

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## ARTIVATE SPECIAL ISSUE

### *Detroit's Cultural Renaissance: Research on the Impact of Culture in Urban Revitalization*

*Artivate's* Winter 2020 issue will highlight the role of arts entrepreneurship in Detroit. Artists, cultural organizations, and creative entrepreneurs have been critical to Detroit's recovery from bankruptcy (2019). The highly publicized rescue of the Detroit Institute of Art as part of the "Grand Bargain" is but one example of entrepreneurial work that has built up the city's creative infrastructure in support of a vital city. Featured essays will be focused on, but not limited to workforce development, repurposed buildings, innovations to the city's arts education programs, and creative placemaking.

Like many industrial cities, Detroit has suffered from urban decay with changes in manufacturing since peak productivity of the World War II era. The city's population has fallen from a high of 1.8 million in the 1950s to 672,662 in 2018 (2018). The associated shrinkage of Detroit's tax base severely compromised its ability to provide basic public services such that on July 18, 2013 with \$18.5 billion dollars of debt Detroit became the largest US city to ever file for bankruptcy (2013).

Yet the ironic dichotomy is that during this same period Detroit was regularly lauded in the national press as a model for economic and cultural resurgence. In 2010 Mayor Dave Bing spoke of "right sizing his city and his government," which would translate into programs such as the city granting Gilbert Hanz 140,000 acres of blighted land for urban gardens (2010). Similarly, public/private partnerships like Quicken Loans' investment in the new public transportation QLine railcar was praised by some, although others questioned whether this focus on Midtown (the rebranded "Cass Corridor") neglected longtime residents and favored more expensive downtown residential development. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is another model of an entrepreneurial non-profit/public/private enterprise that raised over \$23 million to renovate and maintain Detroit's downtown riverfront.

This special issue of *Artivate: A Journal of Entrepreneurship in the Arts* asks authors to address one or more of the following questions from a critical perspective:

- What is the role of arts entrepreneurship in the Renaissance of Detroit?
- How does/can arts and cultural entrepreneurship specifically support community revitalization and equitable development?
- What role can arts entrepreneurs play in connecting the nonprofit and for-profit arts and culture sectors with residents, business interests, and local governments?

- How does public policy (at various scales) promote or obstruct the contributions of arts entrepreneurs to creative placemaking and community revitalization?
- How should the contributions of arts entrepreneurs to community revitalization best be captured and assessed?

Submission to the special issue are due December 15, 2019 for review for possible publication in the Winter 2020 issue. Please refer to the detailed submission guidelines [artivate.org](http://artivate.org).

Guest editors of this special Winter 2020 issue of *Artivate: A Journal of Entrepreneurship in the Arts* are Susan Badger Booth, Professor of Arts Management at Eastern Michigan University and Mark Clague, Associate Professor of Musicology and Arts Entrepreneurship & Leadership at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan.

Any questions please contact Susan Badger Booth at [sbooth1@emich.edu](mailto:sbooth1@emich.edu)

## References

- "Encyclopedia of Detroit." (Retrieved June 19, 2019), Detroit Historical Society — Where the Past Is Present, from <https://detroithistorical.org/learn/encyclopedia-of-detroit/grand-bargain>.
- U.S. Census Bureau (July 15, 2018) QuickFacts: Detroit city, Michigan; Michigan. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/detroitcitymichigan,MI/PST045218>.
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- Glaeser, Edward L. (March 16, 2010) "Shrinking Detroit Back to Greatness" *New York Times*.