



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A thriving restaurant industry is leading Detroit's resurgence

DETROIT, MI – The secret is out: Detroit is coming back, and coming back strong. In the past few years, the Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) has seen greater growth and stronger engagement in the city than there has been in years. Opportunity is abound in this new Detroit with a new stadium for the Red Wings, vibrant neighborhoods taking root and a renewed sense of entrepreneurship taking hold.

There's a lot more work to do, but Detroiters don't shy away from hard work. Nowhere is that work ethic more apparent than in Detroit's flourishing restaurant industry. The entire nation is starting to take note that from its bold entrepreneurs to its dedicated managers and staff, Detroit restaurants are creating something special and leading Detroit's revival.

Restaurants tell the story, reflect the culture of the city, and for many, provide the first step in their careers. As the second largest private employer in Michigan, the restaurant industry is an economic powerhouse, generating \$15.4 billion in annual sales and employing nearly 11% of the entire work force in the state. In Detroit, that translates to over 100,000 jobs, representing about one-quarter of all restaurant industry jobs statewide.

It's apparent during any visit to the city that Detroiters are no longer waiting for opportunity to come to Detroit - they are creating the opportunities. Take a walk through the city and there are new restaurants and resurgent old favorites in every neighborhood. Meet young people earning their first paycheck and moms and dads securing a middle class lifestyle for their families. Each time it's clear that Detroit is only getting better.

To do our part in supporting renewed Detroit, the MRA recently launched the Detroit Kitchen Cabinet, an initiative focused on establishing a strong working group of informed, active and motivated members of the restaurant community to educate and partner with elected officials in Detroit. We've co-hosted community engagement events such as the Detroit Veterans Town Hall with the Michigan Veterans Institute, partnered with Mayor Mike Duggan to employ nearly 300 young adults in the Grow Detroit's Young Talent Program, and met with city restaurateurs to address their concerns with operating and expanding within Detroit.

Restaurants undeniably play a critical role in their community. Whether it's helping to feed the hungry, providing that first job opportunity for young and inexperienced workers, or assuming the risk to bring something special to our lives, they have played and will continue to play a vital role in the resurgence of Detroit.

PHOTO: Justin Winslow

Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents approximately 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 421,500 people and generating \$15.4 billion in annual sales.

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