Do Unions Still Matter in Detroit?
Thursday, February 2, 6pm-8pm

The University of Michigan SID Speaker Series continues on Thursday, February 2, from 6:00 - 7:30pm with its second installment – Do Unions Still Matter in Detroit?

In this prolonged period of economic crisis, workers of all stripes from both the public and private sectors seem to bear the brunt of the overall burden when it comes to the solutions being proposed. Here in Detroit, at least 1,000 city workers anticipate layoffs beginning in February in an effort to balance the city’s budget. Many more unionized workers in Detroit are being pressured from all corners to accept additional wage and benefit cuts.

In arguably the most important birthplace for the American labor movement, this begs an important question here in Detroit: Do unions still matter? If they don’t have much power in our city, how can we expect them to survive in the rest of the country?

This important panel discussion features Bob King, UAW President; General Baker, Retired UAW Activist; Jane Slaughter, Labor Notes Magazine and Yolanda Acosta, Secretary of the Association of Professional and Technical Employees. The panel is moderated by Lolita Hernandez, Lecturer of Creative Writing at the University of Michigan and a retired UAW activist and writer.

METHODOLOGY AND APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING
On behalf of the C.S. Mott Foundation; Presented by the Jeremiah Group
Wednesday, February 8, 2012; 10am-12pm

Staff members and leaders of the Jeremiah Group will speak about community organizing - what it is, how it works and what it accomplishes.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of community organizing as a strategy for civic engagement and resident empowerment. This will also address how to see and discuss various approaches to presenting, organizing and its’ benefits to others.

Admission Cost: Free

For More Information, visit: JeremiahGroup.org or contact the Detroit Center
Detroit's Ironic Small Business Boom
Thursday, February 16, 6pm – 7:30pm

The 2012 SID Speaker Series continues with the topic, “Detroit’s Ironic Small Business Boom.” This informative panel discussion will take place on Thursday, February 16 from 6pm-7:30pm in the South Studio of the University of Michigan Detroit Center.

Although in the midst of a city budgetary crisis, rapid growth of small businesses in Detroit continues to amaze and inspire. Great success stories can be found throughout the city. In Midtown, one can look at Canine to Five, Good Girls Go to Paris, Goodwell’s or Flo for examples of businesses that are able to take advantage of neighborhood needs and services. In Corktown, Astro Coffee Bar and Sugar House found a way to cash in on Detroiter’s looking for a tasty way to satisfy their thirst. In Mexicantown, Honey Bee, La Gloria Bakery and Sam’s Supermercado make grocery shopping in the city a delight.

What explains these successes when the city is nearly broke? What can small business owners tell us about contemporary Detroit and where it’s headed in the coming years?

Moderated by Jackie Victor (co-owner of Avalon Bakery and International Breads), panelists include Kim and Hollis Smith of Kim’s Produce, Jordi Carbonell of Café Con Leche and Jess Daniel of FoodLab Detroit.

The Sankofa Film Series Presents: Musica Cubana
Friday, February 17

The Detroit Center continues its Sankofa film series with the docudrama, Musica Cubana. The event is open to the general public and takes place from 6pm – 8pm, Friday, February 17 at the Detroit Center. Admission and parking are free of charge. Light refreshments will be available.

Inspired by the life of Pio Leyva, Musica Cubana is an entertaining film featuring traditional and contemporary Cuban music. Pio Leyva (1917-2006), a popular Cuban singer and composer of the well-known guaracha song, El Mentiroso (“The Liar”) was also known for his role in the Buena Vista Social Club, which comprised some of Cuba’s best-known musical standards.

Following the film, Ozzie Rivera, educator, activist and founder of the Afro-Latin band, Orquestra La Inspiracion will lead a brief discussion on the documentary.

A collaborative effort between U-M Dearborn’s African American Studies Program and the U-M Detroit Center, the 2011-2012 Sankofa Film Series is entitled, "Contemporary Artists Embrace the Elders: Harry Belafonte, Beah Richards, Elizabeth Catlett, Francisco Mora, and Pio Leyva."

Coming Soon:
• MFA Exhibition (Work Detroit Art Gallery): Feb.24-March 30
• Semester in Detroit Speaker Series #4: March 8
• Sankofa Film Series – Betty & Pancho: March 23
• 2nd Annual Opening Day Open House: April 5

Visit Us on the Web: www.DetroitCenter.umich.edu
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