MEET OUR 2023
IMPACT PARTNERS CIRCLE
2023 IMPACT PARTNERS

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ABOUT
5 Lakes Energy is a Michigan-based consultancy with a mission to mitigate climate change by advancing clean energy in Michigan and the Midwest. We provide policy analysis and advice, expert testimony, and support to clean energy businesses. Our policy emphasizes finding economically practical approaches to increase energy efficiency and use of renewables in a way that is affordable for residential utility customers.

WHY WE SUPPORT PLANET DETROIT AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
Planet Detroit has a passionate team committed to addressing climate and environmental health in Detroit.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
Persuading people to do what they can to reduce use of fossil fuels in their lives and our economy.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We advocate for complete decarbonization of Michigan’s economy by 2050.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
DTE’s integrated resource plan

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
Boating on the Detroit River.
The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. Through education, stewardship, programs and watershed management, the CRWC makes a difference in our local community for today and future generations. We provide residents, schools, governments, businesses and other community groups with wide-ranging programs and events to ensure a healthy Clinton River Watershed for us all.

CRWC supports Planet Detroit because of their goal to inform the public about the environment and public health in Detroit and Michigan.

We struggle to inform the public at large about the difference the CRWC (and by extension the Clinton River Area of Concern Public Advisory Council) is making in the region.

CRWC strives to improve the water quality within the Clinton River Watershed, deliberate and coordinated action is required from everyone, from the individual resident to local governments. With time and effort, the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair are being restored.

Anywhere along the Clinton River.
ABOUT
The Detroit 2030 District is a part of a national movement to create high-performance buildings district by reducing the environmental impacts of building construction and operations while increasing building owners’ return on investment and promoting economic development and Environmental Justice.

WHY WE SUPPORT PLANET DETROIT AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
Since our mission are directly related to environmental justice and creating a healthy, sustainable Detroit, Planet Detroit is an excellent partner for our program!

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
Promoting our programs and events and touting the benefits of belonging. Finding partners for capacity grant applications.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
Reducing energy and water consumption and transportation emissions by 50% from our member buildings base line by the year 2030. Reducing overall carbon emissions in the built environment in Detroit through education and resources.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
New partnering grant opportunities for like-minded, small non-profits.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
Belle Isle
Elevate

Tim Skrotzki
Sr. Market Development Lead

Elevate seeks to create a just and equitable world in which everyone has clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities — no matter who they are or where they live. We want to work with everyone we can to help them reduce their energy costs and improve their quality of life — from homeowners, renters, and building owners, to nonprofit organizations, utilities, and municipalities.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
Listening to and telling stories is part of our mission. We can only learn from listening to the community when creating solutions to solve environmental problems.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
We need to address climate change and build equity into the solutions. To communicate with homeowners and renters about programs available to reduce their utility costs, and we need to lift up contractors in our community to implement these solutions, so that the jobs and benefits stay in Detroit.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
Tell us about a few current environmental goals or programs, and what you’re doing to advance them.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
Telling stories about the resilience of Detroiter from helping one another to solving complex problems.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
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Great Lakes Environmental Law Center

ABOUT
The Great Lakes Environmental Law Center is a Detroit-based nonprofit that offers community education, policy support, and various legal services to address environmental, resource, & energy issues affecting communities in and around Detroit, all over Michigan, and throughout the Great Lakes region.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
We value environmental journalism and the sense of community Planet Detroit creates.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
We want to better develop coordinated messages among the environmental advocacy community in Michigan. Also, I’d like to see more relationship-building among the environmental advocacy community at purely social and/or educational events.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We seek to further environmental justice by helping Michigan residents and organizations develop legal and policy solutions to environmental issues that are impacting their health or quality of life.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
Civil rights and its intersection with environmental policy.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
Belle Isle

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Huron River Watershed Council

