



Certified Local Government Grant Program

## FORD PIQUETTE AVE PLANT FLOOR REHABILITATION

MODEL-T AUTOMOTIVE HERITAGE COMPLEX, INC | WAYNE COUNTY

Built in 1904, the Piquette Avenue Plant is where the Ford Motor Company achieved quantity production of technically-advanced yet inexpensive automobiles, enabling Ford to become the largest auto producer in the country. Ford's original office and the famous "Secret Experimental Room" where the Model T was conceived were both located here. The Model-T Automotive Heritage Complex, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to preservation of the plant and interpretation of Detroit's automotive heritage, acquired the property in 2000. Following, the organization—largely through volunteer efforts—embarked on a targeted restoration program that continues today.

As part of this effort, the organization, in partnership with the City of Detroit, acquired a CLG grant that supported complete rehabilitation of structurally deficient portions of the third floor, which had become a safety hazard and limited use of the space. Crews carefully removed deteriorated floor elements, salvaging as much as possible. New Douglas Fir joists cultivated from Oregon and custom-milled in Zeeland, Michigan were installed, and salvaged and replacement decking and flooring were laid, matching the original installation.

While just a small part of the much larger restoration effort undertaken at this National Historic Landmark, the CLG grant helped support critical building stabilization efforts that were needed before moving on to other preservation activities. In total, through their stewardship of this irreplaceable heritage asset, the organization continues to support neighborhood revitalization and cultural tourism efforts targeting Detroit's Milwaukee Junction.

### LOCATION

461 Piquette Ave  
Detroit, MI

### PROJECT TYPE

Development

### FUNDING

\$82,000

### PROJECT DATES

September 2020 -  
September 2021





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