

**MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND**  
**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2026**

**Member Present**

Christin Armstrong (on behalf of Chairman Messer)

**Members Joined Remotely**

Britany Affolter-Caine

Susan Corbin

Wesley Eklund

Rachael Eubanks

Dimitrius Hutcherson

Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich)

Lynda Rossi

Susan Tellier

Randy Thelen

**Absent**

Dan Meyering

Leon Richardson

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Ms. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was held in person in the Lake Michigan Conference Room at the MEDC headquarters building in Lansing.

Ms. Armstrong introduced Natalie Davenport, MSF Administrator, who conducted the attendance roll call.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Davenport explained the process for members of the public to participate.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Davenport stated that communications were shared with the MSF Board on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hutcherson and Dr. Affolter-Caine provided updates on MSF Subcommittee activities in January.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution 2026-001, Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Ms. Armstrong asked if there were any questions from Board Members regarding items under the Consent Agenda. There being none, Michael B. Kapp motioned for approval of the following:

- a. Approval of December 22, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

- b. Request for Proposals: Michigan.org Website Development **2026-002**
- c. Brand USA International Travel Marketing Letter of Agreement **2026-003**
- d. CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan for the State of Michigan 2020 & 2021 Disaster Events: Substantial Amendment #3 **2026-004**
- e. Michigan eLab Capital Partners, LP Limited Partnership Agreement: Amendment #2 **2026-005**
- f. State Essential Service Assessment (SESA) and Alternative SESA Exemption Program Guideline Amendments **2026-006**
- g. Match on Main Program: Programmatic Guideline and Delegation of Authority Amendments **2026-007 & 2026-008**
- h. Strategic Site Readiness Program (SSRP) Amendment Request to Detroit Regional Partnership **2026-009**

Michael B. Kapp motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-001 to approve the Consent Agenda. Randy Thelen seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Christin Armstrong (on behalf of Chairman Messer; designation attached), Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: None.

## V. ATTRACT, RETAIN, AND GROW BUSINESS

- a. **Resolution 2026-010 Michigan Business Development Program Grant: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.**

*Lynda Rossi joined the meeting virtually at 9:09 a.m.*

*Quentin L. Messer joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.*

Michelle Grinnell, Chief Communications and Attraction Officer, supported by Kjell Gruner with Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and Maureen Donahue Krauss of Detroit Regional Partnership, provided the Board with information regarding the requested action. The request involves consideration of a resolution to approve a Michigan Business Development Program Grant in the amount of \$4,090,500 to Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Following discussion, Quentin L. Messer motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-010 to approve the Michigan Business Development Program Grant. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer Jr., Lynda Rossi, Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: None.

## VI. SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

*Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, recused, left the meeting at 9:23 a.m.*

- a. **Resolution 2026-011 Small Business Support Infrastructure Investment to Michigan Central Public-Private Partnership**

Amy Rencher, Senior Vice President of Small Business and Talent, supported by Mark de la Vergne of Michigan Central and Ned Staebler of TechTown, provided the Board with information regarding the requested action. This action involves the consideration of a resolution to approve the allocation of \$2,700,000 to fund the continuity of the Michigan Central Innovation District (P3) and its enhancement by integrating TechTown Detroit as the small business support partner.

Following discussion, Susan Tellier motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-011. Susan Corbin seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 1 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L Messer Jr., Lynda Rossi, Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine.

*Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine rejoined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.*

## VII. DEVELOP ATTRACTIVE PLACES

### a. Resolutions 2026-012; 2026-013; 2026-014 Public Spaces Community Places Program

Paula Holtz, Managing Director of Regional Development, provided the Board with information regarding the requested action. The request involves the consideration of three resolutions to approve the creation of the Public Spaces Community Places Program and adoption of the programmatic guidelines, issuance of a Request for Proposals to select the Program vendor, and Delegation of Authority of the Program administration to the MSF Fund Manager.

Following discussion, Quentin L. Messer, Jr., motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-012 for the creation of the Public Spaces Community Places Program and adoption of the programmatic guidelines. Susan Tellier seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L Messer Jr., Lynda Rossi, Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: None.

Quentin L. Messer, Jr., motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-013 for the Request for Proposals Issuance. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L Messer Jr., Lynda Rossi, Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: None.

Quentin L. Messer, Jr., motioned for the approval of Resolution 2026-014 for the Delegation of Authority for Program administration. Lynda Rossi seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Dr. Britany Affolter-Caine, Susan Corbin, Wesley Eklund, Rachael Eubanks, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Wieferich, designation attached), Quentin L Messer Jr., Lynda Rossi, Susan Tellier, Randy Thelen; Nays: None; Recused: None.