ABOUT
Founded in 1965, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) is southeast Michigan’s oldest environmental organization dedicated to river protection. HRWC monitors the Huron River, its tributaries, lakes, and groundwater, and leads programs on pollution prevention and abatement, wetland and floodplain protection, public education, and natural resource and land-use planning.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
We support high quality local journalism that tell the full story, especially focused on environmental concerns.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
Really helping our regional audiences understand that stormwater, drinking water, wastewater, recreational waters and land are all connected and how we address or manage one impacts the quality of all. We are keenly interested in connecting with the people of the communities we serve to listen and better understand what they see as needs and priorities related to water. We’re hopeful that Planet Detroit and Impact Partners can help open the door to those conversations.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We are just completing our 5-year strategic plan, so stay tuned for some visionary goals. In general we work to protect and restore the Huron River for the health and vibrancy of all communities (people, plants, animals, birds, fish) that depend on it, especially with a view to our changing climate and ways that are collaborative and inclusive.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
Rain gardens/green stormwater infrastructure; Clean Water Act anniversary/WOTUS; regional river recreation on the Huron, Clinton, Detroit and Rouge Rivers; importance of watersheds and groups that come together to tackle problems collaboratively; environmental justice and equity.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
The Huron River of course! But especially the section from Belleville to Flat Rock, most of which makes its way through some incredible Metroparks (Lower Huron, Willow, Oakwoods).
ABOUT
Make Food Not Waste was founded in Detroit in 2017 to inspire home cooks to waste less. Our goal is to eliminate food waste from Michigan homes and food-related businesses. Landfills are no place for food. We believe in finding a proper home for all food — human tummies, animal bellies or compost bins. We work to prevent food from being wasted in the first place and then make sure the rest finds its way to the right spot.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
Local journalism is necessary to be informed and to hold people accountable. And local environmental journalism is more important than ever.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
Learn how you can plug into the food waste movement by getting in touch!

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We prevent food from going to landfills to combat climate change and feed people.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
What we’re doing better (and worse) than other comparable cities.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
The Riverfront
ABOUT

The Michigan Climate Action Network (MiCAN) amplifies, connects, and supports the people, organizations, and communities demanding urgent, bold, and equitable solutions for a just transition to a resilient future. MiCAN utilizes our powerful digital communications network to serve as the megaphone of the climate movement and the switchboard that connects people and organizations to the on-the-ground work that will put Michigan on track to meet or exceed the 2030 MI Healthy Climate Plan targets. As movement builders, our ultimate goal is to ensure a powerful network of climate leaders and inspire durable cultural shifts that lead to a more just, equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all Michiganders.

WHY WE SUPPORT PLANET DETROIT AS AN IMPACT PARTNER

MiCAN supports Planet Detroit as an Impact Partner because we believe in the power of local, place-based investigative journalism to craft an engaging narrative that will motivate, influence, and inspire equitable climate action.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH

MiCAN would like to amplify more climate events and local news stories and further connect the climate communications staff at organizations to promote more sharing, and co-development of messaging.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

By 2027, MiCAN will be the megaphone of the climate movement in Michigan that amplifies the collective call for bold climate action and lifts up the people, organizations, and communities leading on real, equitable climate solutions that put Michigan on track to meet or exceed the 2030 MI Healthy Climate Plan targets.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER

All things climate, but particularly the early successes from federal/state funding, whether the state is meeting the Justice40 commitments, and the battles over local siting of renewable energy projects.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA

Palmer Park
Michigan League of Conservation Voters

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https://michiganlcv.org

ABOUT
Michigan League of Conservation Voters works to protect the air, land, and water in communities all across Michigan by activating voters to elect and hold accountable public officials who fight for an environment that sustains the health and well-being of us all. We also work to ensure all Michigan voters have access to the ballot and our democracy works for everyone. We have offices in West Michigan, Northern Michigan and Southeast Michigan.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
We believe reliable, timely information about environmental issues in our communities is critical to finding solutions and enacting change. Planet Detroit’s reporting helps inform the public and decision-makers about pressing issues impacting our health, air, water and environment so we can hold those with power accountable.

CHALLENGES WE'D LOVE HELP WITH
As we continue to advocate for policies that protect our air, water and health with lawmakers, we must show stories and impacts from communities facing environmental challenges. We are always looking for more stories from communities impacted on the frontlines to amplify to decision-makers. We are also looking for stories to amplify that tell the positive story of action happening, particularly around action on climate change and local level solution

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
We envision a Michigan powered by 100% clean, renewable energy and off of fossil fuels. We must have strong protections for our drinking water and a plan in place that establishes water as a human right and that our water is safe and affordable for all.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
PFAS connection between air quality and water. Benefits of the federal Inflation Reduction act and telling the story of how this climate and clean energy legislation benefits communities in Detroit and Michigan.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
Belle Isle and the Huron River Watershed
The Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) works to achieve a clean, healthy, and safe environment for Michigan residents most affected by inadequate policies. We build power and unity within our community, so we all can thrive.

