



City of Hamtramck

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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Hamtramck Awarded National Park Service African American Civil Rights Program Grant for Hamtramck Stadium

Hamtramck, Michigan (January 12, 2017) – The City of Hamtramck is pleased to announce that they have been awarded the National Park Service (NPS) African American Civil Rights Program Grant for Hamtramck Stadium. The fully funded grant of \$50,000 will go directly toward pre-development work for the complete rehabilitation of the historic resource and will include a detailed conditions assessment, construction estimate, architectural plans and specifications. The Stadium is a significant heritage site associated with segregated sporting and African American Civil Rights in the twentieth century. It is one of very few remaining Negro League era baseball stadiums in the country. Hamtramck Stadium was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 31, 2012 and a Michigan Historic Marker was installed in 2014.

Melanie Markowicz, City Planner for Hamtramck, spearheaded the grant application which included an update to the National Register of Historic Places listing, highlighting Hamtramck Stadium's Civil Rights history. "It is my hope that those who visit this site will make a personal connection to the past and the struggle for Equal Rights."

The long-term end goal of the rehabilitation is to re-open the Stadium as a multi-purpose facility for public use and enjoyment. These uses will include a full range of sporting and community events including recreational and youth league organized sporting, pickup games, concerts, events, movie screenings, and interpretive exhibition ballgames which explore the heritage of the site.

The City owns Hamtramck Stadium and has been coordinating with community stakeholders and groups. The Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (FHHS) is a non-profit that has focused on the identification, preservation, and future rehabilitation of the site, and the City has been working closely with them to garner support for the project. "The City of Hamtramck is proud to bring new life to Hamtramck Stadium in the spirit of shared collaboration and partnership," said City of Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski.

The NPS Civil Rights Grant Program is a newly funded program through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The Hamtramck Stadium project is one of 39 projects funded nationwide, and one of two funded in Michigan. Pre-development work is projected to begin this spring. More information about the NPS Program is available here: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/01-12-2017-civil-rights-grants.htm>.