June 6, 2017

Dear Detroit 67 Project Partners and Supporters,

This is an official invitation to join the Detroit Historical Society (DHS) for a very special **interfaith, city-wide initiative** designed to honor and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of July 1967 in Detroit.

This effort, known as **Weekend of Prayer,** is an opportunity for all faith communities in the metro area to **opt-in to** a series of activities that encourage unity and community-driven reflection using July 1967 as a catalyst for dialogue between Friday, July 21, and Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Our theme: *The Courage to Love* is inspired by the idea that in order to unpack the history surrounding the civil unrest that occurred that summer, we must first start with our ability to identify our commonalities and honor our differences.

Many of you know that the Detroit Historical Society is currently convening a [city-wide community engagement initiative](http://www.detroit1967.org/) designed to examine 150 years of the city’s past, present, and future with metro area residents of all ages. To date, more than 100 community and cultural organizations are working with us to make this effort relevant and meaningful to the communities that we serve.

**Your faith community (e.g., mosque, synagogue, church, temple) is invited to participate in the Weekend of Prayer in any variety of ways that you feel will be most meaningful to your members/congregations.**

*These options include any of the following:*

* Offering a prayer during your worship service on the weekend of July 21-23. We suggest the prayer be for healing, reconciliation and the courage to love one another in metro Detroit, 50 years after the 1967 events. *If you would like to use an interfaith prayer specifically written for this weekend, please indicate that in your response.*
* Inviting an elder/member of your community with memories of 1967 to share her/ his experiences before, after, or during your regular service. Following with dialogue among members.
* Joining us for a special three-day community event **July 21 – July 23** at Gordon Park (located at Rosa Parks/12th & Clairmount) sponsored by the local organization, [Brothers Always Together](http://www.brothersalwaystogether.com/).
* Connecting with our [Speaker’s Bureau](https://detroithistorical.org/speakers-bureau) to schedule a guest presenter from the Society to discuss the history or this project at your location.
* Scheduling a visit to the Detroit Historical Museum to see our 1967 exhibition: [*Detroit 67 Perspectives*](http://www.detroit1967.org/project-components/exhibition/) set to open June 24. The exhibition is always free, but interested groups may also schedule a special facilitated tour experience for up to 25 people at $10 per person (contact my colleague, [Heather Dell](mailto:HeatherD@detroithistorical.org), for more).
* Scheduling the members of your organization with memories of 1967 for an Oral History Project Interview – conducted by Detroit Historical Society.
  + My colleague [Billy Winkel](mailto:detroit1967@detroithistorical.org) and his team are available to collect stories now! Contact him for more information.
* Hosting a book club discussion examining our new publication: *Detroit 1967 Origins, Impacts, Legacies* – available [for purchase](http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/detroit-1967) now and **for free** through the Detroit Public Library’s [Book Club in a Bag](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/story/book-club-bag) series this fall.
* [Partnering with us](http://www.detroit1967.org/get-involved/partners/partners-and-advisors/partner-exhibitions/) to host your own Detroit 67 community partnership program either in your location or at the Detroit Historical Museum (if space is available, the program is free to the public, and it is relevant to this commemoration) between now and July 2018.

**If any of these ideas pique your interest**, please feel free to connect with me by email or phone. **To confirm your organization’s participation in Weekend of Prayer**, I would need: your name, phone, email, and the idea that you’d like to pursue through this initiative.

Once we’ve collected these ideas we will make them available on [our Website](http://www.detroit1967.org/) so that you can even explore the option of collaborating with other communities also participating.

I realize this was a lengthy communication, but thanks so much for your time and consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Warmest Regards,

Kalisha Davis



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