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL**

- a. Mr. Messer noted that the Michigan Strategic Fund Delegation of Authority Report from November 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, was included in the meeting packet. There were no questions regarding the report.

*Mr. Messer adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.*



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

BRADLEY C. WIEFERICH, P.E.  
ACTING DIRECTOR

January 3, 2023

Ms. Rhonda Bishop  
Board Relations Liaison  
Michigan Strategic Fund Office  
300 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Ms. Bishop:

I hereby confirm and ratify my designation of Michael B. Kapp, Administrator, Michigan Department of Transportation, as the person authorized and empowered to act in my stead for Michigan Strategic Fund meetings that I am unable to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradley C. Wieferich".

Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.  
Acting Director

cc: M. Kapp  
Executive File



**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC**  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

February 3, 2025

Michigan Strategic Fund  
300 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

RE: Designation of Christin Armstrong

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby confirm my designation of Christin Armstrong as the person authorized and empowered to act in my stead as a member of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board for scheduled meetings I am unable to attend.

Sincerely,

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

PURE *M*ICHIGAN®



January 13, 2026

MSF Fund Manager  
MEDC  
300 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Fund Manager,

This is to advise that I am recusing myself from voting and excuse myself during all discussion of the request below, including both the January 14 Policy and Planning Subcommittee meeting and the January 27 full board meeting. This presents a potential conflict of interest as TechTown is part of Wayne State University, which is a member of RU4M.

**TechTown P3 City of Detroit:**

1. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation requests that the Michigan Strategic Fund allocate \$2,700,000 to fund the continuity of the Michigan Central Innovation District and its enhancement by integrating TechTown Detroit as the small business support partner.

Many thanks –

Britany Affolter-Caine  
Executive Director  
Research Universities for Michigan (RU4M)



16TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**STEPHANIE A. YOUNG**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-2576  
FAX: (517) 373-5962  
StephanieYoung@house.mi.gov

January 13, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a bold step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

Michigan Central brings global visibility, industry reach, and infrastructure that position Detroit as a destination for high-potential companies. TechTown brings more than two decades of proven experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that this global platform connects with local founders, neighborhoods, and talent. Together, they form a partnership that links national innovation with community impact.

This proposal is a timely opportunity to strengthen Michigan's leadership in industries of the future while building inclusive economic pathways at home. I strongly encourage the State's support for this project.

Sincerely,

State Representative  
House District 16  
Democratic Caucus Chair  
Detroit Caucus Chair

January 7, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a bold step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

Michigan Central brings global visibility, industry reach, and infrastructure that position Detroit as a destination for high-potential companies. TechTown brings more than two decades of proven experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that this global platform connects with local founders, neighborhoods, and talent. Together, they form a partnership that links national innovation with community impact.

This proposal is a timely opportunity for Michigan to strengthen its leadership in mobility, tech, and innovation for years to come. I strongly encourage the State's support for this project.



Glenn Stevens Jr.  
Executive Director  
MichAuto

January 7, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express MMA's strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. Michigan's manufacturing history is built on entrepreneurial spirit. Henry Ford, Herbert Henry Dow, and W.K. Kellogg were all start-ups with a vision. In the modern era, innovation in mobility, defense, and advanced manufacturing will drive Michigan's future.

It is fitting that Ford Motor Company's revitalized Michigan Central facility will drive this innovation. The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

Michigan Central brings global visibility, industry reach, and infrastructure that position Detroit as a destination for high-potential companies. TechTown brings more than two decades of proven experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that this global platform connects with local founders, neighborhoods, and talent. Together, they form a partnership that links national innovation with community impact.

MMA strongly encourages the State's support for this project.

Sincerely,



John Walsh  
President and CEO



Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1126  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone 313•224•3400  
Fax 313•224•4128  
www.detroitmi.gov

January 8, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer - Chair, Michigan Strategic Fund  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) involving Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a critical step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks a \$10 million State investment over 30 months to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

Michigan Central brings global visibility, industry reach, and infrastructure that position Detroit as a destination for high-potential companies. TechTown brings more than two decades of proven experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that this global platform connects with local founders, neighborhoods, and talent. Together, they form a partnership that links national innovation with community impact.

This proposal is a timely opportunity to strengthen Michigan's leadership in industries of the future while building inclusive economic pathways at home. I strongly encourage the State's support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marlo Rencher'.

