

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

Midtown Detroit Office





KRESGE DETROIT OFFICE

Overlooking Woodward Avenue in the bustling Midtown district, The Kresge Foundation's Detroit office is an expression of the organization's commitment to reinvigorating the city and its people.

The 2,500-square-foot space on the second floor of a historic building in the Woodward Garden Block was renovated by the Foundation in 2012 and serves as a base for the Detroit Program staff.

One of six Kresge programs, the Detroit Program works with other philanthropies, nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, neighborhood leaders and community members to advance tangible, sustainable, near- and long-term progress in Detroit.

The office is a touchstone for the Foundation's work in the city, where employees, grantees, partners and visitors convene to design strategies and initiatives assisting in Detroit's resurgence.

Since its inception in 1924, the Foundation has invested more than \$500 million in Detroit organizations, institutions, neighborhoods and the people they serve. The renovation of Eastern Market, the development of Campus Martius Park, the creation of the Detroit RiverWalk and numerous projects in the city's neighborhoods are among Kresge's major Detroit investments in recent years.

Modern and sophisticated, the Detroit office is designed to be seamlessly adaptive to the versatile needs of its users. It balances the old and the new – aged brick walls and exposed wood ceiling joists contrasting with an airy open floor plan, contemporary furniture and glass walls.

The conference room features a backlit aerial photograph of Detroit; city park maps are etched on sliding glass doors and a row of private offices open up to a communal multipurpose work island. Individual, library-style work stations are available for visitors and guests.

LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE

Designed by Detroit-based D MET studio, architects sourced sustainable materials locally during the renovation. Oak flooring is made of wood reclaimed from vacant structures, vintage Herman Miller chairs were sourced from a company that salvages furniture from city buildings, and sustainably harvested materials and natural finishes were used in the conference table and visitors' work station desks. Bookshelves are stocked with urban literature and works from local artisans – a demonstration of the foundation's commitment to investing in the city's cultural renaissance.

ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

Rotating artwork exhibitions from Metropolitan Detroit artists are showcased throughout the year. The works depict the energetic life of culture in the city in a way that resonates with guests and staff.

A mixed media piece in the shape of the city's perimeter was commissioned for the office from Detroit artist Clinton Snider. He used scavenged materials to evoke the interplay of Detroit's past, present and future neighborhoods. Copper wire, computer motherboards, shop-coat name patches and a host of other found items are part of the map, called "Neighborhood Detroit." The piece hangs on an interior wall.



ABOUT MIDTOWN DETROIT

The Detroit Office is nestled in the city's resurgent Midtown neighborhood, home to the largest concentration of cultural, educational and medical institutions in Southeast Michigan including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Wayne State University, College for Creative Studies, Detroit Medical Center, Karmanos Cancer Institute and Henry Ford Health Systems.

Midtown is also home to more than 70 restaurants and dozens of theaters, galleries, museums and shops, all within a few square miles. It has many historic districts, beautifully restored homes, and hosts 2 million visitors annually.

ABOUT THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

Established by Sebastian S. Kresge in 1924, The Kresge Foundation works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development in Detroit. In collaboration with our nonprofit, public, private and philanthropic partners, we help create pathways for vulnerable people to improve their life circumstances and join the economic mainstream.

To learn more about The Kresge Foundation, please visit us at kresge.org and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Photography by Ryan Southen.



3965 Woodward Ave
Detroit, Mich. 48201

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