

# 2023 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation



## ***Historic resources and archaeological sites tell us about the past and help us celebrate Michigan's unique identity.***

Their preservation is vital to Michigan's present and future as they contribute to vibrant communities and our understanding of the past.

Each year the State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historic Preservation Review Board identify worthy recipients to receive the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation, which are presented during

National Historic Preservation Month in May. The awards recognize homeowners who rehabilitate their homes; developers who transform underutilized historic structures into vital economic assets; and academic institutions, archaeologists, nonprofits, and local governments—among other partners—who strive to preserve Michigan's important historic and cultural resources.

## **2023 Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation**

- Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium; Wayne County; SmithGroup; and DMC Consultants Inc. for the rehabilitation of Hamtramck Stadium, *Hamtramck*
- Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance; Village of Calumet; Calumet Downtown Development Authority; Main Street Calumet; Houghton County Land Bank Authority; Keweenaw National Historical Park; and Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission, for the collaborative Bring Back Calumet initiative, *Calumet*
- ICCF Community Homes; Concept Design Studio Inc.; Wolverine Building Group; Designsmiths Inc.; and Oasis Community of West Michigan, for the rehabilitation of the former Eastern Elementary School building into the Emerald Flats Apartments, *Grand Rapids*
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Maritime Archaeology Program; Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division Great Lakes Enforcement Unit; Michigan State Police, Marine Services Team; Tuskegee Airmen National Museum; Noble Odyssey Foundation; David Losinski; and Drew Losinski, for the discovery, documentation, and recovery of Lt. Frank Moody's P-39Q Red Tail aircraft in lower Lake Huron, *Saint Clair County*





# 2023 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



## Bring Back Calumet

**Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance; Village of Calumet; Calumet Downtown Development Authority; Main Street Calumet; Houghton County Land Bank Authority; Keweenaw National Historical Park; and Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**

### ***The collaborative Bring Back Calumet initiative, Calumet***

Calumet was first settled in 1864 and for generations, the city rode the good times and the bad for the copper industry. During the 1870s, the Calumet area mined more than half of the copper in the nation, generating substantial wealth in the community. The industry changed, and the last mine closed in 1968. Tourism grew to become an important part of the economy, but many empty buildings remained. Limited revitalization took place in fits and starts.

In 2016, the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance brought together a group of stakeholders to find solutions to the ongoing issues of blight and demolition by neglect. It was quickly acknowledged that no individual entity had the means or ability to do everything, and the collaborative effort known

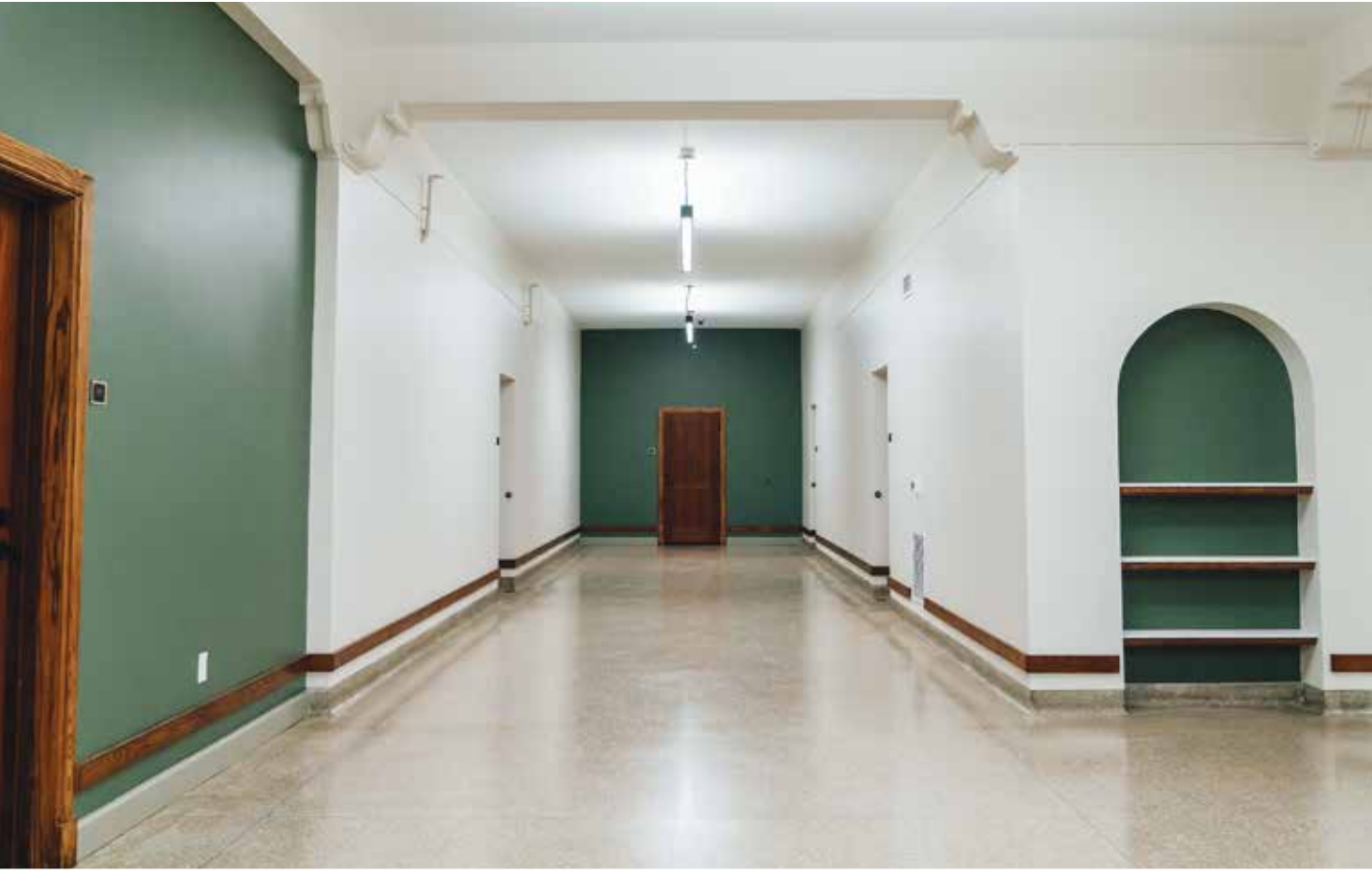
as “Bring Back Calumet” was born. This ongoing project grew from updating blight enforcement ordinances to hosting volunteer-based, community-supported historic building preservation efforts and assisting developers with packaging façade- and whole-building renovation projects. Over \$8 million of public and private investments have been made so far.

