



64th Annual Youth Conference at Marygrove College.

Serving as a catalyst for change, we develop, organize and empower individuals and communities to advance equity and opportunity for all.



June 2017 | Newsletter  
www.miroundtable.org

## 3rd Annual Champions of Inclusion Breakfast kicks off the 2017 Mid-year Appeal.

This past month we celebrated our 3rd Annual Champions of Inclusion Breakfast, informing our guests of our work. The program included a panel discussion facilitated by Roundtable Board Member Sharon Abraham and featuring GM Global Chief of Diversity Ken Barrett and Quicken Loans Director of Diversity Trina Scott. Trina and Ken spoke of their work to build diverse and inclusive work places where



employees can bring their “whole self” to work, making their organizations places where all people are more productive.

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Making the places we work and live become places where all people are welcome and treated fairly.

## From the desk of the CEO



### Detroit 67: Anniversary Offers Opportunity to Listen

This July 23 marks 50 years since the racial uprising of 1967. Depending on where you lived and how you experienced this difficult period in our region’s history will likely define what word you used to describe just what took place. As an eleven-year-old growing up in the essentially all white suburb of Livonia, this was a time of rioting by dangerous people who we were being taught to fear. I remember our neighbor returning home from the grocery store he managed in Detroit with a charred vehicle, broken windshield and bent antenna. This memory was seared in my mind and the collective conscience of many of my fellow suburbanites.

For African Americans living in Detroit in 1967, I have heard a range of words used to describe the events, including: riot, rebellion and racial uprising. There experienced ranged from mistreatment by a majority white police department to unequal education and employment opportunity. The tension had been growing for years until it finally exploded.

Those who have had an opportunity to learn about the history of Detroit and the racial underpinning behind that event and our present day racial inequities do not refer to what took place as a race riot as that reinforces a racist notion of what took place and minimizes the factors which led to the unfortunate event of July 1967. By continuing to listen as we did this past Friday at our First Friday Forum at the Detroit Historical Museum, I am deepening my understanding of the experience of African American Detroiters. I hope you can take advantage of a range of upcoming programs sponsored by the Roundtable and our partners including the Detroit Historical Society and Big City Films.

While understanding history is a core dimension of the Michigan Roundtable programming, we are also very interested in listening to those most affected by present day racial inequity, which we do through our Healing Stories program and First Friday Forums. In this newsletter, you will read about these programs and our upcoming events to help move beyond bad memories to actions to address the very racial inequities which caused the uprising of 1967 and which drives continued anger and the myriad forms of spatial racism haunting our region.

Steve Spreitzer  
President & CEO

## 2017 MID-YEAR APPEAL

In addition to our work in helping to shape diverse and inclusive workplaces, here are a few examples of work in recent days: (See enclosed document)

Thanks to generous donation from readers like you, the Roundtable staff is making a difference in the quality of life in metro Detroit and throughout the state. Will you help us meet the extremely high demand for our services? For the third consecutive year, the Kresge Foundation has given us a \$75,000 grant, which is triggered by our raising \$75,000 in new donations. This year we have raised nearly \$50,000, needing to raise an additional \$25,000. Will you help us reach this goal in our Summer Appeal? For those of you who have already made a donation, please know of our gratitude. For those of you able to help us continue to meet the extremely high demand for our services, please visit our website at [www.miroundtable.org/donate](http://www.miroundtable.org/donate). Thank you and know I look forward to meeting you at an upcoming program or hearing from you in the days ahead.

### TELLING OUR STORY: BOARD SUPPORT WITH NEW PSA

Thanks to Roundtable Board Member Marla Drutz and her creative team at WDIV TV-4 Detroit, we are grateful to share our 30 second Public Service Announcement. Thirty seconds is a very short period of time to tell the story of a 76 year-old human relations and social and racial justice organization. What do you think? We look forward to hearing from you as we would like to include the stories of people who have a powerful experience of our work in future communications. To view the PSA visit our website at [www.miroundtable.org/psa](http://www.miroundtable.org/psa)

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### D'Aaron Hart

#### Disability Rights Youth Organizer

My experience as an intern was short but impactful. Since high school I've been interested in ally ship and the stories of others which was when I first applied for the internship. I remember feeling unsure about my decision to re-apply for the internship because of my lack of experience. I remember putting so much pressure on myself to be "woke" and self-righteous



that it ended up becoming an area of growth during my time as an intern. My experience as an intern really laid the foundation for how I challenge societal norms inside and outside the office. When I applied for to be an intern I had in mind what I was looking for and what I wanted to learn. To achieve those goals, it took researching and reading on my own time to develop and cultivate what I had learned during my time as an intern. When the position of Disability Rights Youth Organizer opened up I applied. Not many young people recognize the necessity for representation of people with disabilities. Being a POC with a non-visible disability is a part of who I am and this position aligned with the values I developed as an Intern.

