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TO: Elana Rugh, President & CEO
Detroit Historical Society

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: 2025-2026 Budget Analysis

Attached is our budget analysis regarding your agency's budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Please be prepared to respond to the issues/questions raised in our analysis during your scheduled hearing on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** We would then appreciate a written response to the issues/questions at your earliest convenience subsequent to your budget hearing. Please forward a copy of your responses to the Council Members, the City Clerk's Office, and the Legislative Policy Division.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our budget analysis.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

DW:vc:sj

Attachments:
Issues and Questions
DHS FY 26 Budget Page

CC: Councilmembers
Auditor General's Office
Hassan Beydoun, Group Executive-Economic Development
Jay Rising, Chief Financial Officer
Tanya Stoudemire, Chief Deputy CFO-Policy & Administration Director/Interim Budget Director
Donnie Johnson, Deputy Budget Director
Andre Blair, Agency CFO
Doug Ortiz, Budget Analyst
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office

Detroit Historical Society (Non-Departmental 35)

FY 2025-2026 Budget Analysis by the Legislative Policy Division

The Detroit Historical Society (the “Society”) is an independent, Michigan non-profit Corporation whose purpose is to educate and inspire its community and visitors by preserving and portraying the region’s shared history through dynamic exhibits and experiences. Under an agreement with the City of Detroit (the “City”), the Society manages the daily operations of the Detroit Historical Museum, its gift shop, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and the Collections Resource Center¹.

The Non-Departmental budget provides funds for activities which are not the responsibility of any one single agency. Non-Departmental is also the depository agency for General Fund contributions for enterprise activities and for a wide variety of General Fund revenues, including four of the five major revenues (casino revenues/wagering taxes; income taxes; property taxes; state revenue sharing) and revenues from reimbursements from enterprise/non-General Fund agencies of personal services costs, transfers from other City funds, and use of prior year surplus. The Non-Departmental agency also records the General Fund contributions made to enterprise agencies, cultural entities including the Detroit Historical Society, and other external entities.

Detroit Historical Society Budget Summary

The Mayor is recommending a \$1,000,000 General Fund Contribution (Subsidy) to the Detroit Historical Society for FY 2026 in the Non-Departmental Budget (**Page B35-3**), in Appropriation **26350 - Cultural Institutions Support**, Cost Center **350093 - Detroit Historical Museum (Page B35-16)**. The recommended Contribution (Subsidy) of \$1,000,000 to the Society remains unchanged from FY 2025.

For FY 2026, the Mayor is not recommending the same \$1,000,000 General Fund Contribution (Subsidy) from **General Fund 4533 – City of Detroit Capital Projects, Appropriation 20507 – CoD Capital Projects, Cost Center 350093 – Detroit Historical Museum (Page B35-17)**, that was made in FY 2025.

Issues and Questions:

1. Please briefly explain the Detroit Historical Society’s new expenditure initiatives, new capital funding requests, operational reform and savings proposals, and new revenue initiative(s)/proposal(s) to be implemented in FY 2026.
2. According to the FY 2025 Budget Hearing Responses to LPD, the Detroit Historical Society had 45 full-time budgeted positions and 29 part-time budgeted positions in FY 2025. Please provide the number of actual positions as of March 10, 2025. Please briefly describe the strategy to fill any vacant positions. Please provide the FY 2026 budgeted positions, if available.
3. Please provide the Detroit Historical Society’s FY 2025 Operating and Capital budgets, and the projected FY 2026 Operating and Capital budgets, if available.
4. Please provide a copy of the FY 2024 Audited Financial Statements, if available. If the Statements are unavailable, please provide an estimated timeframe of completion and when they will be posted on the Detroit Historical Society’s website.

¹ [2023 DHS Audited Financial Statements](#)

5. According to the FY 2025 Budget Hearing Responses to LPD, the Detroit Historical Society received \$3.2 million in State of Michigan Transitional Funding that was used for FY 2024 Budgeting purposes. Did the Society receive Transitional Funding for FY 2025 Budgeting purposes? Does the Society expect to receive Transitional Funding for FY 2026 Budgeting purposes?
6. According to FY 2025 Budget Hearing Responses to LPD, the Detroit Historical Society was expected to receive \$2.2 million for FY 2025 planned capital projects, \$1 million in City of Detroit contributions and \$1.2 million in ARPA funds. Did the Society receive the funds? Did the Society spend the funds? Did the Society complete the planned capital projects?
7. Are new funding sources identified for FY 2026 planned capital projects if additional City of Detroit contributions and/or ARPA funds for capital projects are unavailable?
8. House Bills 4177, 5817 & 5818, that would allow history museums in Detroit to seek a property tax millage from Wayne County and Oakland County. However, it appears this legislation is being held up by the current Michigan legislature that started in January 2025. Please explain how the Detroit Historical Society's operations would be impacted if this legislation is stalled and not passed by the Wayne County and Oakland County voters.
9. The 2023-2024 Annual Report² shows \$7.2 million Total Revenue, \$6 million Total Operating Expenses, and \$9.3 million Net Assets for FY 2024. Please explain why Total Revenue exceeded Total Operating Expenses by \$1.2 million.
10. In comparing the 2023-2024 Annual Report² to the 2022-2023 Annual Report³, it appears Total Revenue decreased 16.28%, from \$8.6 million to \$7.2 million. Please explain why there was a decrease in Total Revenue.
11. In comparing the 2023-2024 Annual Report² to the 2022-2023 Annual Report³, it appears Total Operating Expenses increased 15.38%, from \$5.2 million to \$6 million. Please explain why there was an increase in Total Operating Expenses.
12. Noted in the 2023-2024 Annual Report², a new website is being developed to support all the new offerings from the Detroit Historical Society in 2025. Please provide a status on the new website development.
13. Noted in the 2023-2024 Annual Report², membership dues per member increased 60%, from \$65 to \$104. Did the Detroit Historical Society increase membership dues per member in FY 2025? Does the Detroit Historical Society plan to increase membership dues per member in FY 2026?

