



Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO

President Donald W. Boggs
Executive Vice-President David Hecker
Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Williams

Keep Lewis Bradford's memory alive by volunteering once a month on a picket line in support of a group of workers who struggle for social and economic justice.

Congratulations on the second anniversary of the Michigan Labor Legacy Project in downtown Detroit.

We must continue to educate our youth on the labor struggles of our past so that they carry forward the message.

WE REMEMBER YOU!

In the United States, more than 20,000 workers are fired annually for standing up for a Voice at Work. Unscrupulous employers violate labor laws with these unjust firings, and then litigate them for years.

It is time for labor law reform in this country.

We're proud to have played a role in building Detroit's magnificent **Labor Legacy Landmark.**

May this Landmark always remind us of the contributions of the men and women who built our city.

**Klimist, McKnight, Sale,
McClow & Canzano, P.C.**

400 Galleria Center, #117
Southfield MI 48034

LABOR GROWS

From the Ground Up!

We're proud to have been part of building the Labor Legacy Landmark.

Operative Plasterers and
Cement Masons,
Local 514
Madison Heights
Michigan

*Our congratulations to the cast and crew
on another successful production of*

FORGOTTEN:
Murder at the Ford Rouge

from

**LABOR'S INTERNATIONAL
HALL OF FAME**

President Byron Kelley
Chairman Richard Cordtz
Secretary-Treasurer Edgar Scribner

The final song of tonight's show touches our heart as we fight to preserve the memory of those who fought on behalf of working men and women across this country.

*Watch for the invitations to the 2005
Induction Ceremony to be held later this year.*

WE REMEMBER YOU!

The members, officers, and staff of



celebrate the heritage and promise of
the Labor Legacy Landmark,
reminding all that
the arc of history bends toward justice.



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'WE BUILT THIS CITY'

UAW Region I
Salutes the Working
Men and Women
Who Built Our City
And Whose History
And Vision Are
Enshrined at
The Michigan
Labor Legacy
Landmark.



Solidarity Forever

UAW Region I
Joe Peters, Director

LABOR

Is as Strong as the
30 Tons of Steel
That Form the
Labor Legacy Landmark.

Solidarity Forever

From the
United Steelworkers
Leo Girard, President



**The past won't be 'Forgotten'
while we fight for the future**



Communications Workers of America

District 4

Seth Rosen

Vice President

UAW LOCAL 600

The strength of our Union is forged from within.

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THE BUILDERS OF 'TRANSCENDING'

'Transcending' was made possible by donations from more than 1,800 rank-and-file workers and individuals. You can see their names, or the names of those they chose to honor, at the permanent wall on the east side of the Landmark. Names continue to be accepted for a minimum \$100 donation, and once 80 new names are received, a new plaque listing them will be engraved and installed on the wall. Write MLHS, 5401 Cass, Detroit, MI 48202.

ORGANIZATIONAL & GROUP DONORS

The following unions, organizations, and enterprises provided generous contributions through grants and in-kind donations to help complete the Labor Legacy Landmark:

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Laborers' International Union Locals 334 & 1076
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United Food & Commercial Workers
Locals 876 and 951
UAW-GM Center for Human Resources



Blue Cross Blue Shield
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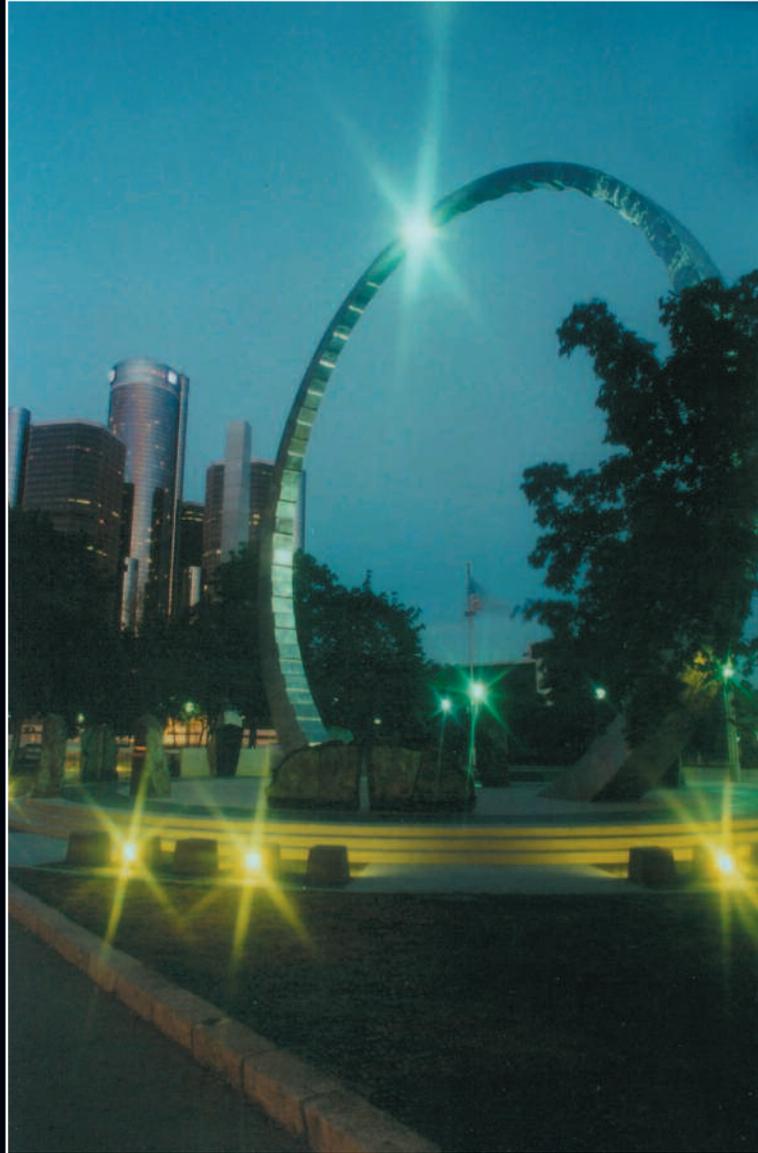
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Detroit Assn. of Educational Office Employees
AFT Local 4168
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UNITE!
United Steelworkers Local 2659
United Steelworkers of America District 2
Wayne Co. Sheriff/Airport Police, SEIU Local 502



This is a publication of the
MICHIGAN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

Walter P. Reuther Library, 5401 Cass, Detroit MI 48202
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