Why we joined as an impact partner
We support and admire the work Planet Detroit is doing to prioritize the voices and narratives of communities most impacted by climate crisis.

Challenges we’d love help with
Putting pressure on legislators to uphold and expand the goals of Justice40, amplifying work happening on the ground, and being unapologetic in our quest for putting EJ communities at the forefront of all conversations surrounding environmental issues.

Our environment & sustainability goals
Movement School – a BIPOC-led collective focused on building the capacity and power of Environmental Justice movements in Michigan through education, narrative shifting, policy advocacy, electoral engagement, community organizing and direct action.

Clean Air Youth Council – an educational experience for young people aged 13–17 from Southeast Michigan who are interested in environmental activism. EJ Caucus – bringing together the wisdom and experience of EJ activists around the state to a collaborative environment focused on creating long term change.

An issue Planet Detroit should cover
Youth involvement, calls to action, elders in the movement, the role of art in enviro spaces.

Favorite outdoor or rec spot in the Detroit area
Belle Isle
Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Kristen Myers
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ABOUT
Our mission is to conserve, sustain, and connect natural areas, lands, and waters that make the places we live special. We work to keep the “Nature Near You” in the northern part of the metro Detroit region, an area we call the Emerald Crown, in the watersheds of the Belle, Clinton, Flint, Huron, Rouge, and Shiawassee rivers in Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee, and St. Clair Counties. We use conservation easements, acquire properties outright as nature preserves, and assist public agencies in acquiring land for parks, preserves, and public access. To date we’ve protected over 3,165 acres.

WHY WE SUPPORT PLANET DETROIT AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
We support Planet Detroit’s independent journalism, and feel that advocacy for the environment and education about climate change is important to improve the health and quality of life for the metro Detroit region.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
We need help with educating people about the water quality benefits of land conservation, and land conservation options that are available to property owners and municipalities.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
There are 8 million acres of public land in Michigan, with only 200,000 acres in southeast Michigan more most of the population lives and works. Our goal is to double the amount of public land in southeast Michigan by 2035.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
SEMCOG’s new G.R.E.E.N. initiative, which stands for Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy with Nature. It is an initiative to address some of the region’s most pressing challenges – managing floods, fostering climate resilience, improving community health, protecting our natural assets – all while creating vibrant places where people want to live and where businesses will thrive.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
East Graham Lake at Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
ABOUT
After founding three companies, Erika launched Sticky Lab, where she works with leaders and explorers who are solving sticky problems, and helping people and organizations clarify and achieve their goals and priorities. Common threads across her work: Building collaborative environments that enable creativity, learning, and action. Facilitating conversations among people who don’t usually connect. Identifying and developing new business opportunities.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
Planet Detroit is an important resource and accountability mechanism for the region.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
It's always a challenge to bring resources.

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
As part of our strategy and consulting services for our clients, Sticky Lab brings sustainability into discussions about project development, supply chains, leadership, company culture, processes, and overall impact/value.

Example: Highlighting the benefits of, and finding, a carbon-negative home delivery service for a food assistance program that is providing ~5000 deliveries in Wayne County during a 4 month period.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
Uses, distribution, and impact of federal infrastructure funds. How small/medium businesses can/do impact the environment – and some.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
As a Washtenaw County resident, I love Pickerel Lake in the Pinckney State Recreation area.
The Greening of Detroit

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ABOUT
For over three decades, The Greening of Detroit has been inspiring sustainable growth of a healthy urban community through trees, green spaces, healthy living, education, training and job opportunities. As a non-profit focused in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park, The Greening of Detroit has planted over 133,000 trees, trained 1000 adults in green jobs and educated 20,000 children on the importance of the environment.

