


DETROIT
BLOCK X BLOCK
BULLETIN
CITY OF DETROIT CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

November 2, 2023

Thank you for subscribing to the Block X Block Bulletin for additional updates on commercial demolitions in Detroit. Detroit Block by Block, as an archive of memories and experiences told through visuals and in-depth storytelling, provides a rich and vibrant tapestry of the city's commercial buildings. By capturing the essence of both the old and the new, we'll showcase the diverse history and ongoing development within Detroit.

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FEATURED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



Hart Plaza's Dodge Fountain

1 Hart Plaza, Detroit, MI.

Hart Plaza's iconic Dodge Fountain -- a staple of Downtown Detroit -- is preparing for a major come back! The fountain is being restored with \$6.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Preparations for fountain repairs began in early October, and will be ongoing until the project is completed in spring 2024. The large amphitheater will also be renovated.

The evaluation and restoration of the fountain will take several months and will include removing metal panels from the fountain's dome, repairing jets, lighting, and plumbing before reassembling the structure. Fountain repair and renovation are expected to be completed by spring 2024.

"Restoring the iconic fountain and revitalizing this historic space is not just about bricks and mortar; it's about preserving our heritage, honoring our past, and embracing a vibrant future," said LaJuan Counts, executive director of the City of Detroit Construction & Demolition Department. "We are immensely proud of this opportunity, and the responsibility bestowed upon us by Mayor Duggan is both an honor and a testament to the faith in our community."

[For more information](#)

MEET OUR TEAM



Lance Gailliard is the Construction Project Manager for the City of Detroit's Construction and Demolition Department. In his position, no two days are alike. He's responsible for creating scopes, handling budgets, and managing contractors on construction projects.

As a dedicated member of the City's Construction and Demolition Department for over two years, what Gailliard enjoys most about his job is contributing to rebuilding the city he was born and raised in, and discovering buildings he hasn't encountered before.

Gailliard is overseeing the rehabilitation of Detroit's beloved Dodge Fountain in Hart Plaza, which will be restored by spring 2024. When he isn't managing construction projects, Gailliard enjoys traveling and mentoring young athletes in football.

BLIGHT TO BEAUTY



6370 W. Vernor, located in Southwest Detroit, was once the City of Detroit's Motor Transportation Garage where city vehicles were repaired and received maintenance. It's been vacant for 12 years. The facility was first operational from 1917 to 1949 when it was occupied by a city-owned streetcar yard called the Baker Car House. From 1955 to 2011, it was used by the city as the Motor Transportation Garage.

In late October 2023, the City of Detroit Construction and Demolition Department began demolishing the building, which has been surrounded by thriving commercial businesses. This blight removal opens the door for more opportunities for redevelopment in Southwest Detroit.

"By removing commercial blight in Detroit, we pave the way for a safer city and a brighter future; unlocking new possibilities for our resilient residents," said Construction and Demolition Executive Dir. LaJuan Counts.

ARPA RENOVATION PROJECTS



The Construction & Demolition Department's Capital Team is leading renovation and construction projects for public spaces across Detroit. These are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Below is a list of ongoing and upcoming projects. Stay tuned to the Block X Block Bulletin for updates on community meetings and design plans.

Hart Plaza, Dodge Fountain

Heilmann Recreation Center

Butzel Family Phase 2

Patton Pool Renovation

Dexter Elmhurst

Chandler Park Rec building construction