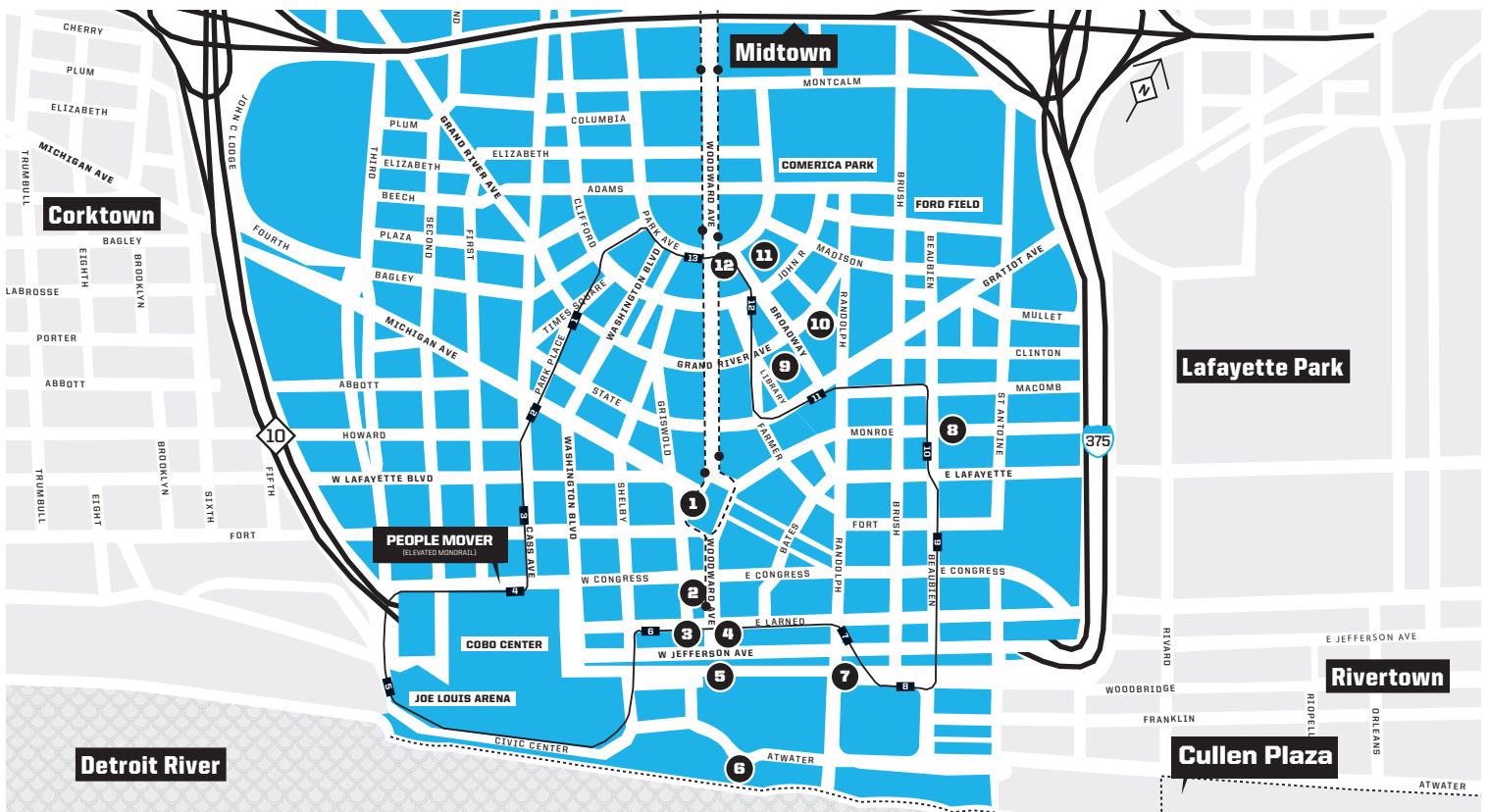


# DOWNTOWN DETROIT






This self-guided tour is a great intro to downtown! Be sure to join us on one of our public tours or contact us to create a customized experience that fits your schedule.

## DOWNTOWN DETROIT SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



### MAP LEGEND

-  People Mover Stations
-  Qline Stops
-  Tour Stops

Detroit Experience Factory uses immersive storytelling to educate locals and visitors about Detroit's people, places and projects. We have taken over 130,000 people on experiential tours of Detroit since we opened in 2006.

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**DETROIT**  
EXPERIENCE FACTORY

## 1 Campus Martius Park

**Stand at: Point of Origin marker next to the Fountain restaurant | Built: 2004**

Have you ever wondered what Eight Mile Road is eight miles from? The answer is right here—the point of origin! After the great fire in 1805, Augustus Woodward laid out a plan for Detroit's streets based on the city plans of Paris and Washington D.C. The name "Campus Martius," referencing the Roman god of war Mars, comes from its historical use as a military training ground. Today, Campus Martius is a place where locals and visitors listen to free concerts during the summer, go ice skating in the winter, or pick up something good to eat at Parc restaurant.

## 2 The Guardian Building

**Stand at: Corner of Griswold and Congress, facing 500 Griswold | Built: 1929**  
**Architect: Wirt Rowland**

The Guardian Building is unlike any other building and was built for the Union Trust Company to be a "Cathedral of Finance" flaunting the wealth of financial institutions. No expense was spared in the construction of the building, which combines Art Deco, Aztec, and Native American influences as well as Detroit's own Pewabic Pottery tile. Inside the Guardian Building is a must-see elaborate lobby where you'll find the Pure Detroit gift shop.