WHY WE JOINED AS AN IMPACT PARTNER
We are committed to engaging with the community and to further Planet Detroit’s mission in helping more people learn about and have access to environmental issues affecting metro Detroit. Being an impact partner helps us to collaborate with other organizations and expand our own reach and impact through that collaboration.

CHALLENGES WE’D LOVE HELP WITH
We are always looking for volunteers! And, I’d love to see meet up’s or collaborative events with other impact partners!

OUR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY GOALS
The Greening of Detroit is a non-profit organization focused on enhancing the quality of life for Detroiter by planting trees, providing job training and involving our youth in the education of the natural environment. We involve Detroiter in the process through community engagement, green spaces, education and jobs. Over the next 5 years we aim to plant 75,000 trees and to train and additional 400 adults in the green job sector.

AN ISSUE PLANET DETROIT SHOULD COVER
Continue the great reporting!

FAVORITE OUTDOOR OR REC SPOT IN THE DETROIT AREA
We may be a bit biased but we love Lafayette Greens. Our urban garden in the heart of downtown Detroit, is a place of respite and haven for native pollinators and people alike; a place where people reconnect with beauty and experience nature; a place of education and discovery.
**ASTI Environmental**

Dianne Martin  
**Director of Community Partners**  
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**ABOUT**

ASTI Environmental (ASTI) has provided environmental and engineering services to industry and government since 1985. ASTI maintains three locations to easily assist our clients throughout the Great Lakes region. Our corporate headquarters are located in Brighton, Michigan, with an office located in Grand Rapids, Michigan and an office in Detroit, Michigan. ASTI service groups are staffed by qualified personnel trained and certified as environmental professionals, mold inspectors, asbestos inspectors, asbestos management planners, professional geologists, brownfield redevelopment specialists, professional wetland scientists, underground storage tank professionals, remediation specialists, hazardous materials managers, and regulatory compliance managers.

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**Citizens Climate Lobby**

Rich Fein  
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**ABOUT**

Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) is a climate change organization that exists to create the political will for a livable world by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power. CCL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Our consistently respectful, nonpartisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering our supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, we work towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions. In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act we train and support volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community.
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice

Laprisa Berry Daniels  
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ABOUT
The mission of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice is advocating for a healthy environment through innovative community and policy action that values all people. Our vision is all people benefit from environmental policies and policy processes that value the voices and reflect the will of impacted communities. Education, training, advocacy, and policy are the pillars of our critical work. Through these channels, we help underrepresented populations in Detroit and beyond gain access to resources and knowledge, leading to long-term, healthy solutions. Our commitment to improve the lives of Detroiters has endured for decades and will continue into the future as the city faces more environmental challenges and finds new opportunities.

Detroit Parks Coalition

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ABOUT
The Detroit Parks Coalition (DPC) is an alliance of organizations that supports healthy, equitable and vibrant parks through fundraising, collaboration and advocacy. DPC includes representatives from 10 park stewardship organizations, covering over 20 Detroit parks. DPC was formed in 2010 to advocate for Detroit parks which were facing closure due to lack of city resources. Inactive by 2017, the group reformed in 2018 and has expanded since. Today, DPC includes representatives from 10 park stewardship organizations, covering over 20 Detroit parks. We work together to find innovative and efficient ways to make progress in Detroit’s parks and public spaces.
**EcoWorks**

Brianna Dubose  
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**ABOUT**

EcoWorks is a Detroit-based nonprofit with over thirty years of providing services at the intersection of community development and sustainability. While our roots are firmly planted in energy conservation, we have grown to emphasize all aspects of sustainable development as it relates to building affordable, energy efficient residential housing and commercial buildings. Our clients range from low- to moderate-income households and community organizations to businesses and local governments. We have generated savings of more than $30 million for clients in our service area and have helped secure over $5 million for local governments to invest in sustainability projects.

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**Early Works**

Nicole de Beaufort  
Founder & President  
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**ABOUT**

EarlyWorks is a Detroit-based, women-led, folx operated strategy and communications consulting firm. We develop engaging custom workshops, training sessions, and executive briefings for individuals, teams, and organizations based on lessons we’ve learned. Please enjoy samples of material we’ve shared in the past. EarlyWorks loves to collaborate on talks, workshops, panels, and facilitation services.