### LAW HONOR ROLL MEMBERS CONTINUED SUPPORT

“**Bodman** is proud to support the Michigan Roundtable and our ‘Jeans for Charity’ day was a fun way to include all of our staff and attorneys in the effort,” said Kathleen O’Callaghan Hickey, a member of Bodman and Michigan Roundtable board member. “We are thrilled that our people embraced the opportunity to support the Roundtable with so much enthusiasm.”

## YOUTH PROGRAMING

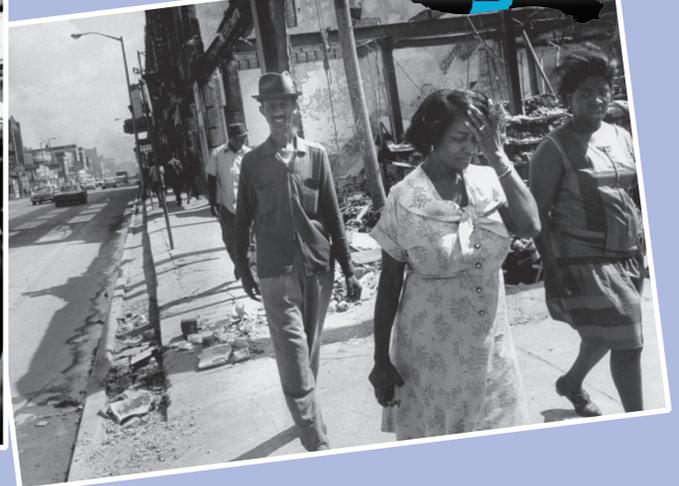
On April 29th the Michigan Roundtable Regional Youth Interns and Detroit Youth Voice Fellows hosted our 64th Annual Youth Conference at Marygrove College. The theme this year was “From One Generation to the Next: Bridging the Gap”. They hosted workshops on topics such as Detroit youth organizing, Asian American Women, the school to prison pipeline, gender identity and sexuality, disability rights, allyship, implicit bias and legal rights to protesting. Some of their workshops hosts were B Moor Radio, Detroit Better Youth Movement, APIA Vote MI Youth, Damon J. Keith Center Students, as well as the Regional Youth Interns, Detroit Youth Voice Fellows and MRDI’s Disability Rights Youth Organizer. The day was exciting and provided participants with a foundation in social justice opportunities in Metro Detroit. We shared a hot lunch together and a spoken word session. In addition original art work was showcased by area high school youth who are participating in the Detroit Youth Voice Art Project of the “We Dont Want Them” exhibit supported by funds from Michigan Humanities Council and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.



The Regional Youth Interns also spent April and May searching for the next class of interns for 2017-2018. They not only created and executed a new process for finding the new interns they practiced consensus seeking decision making as the model for this work. We are excited to have secured 15 new Regional Youth Interns that will begin with MRDI on June 27th at our Annual Crosstown RIDE (Regional Inclusive Diversity Experience) Retreat.

## FIRST FRIDAY FORUMS

The First Friday Forums have been continuing an Anniversary Series that started in January honoring the 1967 Detroit Rebellion. On June 2nd we hosted our “We Dont Want Them” Housing exhibit which looks at the history of race based housing; one form of institutional racism that fueled the conditions leading towards the rebellion. June’s topic focused on the differences and opinions of language used to describe the events of 5 days in July 1967. Is it appropriate to call it a riot, uprising or rebellion? The July Forum will feature the ability to tour the Historical Museum’s new 1967 Exhibition and engage in a community wide discussion on the stories of the children born after 1967 and how the impact of the rebellion can be felt in their lives in different ways than those born before.





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **First Friday Forum**

*Friday | July 7, 2017*

### **Crosstown RIDE**

*June 27 thru July 1*

### **Holy Strokes Golf Classic**

*Monday | July 24, 2017*

### **Regional Youth Intern Showcase**

*August 4, 2017*

For more information on any of our events or programs, please call our office or email us at [walk2gether@miroundtable.org](mailto:walk2gether@miroundtable.org)

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