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# Press Release

## Michigan Museums Association Announces Annual Awards Recipients

Lansing, MI: Michigan museum professionals, volunteers, and supporters recently gathered in Lansing, Michigan for the 2017 Annual Michigan Museums Association Conference, as well as the MMA Awards. These awards are given annually by the association to acknowledge excellence in several areas and were presented this year on October 18. Two awards were given to individuals in the Michigan museum community, and one award was given to three institutions for their collaborative project *Detroit 67*. The recipients of this year's awards are:

- **MMA Volunteer of the Year** – Melanie Parker, Detroit Institute of Arts
- **President's Award** – Sandra Clark, Michigan Historical Center
- **Peninsula's Prize** – Detroit 67 Collaboration, Detroit Historical Society, Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

### MMA Volunteer

**Melanie Parker, Interpretive Specialist, Detroit Institute of Arts** was selected by MMA Executive Director Lisa Craig Brisson in recognition for her outstanding commitment and service to the Michigan Museums Association. Melanie has been an Interpretive Specialist at the DIA since 2015. She works collaboratively with cross-departmental teams to create exhibitions that help people connect with art, ensuring that DIA exhibitions are relevant, accessible, and personally meaningful for visitors. She has volunteered with the Michigan Museums Association for two years and has previously held positions at the Ypsilanti Historical Society, The Henry Ford, and the Historic Ford Estates.

### President's Award

**Sandra Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center** was selected by MMA President, Emily Fijol in recognition of Clark's commitment and service to the profession as the director of Michigan's state museum and historic sites. Sandra's service to Michigan's historical community began in 1979 when she returned to Michigan as editor of Michigan History Magazine. She was deputy director of Travel Michigan for three years before she became director of the Michigan History Center in September 1991. Her professional service has included ten years on the American Association for State and Local History board (president 1998-2000), service on the Michigan Museums Association board (president 1993-1995), the Association of Midwest Museums board, and the Automobile National Heritage Area board (president 2001-2004). She was the 2009 recipient of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Leadership Award. Currently she is a member of the Fishtown Preservation Society Board of Directors and the Land Information Access Association Board of Directors.

For Immediate Release

**Peninsulas Prize**

MMA has awarded the Peninsulas Prizes this year to the joint efforts of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and Detroit Historical Society (DHS) for their collaborative project, Detroit 67, which commemorated the historic Detroit Uprising of July 1967.

For over two years, the team at DHS engaged over 100 community-based organizations and hundreds of residents from the greater Detroit community in the planning and implementation of its *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward* project. This included a unique collaboration with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Institute of Arts, which provided thoughtful input into every aspect of the project, from uncovering the ways in which the civil unrest of July 1967 helped shape the city and the region, to the coordination and co-marketing of programming and exhibitions.

In addition, the DIA developed *Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement* with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History who also organized *Say It Loud: Art, History, Rebellion. Together*. Together they consulted community members through focus groups, advisory panels, and teams of young metro Detroiters to shape two complementary exhibitions now on view at each museum.

*With an emphasis on face-to-face collaboration, the Michigan Museums Association shares expertise and resources to promote standards and practices that make the Michigan museum community thrive. MMA has been supporting the work of Michigan museums for nearly 60 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.*

Photos of the awardees are available at [michiganmuseums.org/2017-Awards-Photos/](http://michiganmuseums.org/2017-Awards-Photos/)