Marlo Rencher, PhD  
Chief of Neighborhood Economic Development and Small Business  
City of Detroit

Mary Sheffield, Mayor



5TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PHONE: (517) 373-0844  
FAX: (517) 373-5711  
ReginaWeiss@house.mi.gov

**REGINA WEISS**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

January 15, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a bold step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure and workforce training. I am particularly excited by the community development that will accompany this project to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

Michigan Central brings global visibility, industry reach, and infrastructure that positions Detroit as a destination for high-potential companies. TechTown brings more than two decades of proven experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, ensuring that this global platform connects with local founders, neighborhoods, and talent. Together, they form a partnership that links national innovation with community impact.

This proposal is an opportunity to strengthen Michigan's leadership in critical industries, while building inclusive economic pathways in our state and I strongly support it.

Sincerely,

Regina Weiss  
State Representative  
5<sup>th</sup> District



**Warren C. Evans**  
Wayne County Executive

January 6, 2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a bold step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

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This proposal is a timely opportunity to strengthen Michigan's leadership in industries of the future while building inclusive economic pathways at home. I strongly encourage the State's support for this project.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cartwright  
Interim Director of Economic Development Department

**Dinosaur National Monument**

**Allosaurus Skull**  
The *Allosaurus fragilis* skull found at Dinosaur National Monument is one of the best skulls of any Late Jurassic predatory dinosaur in the world. This specimen of *Allosaurus fragilis* has attracted the attention of paleontologists around the world and has been referenced in many scientific studies. The skull is on display for your wonderment at the Quarry Exhibit Hall.

Hello,  
I'm a masters student at the University of Michigan. I'm writing to express my opinion against the data center in Ypsilanti. I am also an Ypsi resident, and I would like to see our community and environment protected. Please reconsider.  
Ainsley Good

**impact 3D DESIGNS**  
77335-3DP  
Made in China  
PET



Michigan Strategic Fund Board  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES  
METROPLEX MI 480  
9 JAN 2026  
Emily,  
Before the data center was announced there were meetings of federal and state groups who decided to use state tax money to fund projects w/out taxpayers knowledge. The MSFB was one of these groups. we do not want this data center, and do not support our tax dollars going towards this center!  
-A

POST CARD  
THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY  
Michigan Strategic Fund Board  
ATT: Emily Guerrant  
300 N. Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Emily Guerrant,  
I implore you to reconsider your involvement in the Data Center in Ypsi, MI w/ UMich + Los Alamos. It's misguided, dangerous, + will cause irreversable damage to citizens, the environment, + energy infrastructure.  
A UMich Masters Student

Michigan Strategic Fund Board  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913



