



ECONOMIC
EQUITY
A VISION
FOR DETROIT

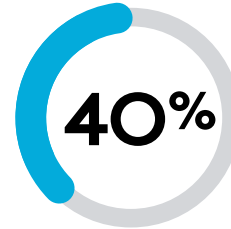
DETROIT
FUTURE
CITY

THE TIME IS NOW

For too long, Detroiters have been held back by the striking inequities that exist across our region. The disparities that exist in Detroit today have not appeared by chance; they are the direct result of intentional policies that have shaped our city and region. These inequitable and racist policies have resulted in the Detroit that we experience today—a place where the income of the median household in the city is only half that of the region and where 40 percent of the city’s residents live in an area of concentrated poverty. It is a place where pandemics and recessions magnify and deepen these disparities.

Though this is Detroit’s current reality, it should not be its future. No one should accept the vast differences in income, employment outcomes, and the many other economic inequities that persist here in Detroit. It is time to recognize how systems have continued to perpetuate economic inequities, to take deliberate action in addressing these inequities, and to hold each other accountable so that Detroit can be prosperous, inclusive, and thriving. We must act.

To work towards economic equity, it is imperative that there is a common vision that can serve as a guidepost to galvanize our collective actions.



40%
OF DETROITERS
LIVE IN AN AREA
OF CONCENTRATED
POVERTY

Source: American
Community Survey,
2014-18

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN DETROIT, AGES 16-64

12%



AFRICAN
AMERICAN

8%



LATINX

8%



WHITE

Source: American Community Survey, 2019

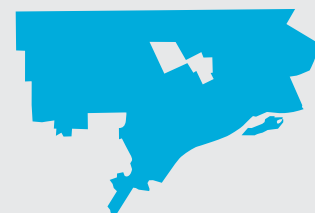
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

METRO DETROIT
\$63,500



1. Lapeer County
2. Livingston County
3. Macomb County
4. Oakland County
5. St. Clair County
6. Wayne County

DETROIT
\$34,000



Source: American Community Survey, 2019

A SHARED VISION

In Summer 2020, Detroit Future City (DFC) engaged with community stakeholders to inform a vision for an economically equitable Detroit. Stakeholders represented various sectors and diverse perspectives, including residents and youth. Their valuable input is reflected in this vision for an economically equitable Detroit.

155

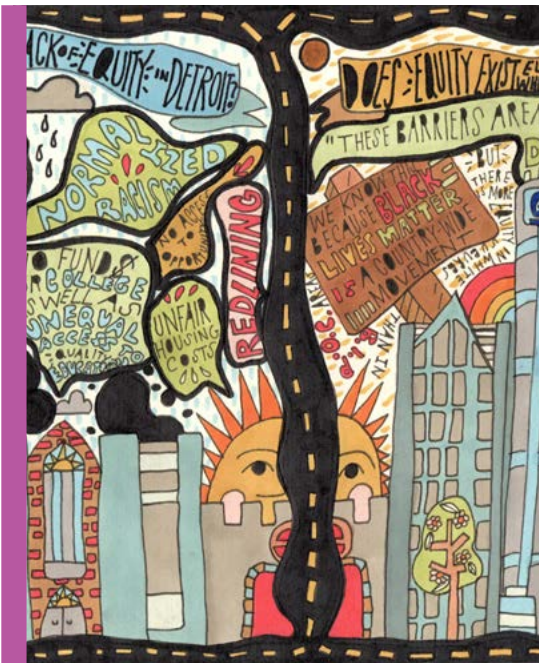
STAKEHOLDERS

55

YOUTH STAKEHOLDERS
(AGES 11-19)

92

ORGANIZATIONS



Art created by Liza Polaskey reflects the visions shared by Detroit's youth during the engagement process.



IN AN ECONOMICALLY EQUITABLE DETROIT:

All Detroiters are meeting their unique needs, prospering, and fully and fairly participating in all aspects of economic life within a thriving city and region.

WE MUST ACT

Now is the time for action. We must come together to achieve this vision of economic equity in Detroit. We find ourselves at an inflection point in our history, where economic divides have been laid bare, and we must seize this moment to rectify unjust policies that laid the foundation of our society. Any desire to return to the status quo is complacency; instead, we must address the underlying structural and systemic racism that impedes economic equity in our city. It is time for us all to make a commitment and hold ourselves accountable to improving economic equity in Detroit.

Dismantling these structures is not something that any one individual, group, or sector can accomplish alone. Rather, collective action is required in service of this goal. We must advocate for policies and practices that create a more economically equitable Detroit.

DFC is calling on the private and public sectors, foundations, nonprofits, community organizations, and residents to work with us toward this shared vision of an economically equitable Detroit.



A COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC EQUITY

We, the Board of Directors of DFC, refuse to be silent on issues of economic equity in Detroit. Every day, Detroiters are experiencing the devastating results of systems that have failed us - systems that are embedded with racism and that create and deepen vast economic inequities that negatively impact growth and limit the potential of many Detroiters. The impacts of these economic inequities are reflected in the data, research, and in the voices of Detroiters who live it every day.

We must take action to ensure that the future of Detroit is one in which all Detroiters can prosper. DFC is committed to being a part of the change and working toward economic equity through using data and research to shed light on these glaring inequities and to inform policymaking. We are dedicated to working with allies and a broad range of organizations



from across various sectors to face the most persistent and daunting challenges to the economic future of our residents, our city, and our region.

It is with this commitment that we endorse this shared vision for economic equity in Detroit. As DFC continues to work towards this vision, we join in that effort, not only as the Board of Directors guiding this organization, but as leaders from organizations across the city and the region.

This is a moment for us to work together for the future of Detroit. This work is not just needed—it is imperative that we make a better future. We fully understand that no one individual or organization can do it alone. It will take all of us, working together, to build a just and economically equitable Detroit. Let's get to work.



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CREATING ACTION

Reinforcing and expanding upon its commitment to creating economic equity, Detroit Future City launched a year-long planning effort to develop the Center for Equity, Engagement, and Research in January 2020. The Center will share actionable research and data with Detroit stakeholders, from residents to policymakers, that empowers them with resources and information to hold the Detroit region accountable for achieving this critically important vision for economic equity. In doing so, the Center seeks to support the tireless work of others, while inspiring new partners to take action.

Advancing economic equity requires disrupting systems, new conversations, and a collaborative approach. The development of this shared vision for economic equity was an important initial step in supporting our collective efforts. In the coming months, DFC intends to develop the necessary data-informed tactics to support this vision, as follows:

- **Develop Detroit-specific indicators** of economic equity that will be published in a baseline report.
- **Share high-quality accessible research** to advance the well-being of all Detroiters.
- **Develop a dashboard** and supportive technology that will allow stakeholders to set priorities and track progress towards achieving economic equity.
- **Engage, inform, and influence** the private sector, investors, policymakers, and civic leaders to promote economic equity.

Join DFC in this effort by signing up for our stakeholder mailing list and participating in our upcoming engagement sessions. You can sign up on our website at: www.detroitfuturecity.com/center.





**DETROIT
FUTURE
CITY**