**MWCBS 2015**

HOSTED BY WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

**LOCAL GUIDE TO DETROIT**

**Welcome to Detroit!**

Wayne State University is very pleased to be hosting the 2015 MWCBS in one of America’s most dynamic come-back cities. Detroit has a long and fascinating history from its founding as a fur trading outpost in 1701—the French, British, and American flags have all flown here—and it has certainly seen its share of booms and busts, triumphs and tragedies since then. We hope very much that you will enjoy your visit, and we encourage you to explore the revitalizing Downtown area while you’re here.

**Getting around:**

The best way to get from Detroit/Wayne County Airport (DTW) into Downtown Detroit and back is on the **Skoot Airport Shuttle** (www.rideskoot.com). The fare for a seat in a shuttle van is $20 one-way. Metrocars is another option, but much more expensive (www.metrocars.com). Taxis are available, but also expensive.

Once you have arrived, the two best options for getting around the downtown area are **walking**, and the **People Mover**. Downtown is easily navigated on foot—nearly all of the restaurant suggestions below are within half a mile of the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel. The People Mover (www.thepeoplemover.com) is Detroit’s iconic and idiosyncratic form of public transportation. Elevated trains travel in a 3-mile loop, and only in a clockwise direction; a full circuit takes maybe 20 minutes. It’s a fine way to take a short tour of the Downtown area, and each ride costs 75 cents. The website offers a handy station guide, with a list of restaurants and local attractions at each stop. The nearest station to the Westin Book Cadillac is Michigan Ave., at the corner of Michigan & Cass (1220 Cass Ave.). From the front entrance of the hotel cross Washington Blvd. and proceed roughly one block down Michigan, crossing at Cass Ave.

If you plan to go farther afield, taxis are available at the hotel. Ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft are also popular options, and may be more reliable than taxi service. If you have a car with you, street and lot parking are generally not too hard to find during the daytime, but when the Tigers are playing (as they are on Friday & Saturday nights) it can be much more difficult and expensive.

**The Westin Book Cadillac Hotel**:

Designed by architect Louis Kamper in Neo-Renaissance style, the building was developed by the Book Brothers on the site of the old Cadillac Hotel. It first opened in 1924, at which time it was the tallest building in Detroit and the tallest hotel in the world. It was Detroit’s premier hotel for decades, popular among tycoons, swells, performers, athletes, bootleggers, and other notables. On May 2, 1939, Lou Gehrig collapsed on the hotel’s grand staircase and asked to be taken out of the line-up for that afternoon’s game, ending his record-setting streak of consecutive games played. After its heyday in the 1930s-40s, the hotel passed through several owners before finally closing its doors in 1983. After more than twenty ruinous years of abandonment and neglect, the Westin hotel chain purchased the building and carried out a thorough renovation in 2006-08, restoring this jewel of the city to the grandeur you see today.

**Restaurants:**

Detroit has developed a vibrant and exciting restaurant culture over the past 2-3 years. New restaurants are opening every week in the Downtown, Midtown, and Corktown neighborhoods, and old favorites are experiencing a resurgence. The list below includes mostly restaurants located Downtown, within half a mile of the hotel; the large majority are only a few blocks away, and the rest can be reached very easily via the People Mover. It is not intended to be comprehensive, and if you explore or ask around you’ll likely come up with some gems not included here. *Reservations are recommended on Friday & Saturday nights, especially at places near Comerica Park.*

***Cheap Eats***

*Bucharest Grill* ($--2040 Park Ave.): Despite the name, an inexpensive local favorite for shwarma, kebabs, and other Middle Eastern fare. It offers only take-out, but customers are welcome to bring their food next door to the Park Bar and enjoy it there with a purchased beverage.

*CK Mediterranean* ($--119 Monroe Ave.): Wide array of Greek & Middle Eastern food, shwarmas, kebabs, etc.

*Wala Urban* ($--1010 Washington Blvd.): Breakfast & lunch only. Salads, sandwiches, burgers, wraps, very close to the hotel.

*Lafayette Coney Island & American Coney Island* ($--118 Lafayette Blvd.): “Coney Island” is Michiganese for a chili dog & burger diner/joint. There are hundreds, and they vary widely in quality, but these two are fixtures. Next door neighbors & rivals for decades; no comment about which one is better—decide for yourself!