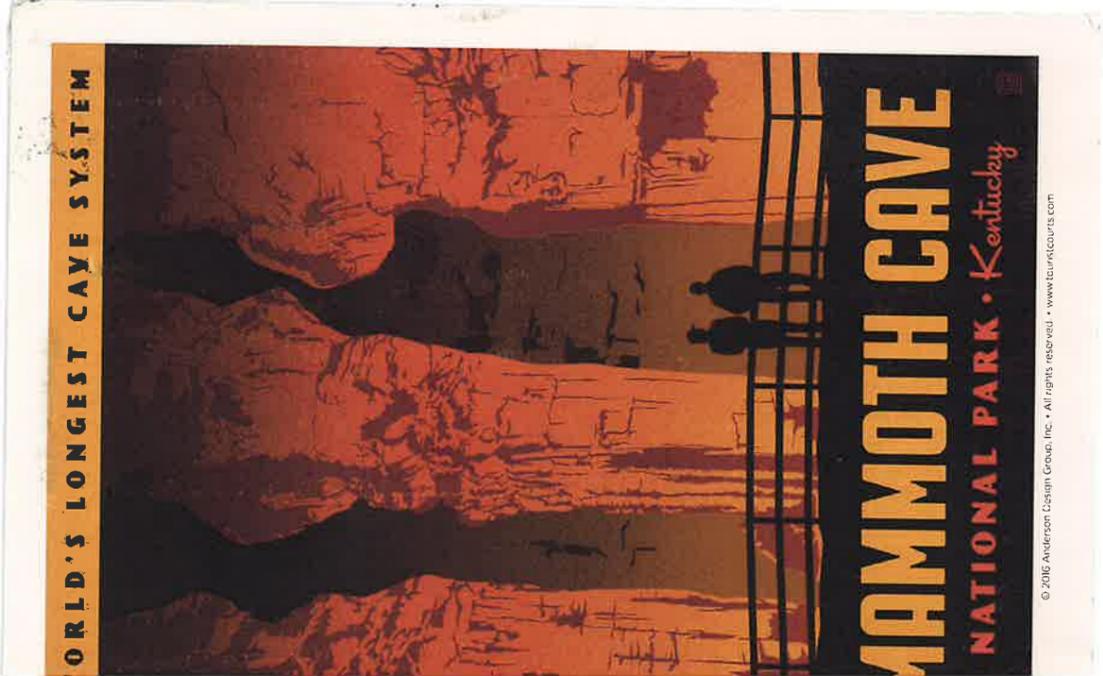
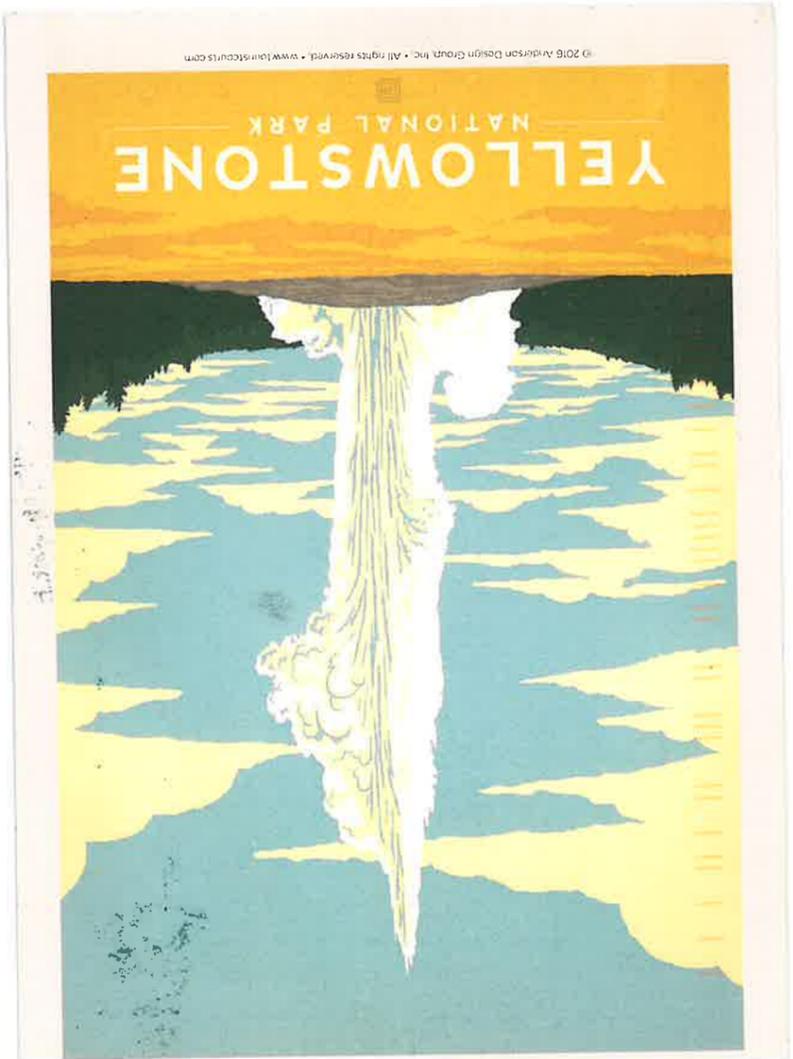
Emily Guerrant  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913

Tourist Courts  
METROPLEX MI 480  
POSTCARD

Hi! I'm a Masters student at UMich. Data centers are harmful to the people they are built around. The people of Ypsilanti deserve better.  
Emily Guerrant  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913  
Thank you,  
Ainsley Good

Emily Guerrant  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913

Hi! I'm a Masters student at UMich. Data centers are harmful to the people they are built around. The people of Ypsilanti deserve better.  
Emily Guerrant  
300 N Washington Sq  
Lansing, MI 48913





**WAYNE STATE**  
**Office of the President**

01/08/2026

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
Chair, Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to invest in the Public-Private Partnership (P3) between Michigan Central, TechTown Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. This project represents a bold step forward for Michigan's competitiveness in mobility, defense, advanced manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The proposal seeks \$2.7 million to expand programs that attract and scale startups, increase venture capital engagement, and accelerate commercialization opportunities with Michigan's universities and industries. It also includes new investments in innovation infrastructure, workforce training, and community development to ensure that Detroit residents and small businesses share directly in the benefits of growth.

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This proposal is a timely opportunity to strengthen Michigan's leadership in industries of the future while building inclusive economic pathways at home. I strongly encourage the State's support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAB' followed by a horizontal line.

Richard A Bierschbach  
Interim President  
Wayne State University