² [2023-24 DHS Annual Report](#)

³ [2022-23 DHS Annual Report](#)

**CITY OF DETROIT
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL DETAIL BY DEPARTMENT, FUND, APPROPRIATION, & COST CENTER - EXPENDITURES
DEPARTMENT 35 - NON-DEPARTMENTAL**

| Department # - Department Name | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fund # - Fund Name | | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | FY2028 | |
| Appropriation # - Appropriation Name | | Adopted | Mayor Proposed | Forecast | Forecast | |
| Cost Center # - Cost Center Name | | | | | Forecast | |
| 35 - Non-Departmental | | 198,484,062 | 248,249,628 | 209,566,662 | 218,915,212 | 229,392,010 |
| 1000 - General Fund | | 183,962,521 | 242,983,628 | 204,184,662 | 214,337,212 | 223,675,010 |
| 25350 - Board of Police Commissioners | | 4,581,541 | 4,046,753 | 4,117,038 | 4,188,675 | 4,261,690 |
| 350002 - Board of Police Commissioners | | 4,581,541 | 4,046,753 | 4,117,038 | 4,188,675 | 4,261,690 |
| 26350 - Cultural Institutions Support | | 6,586,000 | 5,100,000 | 5,151,000 | 5,202,510 | 5,254,535 |
| 350093 - Detroit Historical Museum | | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,010,000 | 1,020,100 | 1,030,301 |
| 350095 - Zoo Operations | | 2,436,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,212,000 | 1,224,120 | 1,236,361 |
| 350097 - Eastern Market Corporation | | 550,000 | 300,000 | 303,000 | 306,030 | 309,090 |
| 350290 - Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History | | 2,600,000 | 2,600,000 | 2,626,000 | 2,652,260 | 2,678,783 |
| 26351 - Blight Remediation Projects. | | 10,500,000 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 7,000,000 | 9,000,000 |
| 350014 - Land Bank Operations | | 10,500,000 | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 7,000,000 | 9,000,000 |
| 26352 - Solid Waste Services Support | | 3,388,315 | 17,074,650 | 19,274,014 | 20,137,415 | 21,011,862 |
| 350079 - Solid Waste Contribution for Operations | | 3,388,315 | 17,074,650 | 19,274,014 | 20,137,415 | 21,011,862 |
| 27350 - Special Services | | 1,633,775 | 1,564,640 | 1,583,469 | 1,602,652 | 1,622,196 |
| 350370 - Project Clean Slate Operations | | 1,567,775 | 1,564,640 | 1,583,469 | 1,602,652 | 1,622,196 |
| 350372 - Reparations Task Force | | 66,000 | - | - | - | - |
| 27351 - Transportation Services Support | | 90,726,203 | 111,044,567 | 108,600,642 | 110,184,735 | 111,797,854 |
| 350040 - DTC Contribution for Operations | | 6,500,000 | 7,450,000 | 6,565,000 | 6,630,650 | 6,696,957 |
| 350080 - DDOT Contribution for Operations | | 78,523,185 | 97,906,791 | 96,290,988 | 97,751,985 | 99,240,777 |
| 350081 - DDOT Contribution for Legacy Debt | | 1,363,410 | 1,346,476 | 1,359,941 | 1,373,540 | 1,387,275 |
| 350090 - Airport Contribution for Operations | | 4,039,608 | 4,041,300 | 4,081,713 | 4,122,530 | 4,163,755 |
| 350140 - Detroit Port Authority | | 300,000 | 300,000 | 303,000 | 306,030 | 309,090 |
| 27352 - Community Programs Support | | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 505,000 | 510,050 | 515,151 |
| 350230 - Childhood Education & Enrichment Support | | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 505,000 | 510,050 | 515,151 |
| 28351 - Board of Ethics | | 682,960 | 591,195 | 601,233 | 611,458 | 621,874 |
| 350165 - Board of Ethics | | 682,960 | 591,195 | 601,233 | 611,458 | 621,874 |