*Bellacino’s Pizza & Grinders* ($--1001 Woodward Ave.): Basic pizza & subs (grinders).

*Slices Pizza* ($--1043 Woodward Ave.): Pizza slices, calzones, salads.

*Olga’s Kitchen* ($--1040 Woodward Ave.): Local sandwich shop chain with a Greek/ Mediterranean flair.

***New American Cuisine***

*Fountain Bistro* ($$--800 Woodward Ave.): Located right on Campus Martius Park, European-inspired dishes in a beautiful urban setting.

*Downtown Louie’s Lounge* ($$--30 Clifford St.): Beautifully renovated building; classic, unpretentious food and cocktails, with an Albanian twist.

*Cliff Bell’s* ($$$--2030 Park Ave.): Classic, Prohibition-era jazz club with a great atmosphere, live music nightly and excellent food; *\*Note: there is usually a cover charge on weekends for the performance.*

*24Grille* ($$$--Westin Book Cadillac): A “casual approach to fine dining,” locally sourced ingredients.

*7 Greens Detroit Salad Company* ($$--1222 Library St.): Gourmet salads made daily from locally sources ingredients—they do not even have a freezer in-house. Most salads range $10-15.

***Italian***

*Angelina’s Italian Bistro* ($$--1565 Broadway St.): Modern Italian cuisine and a good wine list, located in the old Madison movie theater.

*Da Edoardo Foxtown Grille* ($$$--2203 Woodward Ave.): Located in the Fox Theater district, northern Italian cuisine and an excellent wine list.

*Andiamo’s Detroit Riverfront* ($$$--400 Renaissance Center, A-403): Located in the Renaissance Center (headquarters of General Motors), with a beautiful view of the Detroit River and Riverwalk.

***Tapas***

*Small Plates* ($$--1521 Broadway St.): Wide variety of American dishes, one of the pioneers of the new food resurgence in Detroit.

*Centaur Bar* ($$--2233 Park Ave): Eclectic, global dishes and long list of martinis.

***Steakhouses***

*Roast* ($$$$--Westin Book Cadillac): Owned by celebrity chef Michael Symon, the menu features a daily special “roast beast,” and house-cured meats.

*London Chop House* ($$$$--155 W. Congress St.): Founded in 1938, a Detroit institution with classic cocktails and a cigar lounge.

*Texas de Brazil* ($$$--1000 Woodward Ave.): A Brazilian churrascaria with a large salad buffet and an endless parade of roasted meats on skewers. A national chain, located just off Campus Martius.

***Pubs/Taverns/Microbreweries***

*Grand Trunk Pub* ($$--612 Woodward Ave.): Located in a converted railway ticket station from the 1900s, features an impressive beer list and an eclectic menu. Open for lunch & dinner, but also very popular for brunch on weekends.

*Detroit Beer Company* ($$--1529 Broadway Street): Unpretentious brewpub with simple, good food and excellent beer.

*R.U.B. BBQ Pub* ($$--18 W. Adams St.): Sports bar near Comerica Park, good BBQ, with a great list of Michigan-brewed beers.

*Jacoby’s German Biergarten* ($$--624 Brush St.): German fare, lively atmosphere; though the “garten” is a misnomer—there’s no outdoor seating.

*Sweetwater Tavern* ($$--400 E. Congress St.): Known for their chicken wings, with BBQ and sandwiches as well, relaxed atmosphere.

***Latin American/Caribbean***

*Taqo* ($--22 W. Adams St.): Interesting variants and interpretations of traditional Mexican cuisine, excellent tequila list, casual atmosphere.

*Vicente’s Cuban Cuisine* ($$--1250 Library St.): Classic Cuban dishes, tapas, paellas, and sandwiches.

***Asian***

*Orchid Thai* ($--115 Monroe Ave.): Authentic Thai dishes, fresh ingredients.

*Bangkok Crossing* ($--620 Woodward Ave.): Thai cuisine, including classic dishes and house recipes.

*Wah-Hoo Chinese* ($$--536 Shelby St.): Cantonese & Sichuan dishes, as well as sushi.

*Joe Muer Seafood* ($$$--400 Renaissance Center, Ste. 1404): Sushi bar at a seafood restaurant (see below).

***Seafood***

*Joe Muer Seafood* ($$$--400 Renaissance Center, Ste. 1404): Fresh, elegant seafood, raw bar, sushi bar.