## 3 One Woodward Avenue

**Stand at: Northwest corner of Woodward and Jefferson facing north | Built: 1963**

**Architect: Minoru Yamazaki**

One Woodward Avenue was one of Yamazaki's first skyscraper projects and it helped him formulate his design for the World Trade Center, which began construction just three years later. Designed with simplicity and symmetry in mind, the views from the interior are some of the best in the city because of the plentiful floor-to-ceiling windows. The large cube at the top is illuminated at night in varying hues.

## 4 Spirit of Detroit

**Stand at: Northeast corner of Jefferson and Woodward | Dedicated: 1958**  
**Sculptor: Marshall Fredericks**

The Spirit of Detroit statue, holding a family in one hand and an orb representing divinity in the other, was created to express "the concept that God, through the spirit of man is manifested in the family." Above the Spirit of Detroit you will see the City of Detroit seal on the left and the Wayne County seal on the right. The city seal depicts two women with flames behind them representing the fire of 1805. The text shown is a Latin phrase "Speramus Meliora; Resurget Cineribus" which is the city's motto and translates to "We hope for better things; It will rise from the ashes."

## 5 Hart Plaza

**Stand at: Southwest corner of Woodward and Jefferson | Completed: 1975**

The 14-acre Hart Plaza is named for the late Senator Philip Hart and can hold more than 40,000 people. It is host to many annual festivals such as Movement (Electronic Music Festival) and the Jazz Festival. The 63-foot steel arch on the north end is called Transcending and is a monument to Detroit's labor movement. The Horace E. Dodge and Son Memorial Fountain stands in the center of the Plaza and was installed by famed sculptor Isamu Noguchi in 1978.

## 6 The Riverfront

**Stand at: The RiverWalk at the base of the stairs**

The Detroit River (which is actually a strait!) is about 32 miles long and links Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. It was here that Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac landed in 1701 and built Fort Ponchartrain du Detroit. At the riverfront is the Gateway to Freedom International Memorial to the Underground Railroad, which commemorates Detroit's major role in the Underground Railroad - there is a counterpart statue across the river in Windsor, Ontario. The riverfront has recently been developed by the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy as a leisure destination in the form of Detroit's RiverWalk.

## 7 The Renaissance Center

**Stand at: Corner of Randolph and Jefferson | Built: 1977**

The Renaissance Center is Detroit's most recognizable building and Michigan's tallest. When completed, its central tower was the tallest all-hotel skyscraper in the world at 73-stories and it remains one of the tallest hotels in the Western Hemisphere today. The building currently serves as GM World Headquarters. It also includes 70 stores, restaurants and services. If you have time to spare, the Renaissance Center offers free daily tours.

## 8 Greektown

**Stand at: Corner of Monroe and Beaubien**

Greektown is one of the anchors of Detroit's entertainment culture and offers a casino and dozens of bar and restaurant options. A trip to Detroit isn't complete without trying the Greek appetizer Saganaki - a special fried cheese that is flambéed right at your table. An important historical spot in Greektown is The Second Baptist Church, which was founded in 1836 by 13 former slaves and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. A fun fact about Greektown is that the neighborhood was originally settled by Germans!

## 9 Z Garage & Belt Murals

**Stand at: Southwest corner of Grand River and Broadway**

"The Z" parking garage is quite possibly the coolest parking garage in the world. It is a 10-floor, 535,000-square-foot space that zigzags from the corner of Broadway and East Grand River to the corner of Library and Gratiot in downtown Detroit and includes original works from 27 international street artists. The Belt (the alley between the two sections) features murals by more than a dozen local, national and international artists. The Belt also offers a space for pop up art exhibitions and events with food trucks and live music. Both the Z and the Belt were curated by the Library Street Collective, an amazing gallery located just around the corner.

## 10 Harmonie Park / Paradise Valley

**Stand at: The intersection of Grand River Avenue and Center Street**

Harmonie Park is an entertainment destination of its own and was originally home of the German singing organization the Harmonie Club. It has recently been renamed to honor the historic African-American neighborhood which was destroyed when freeways were built in downtown Detroit in the 1960s. Paradise Valley is now home to many restaurants, shops, residential spaces and events in the recently renovated Beatrice Buck Paradise Valley Park.

## 11 The Theater District

**Stand at: Corner of Broadway and Witherell**

If theater is what you like, you are within walking distance of several theaters that combine to house more than 13,000 theater seats, making it the second-largest theater district in the U.S. The Detroit Opera House, here at the corner, was built as a movie palace called the Capitol Theater in 1922. Just north on Woodward is "fabulous" Fox Theater, which was built in 1928 to be one of the world's most beautiful movie palaces. It seats over 5,000 people. Just south of the Fox Theater is the Fillmore Theater which was built in 1925 by C. Howard Crane, who also designed the Opera House and the Fox Theater. Though not as grand as the Fox, it is still magnificent and is used for rock concerts and special events.

## 12 Grand Circus Park

**Stand at: Corner of Woodward and Witherell**

Comerica Park to the northeast has been home to the Detroit Tigers since 2000; Ford Field has been home to the Detroit Lions since 2002 and hosted Super Bowl XL in 2006. The Broderick Tower at Woodward and Witherell was designed by Louis Kamper in 1928. It and the David Whitney Building across the street, which was designed by the architecture firm of Daniel Burnham in 1915, had been vacant for decades but are now two of the premier residential buildings in the region and examples of Detroit's current renaissance.



# Say hello!

Phone: (313) 962.4590

[www.detroitexperiencefactory.org](http://www.detroitexperiencefactory.org) • Email: [hello@detroitexperiencefactory.org](mailto:hello@detroitexperiencefactory.org)

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