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CONTACT: Maggie Jackson
Gary D. Lichtman
313-993-1254

Livernois Storefront to Provide More Opportunities for Community Development

Business leaders as well as community stakeholders in Detroit's Livernois Avenue community now have a place to call home in order to further develop growth and success in the area.

The Livernois Community Storefront is a temporary community space that occupies a vacant storefront on Livernois. The storefront will also serve as a welcome center for the Avenue of Fashion, Livernois Avenue's business district, and will hold community events. The Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC) at the University of Detroit School of Architecture is spearheading the project.

The storefront opened to the community earlier this month with various activities with an event called Light-Up Livernois in order to get people excited and ready to see their community develop and celebrate local businesses.

"The event was a great success and both days were well attended," said Virginia Stanard, Director of Urban Design at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center. "President Garibaldi and Will Wittig, the Dean of the School of Architecture, were both there alongside the other 600 guests."

Stanard said that the success of the Light-Up Livernois event has spurred interest in the pop-up community center.

"A few days ago, we held out second event in the storefront," said Stanard. "Livernois Soup was where business owners and other members of the community, including some UDM students, got together in the storefront and shared soup while voting on community based projects. The money raised at that event will go towards fundraising the winning project."

There are two more confirmed events in the community storefront for June. On June 24 at 7:00, the Master of Community Development capstone program at UDM will present their work to the community. Project DayDream, a youth theatre group, will be in the storefront at 4:00 on June 29 to put on their production of Beauty and the Beast.

The storefront has a Facebook page so that the community can stay on top of future events being held.

The University of Detroit Mercy is Michigan's largest private Catholic University, with more than 100 academic majors and programs. Sponsored by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and the Sisters of Mercy, the University has campuses located in downtown and northwest Detroit.

UDM is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities and the largest of 16 Mercy institutions of higher education in the United States. For the 12th consecutive year, University of Detroit Mercy is listed in the top tier of Midwest in the 2013 edition of the *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges."

Marketing & Public Affairs
4001 W. McNichols Road
Detroit, Michigan 48221-3038
313-993-1254

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