*Detroit Seafood Market* ($$$$--1435 Randolph St.): Fresh seafood, classic preparations, martini bar.

***Coffee/Breakfast***

*Urban Bean Co.* ($--200 Grand River Ave.): A neighborhood favorite, creative specialty drinks, locally produced pastries and snacks.

*Roasting Plant* ($$--660 Woodward Ave.): Locations in NYC & Detroit; gourmet coffee & pastries. Beans are whooshed to the counter in clear plastic tubes overhead when you order, then freshly ground & brewed.

*Dime Store* ($$--719 Griswold St. Ste. 180): Breakfast on weekdays, brunch after 10AM on weekends. Creative American dishes, and cocktails.

***Slightly further afield*** *(and worth it!)*

*Slows BBQ* ($$--2138 Michigan Ave., 1.3 miles from hotel): If you’ve heard of one restaurant in Detroit, this is it. Ground zero of the new restaurant movement in Detroit, and cornerstone of the newly thriving Corktown. Superb BBQ, amazing beer list. Popular & crowded on weekends, but worth waiting around for a while.

*Traffic Jam* ($$--511 W. Canfield St., 1.7 miles from hotel): A locally-sourced treasure. They make their own bread, cheese, ice cream, and beer (first microbrewery to open in Michigan), and they grow their own herbs, greens, & other produce in a garden on their roof. Featured on Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-Ins, & Dives.”

*Union Street Saloon* ($$--4145 Woodward Ave., 1.5 miles from hotel): A personal favorite; a midtown hot spot with excellent food and lively atmosphere.

**Local attractions:**

If you have a little extra time to spend, one of the finest attractions in the state, the **Detroit Institute of Arts**, is two miles north of the hotel (5200 Woodward Ave.; www.dia.org). Once threatened by the city’s bankruptcy, the art collection is now owned by the museum itself, and happily remains intact as a crown jewel of the region. The most impressive work within it is Diego Rivera’s mural cycle, “Detroit Industry.” Painted in 1932-33, the 27 panels depict Ford Motor Company’s River Rouge assembly plant, and cover the entire central court. This simply has to be seen to be believed, and because it is all frescos, it will never go on tour. The rest of the museum’s collection is especially strong in American art, French impressionism, and German expressionism, though it also features many renowned works by Old Masters, including “The Wedding Dance” by Pieter Bruegel the elder. If you visit at lunchtime, the Café DIA and Kresge Court restaurants both offer good food at reasonable prices. Other recommended museums in that area are the **Detroit Historical Society** and the **Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**. Just a bit farther out is the **Motown Museum** (2648 W. Grand Blvd.; www.motownmuseum.org). You can tour the studios of Berry Gordy’s “Hitsville, U.S.A.,” where legends such as Smokey Robinson, the Temptations, Lionel Richie, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, and the Jackson Five created the music the whole world loves.

If you’d rather walk about and see the sights outdoors, **Campus Martius Park** is just two blocks east of the hotel on Michigan Ave. The heart of our revitalizing downtown area, it’s a fine place to get coffee and people-watch. A quarter mile to the south on Woodward Ave. is the new **Riverwalk** (detroitriverfront.org). This ongoing project of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has reclaimed nearly five miles of neglected waterfront space on the Detroit River, and transformed it into a gorgeous park. You can even wave hello to our southern neighbors (check the map!) across the river in Windsor, Ontario. As you stroll to the river, you’ll pass notable local monuments such as the **Spirit of Detroit Statue** and “**The Fist**,” a monument to the boxer Joe Louis, who spent much of his life here. **Eastern Marke**t is also a very popular weekend destination (2934 Russell St.); vendors selling all kinds of fresh foods, and a diverse array of restaurants. Parking can be a little hard to find during the Saturday Market.

Sports fans may be interested to know that both the **Detroit Tigers** and **Detroit Lions** are both in town the weekend of the conference, and active: The Tigers host a 3-game series with the Minnesota Twins (Fri. & Sat. at 7:00, Sun. at 1:00), and the Lions play the Denver Broncos in primetime (Sun., 8:30 PM). The Tigers play at Comerica Park, the Lions at Ford Field; the stadiums are located next door to one another, about half a mile north of the hotel along Washington Blvd. or Woodward Ave., just to the northeast of Grand Circus Park.