The collaboration has inspired more investment in Calumet including 10 building rehabilitations completed or underway with three more planned, at least four new businesses opened and at least six historic buildings acquired and stabilized. With stronger partnerships forged, the future looks bright for the Calumet National Historic Landmark District.





# 2023 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



## Emerald Flats Apartments

ICCF Community Homes; Concept Design Studio Inc.; Wolverine Building Group; Designsmiths Inc.; and Oasis Community of West Michigan

### ***The rehabilitation of Eastern Elementary School into Emerald Flats Apartments, Grand Rapids***

Eastern Elementary opened in 1929 as one of the first accessible school buildings for children with disabilities. The design featured large windows for open air and sunlight, wide ramps to accommodate movement, physiotherapy rooms and medical resources facilities. Neighbors grew concerned about the future of the school as it fell into disrepair after closing in 2008.

ICCF Community Homes purchased the property in 2015 with goals to preserve the building and find a new purpose that would serve the community's needs. After engaging with residents, ICCF worked closely with City of Grand Rapids on a pilot initiative that would create "missing middle" housing, alongside affordable housing. The extensive rehabilitation took care to preserve the unique architectural elements of the building,

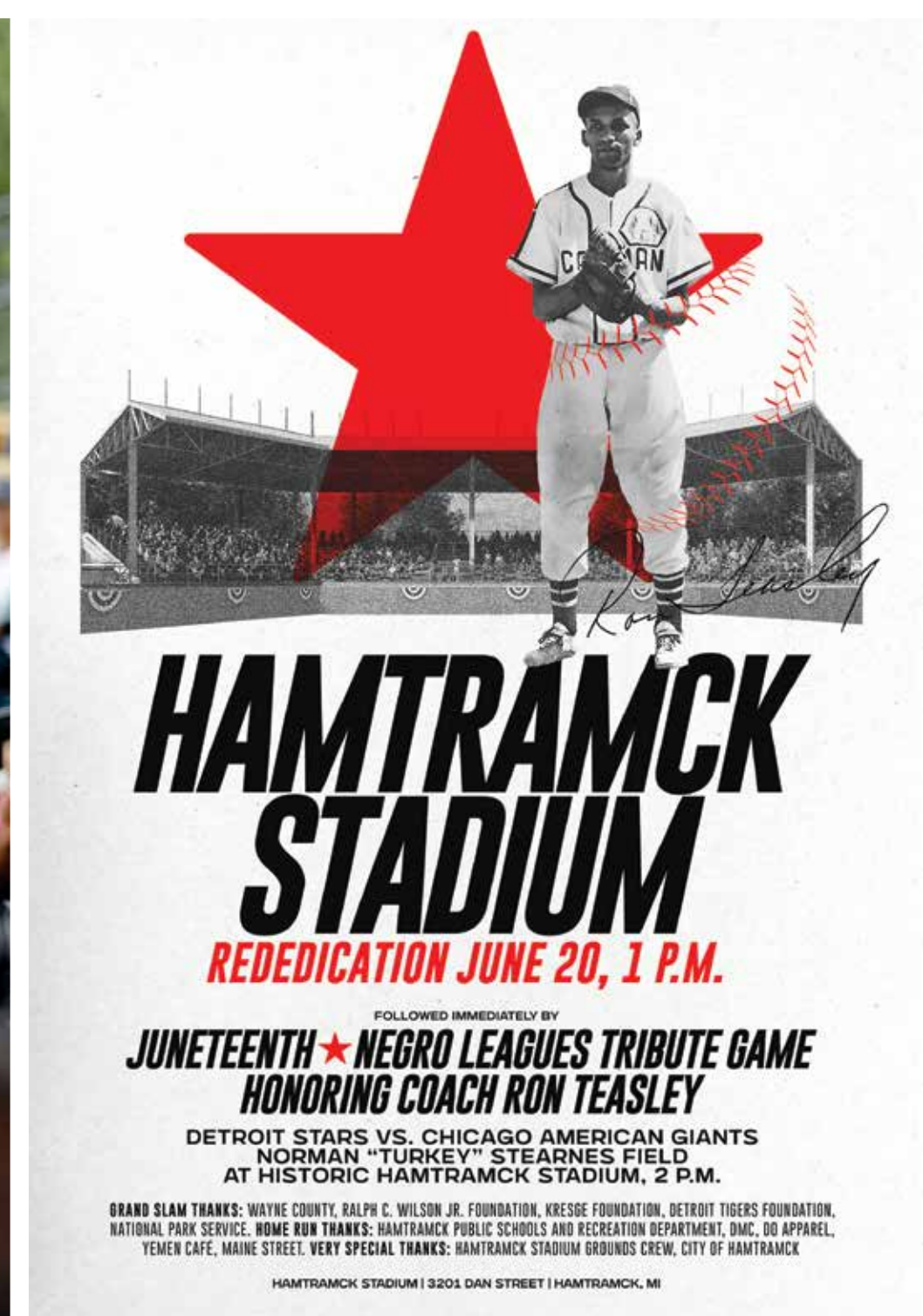
including the wide ramps and hallways. A combination of nine funding sources, including Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and a Michigan Community Revitalization Program award, enabled the \$15 million rehabilitation.

The mixed-use project was completed in 2021 with 50 income-based housing units and social service office space. The school gymnasium was restored to serve as a meeting space and for community events, and the old school playground is now a public park. This adaptive reuse project celebrates the historic features of the building, meets a recognized housing need, and has taken place with intentional community benefit. Reborn as Emerald Flats Apartments, the former school site is once again an anchor of the neighborhood.





# 2023 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



## Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium; Wayne County; SmithGroup; and DMC Consultants Inc.

### *For the rehabilitation of Hamtramck Stadium, Hamtramck*

When the Negro National League was founded in 1920, one of its eight charter teams was the Detroit Stars. The team began playing at Hamtramck Stadium in 1930, and several iterations of a Detroit Negro League team played baseball at the stadium until 1937. The field and grandstand continued to be used by community and little league teams, but eventually, the use of the stadium declined and it was fenced off in extreme disrepair.

The non-profit Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium group was formed in 2012 with the mission to restore the stadium to use while honoring the history of Negro League Baseball in Hamtramck and Detroit. The original grandstand's steel structure and roof were completely rehabilitated, and the seating and ramps were reconstructed.

Much of the work to the field met the specifications used by minor-league baseball teams. Numerous local and federal partners contributed to the effort including funds from the Community Development Block Grant program, the Public Spaces Community Places crowdfunding match program, the National Park Service, and several foundations. Wayne County acted as the developer for the \$2.6 million dollar project.

The transformation concluded on June 20, 2022, with a dedication ceremony and the opening pitch of a Juneteenth Negro Leagues Tribute Game. Hamtramck Stadium's rehabilitated grandstand and restored field are now a regional destination and a thriving community recreational resource, giving new life to its place in baseball history.

Hamtramck Stadium





# 2023 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation



**Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Maritime Archaeology Program; Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division Great Lakes Enforcement Unit; Michigan State Police, Marine Services Team; Tuskegee Airmen National Museum; Noble Odyssey Foundation; David Losinski; and Drew Losinski**

## ***Documentation and recovery of the P-39Q Red Tail aircraft in lower Lake Huron, Saint Clair County***

The Tuskegee Airmen were America's first Black military airmen, serving bravely during World War II. Many graduates of the Tuskegee pilot training program came to Michigan for additional training before deployment. In April 1944, a Bell P-39Q Airacobra "Red Tail" airplane, flown by 22-year-old Tuskegee Airman Lt. Frank H. Moody, crashed in Lake Huron on a training exercise. Moody's body was quickly recovered, but the aircraft was not found.

In 2014 the wreckage was discovered by divers David and Drew Losinski. They contacted State Maritime Archaeologist Wayne Lusardi, who began leading volunteer expeditions to document the site the next year. The wreckage is located at a depth of 30 feet scattered across nearly 10 acres of lake bottom.

Although disarticulated, many of the Airacobra components remain intact including the wings, engine, three propeller blades, tail, cabin doors, and some armament. The initial efforts captured high definition underwater photography and mapped the wreckage on the bottom of the lake.

The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum received a state permit to recover the aircraft starting in 2018, and all of the wreckage will be mapped, recovered, conserved, and placed on exhibit in Detroit. Documentation of the plane has led to new recognition for the Tuskegee Airmen, and to the creation of a special memorial to honor Lt. Moody in 2021. Once fully conserved, artifacts recovered from the wreck will illustrate the significance of the site and its history for decades to come.

Lake Huron Red Tail Aircraft