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Friends of the Rouge

Karen Hanna
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ABOUT

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1986 to raise awareness about the need to clean up the Rouge River in southeast Michigan. We envision a future where a clean and vibrant Rouge River is the center of our community. Individual and community actions protect and improve the health of the Rouge River, assuring that its natural, economic, and recreational value enhances the quality of life in the Rouge River ecosystem.

LEARN MORE & JOIN OUR IMPACT PARTNERS CIRCLE:

https://planetdetroit.org/impactpartners/
**Huron-Clinton Metroparks**

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**ABOUT**

With 13 individual properties and nearly 25,000 acres of woods, water and recreational facilities, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks are one of the nation’s premier regional park systems. Established as the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the Metroparks is a regional special park district encompassing Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Located primarily along the Huron and Clinton Rivers, the Metroparks represent a greenbelt encompassing the Detroit metropolitan area and providing a natural oasis for more than 7 million visitors each year. Amenities found across the Metroparks include picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature study, biking, golf, disc golf, cross country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing and a diversity of outdoor programs and special events.

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**Keep Growing Detroit**

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**ABOUT**

The mission of Keep Growing Detroit is to promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiter are grown by residents within the city’s limits. KGD’s strategic approach to achieving its mission facilitates beginner gardeners becoming engaged community leaders and food entrepreneurs, addressing the immediate needs of the community while promoting sustainable change in our food system. Our programs include a garden resource program, Grown in Detroit, produce donations, education series, urban roots, Sweet on Detroit, youth programs, and early childhood programs.
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

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ABOUT

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action (MiCCA) is a coalition of Michigan health professionals focused on mitigation and prevention of adverse health effects of climate change through educating, empowering, and engaging health professionals, the general public, and policy makers. MiCCA’s mission is to reduce the health effects of climate change through education and advocacy in Michigan.

Michigan Environmental Council

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ABOUT

Michigan Environmental Council drives the environmental agenda in Michigan. We develop innovative policy ideas; communicate them to key audiences in a compelling fashion; and engage our members, community leaders and residents as effective local advocates for shared goals. By leading powerful, diverse collaborations, we inspire state leaders to adopt pioneering solutions that set a global standard for environmental leadership.

Michigan Environmental Council—a 501(c)(3) charitable organization—is a coalition of over 80 organizations created in 1980 to lead Michigan’s environmental movement in achieving positive change through public policy solutions.
Society of Environmental Journalists

Emilia Askari
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ABOUT

The Society of Environmental Journalists is the only North American membership association of professional journalists dedicated to more and better coverage of environment-related issues. SEJ’s mission is to strengthen the quality, reach and viability of journalism that advances public understanding of environmental issues. SEJ’s reputation for excellence, service, and integrity has been built upon three decades of annual conferences hosted by distinguished universities, scores of regional forums, unique publications, online services, workshops and training sessions, and an extensive membership network. As a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, SEJ provides educational opportunities and vital support to journalists of all media who face the challenging responsibility of covering complex environmental issues.

Taste the Local Difference

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ABOUT

Taste the Local Difference® is Michigan’s local food consulting, media and marketing agency. We specialize in communication strategy for Michigan’s local food businesses. We are passionate about education, building relationships and empowering entrepreneurs. Our team supports purpose-driven brands throughout the state of Michigan with the goal of selling more Michigan grown and produced food across the state.
The Work Department

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ABOUT

The Work Department is a design and strategy studio in Detroit. We partner with organizations across sectors and industries whose values align with ours—those who prioritize access, equity, and shared respect. We listen to and learn from people, especially those whose voices are often left out of decision making; research to gather diverse perspectives, identify opportunities, and inform solutions; facilitate conversations that bring people together to build understanding and solve problems; strategize and consult to improve how organizations work; and, we co-create accessible language and visuals to help organizations connect with the people they serve.

Trent Creative

Marilyn Trent
Founder & Creative Principal
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ABOUT

Trent Creative is a full service marketing, brand strategy, and public relations firm. Our services include website design and development, social media marketing and public relations, videography, guerilla marketing, SEO & Google ads, and demand & lead generation.
ABOUT

Walker–Miller Energy Services is an energy waste reduction company promoting innovative and cost-effective strategies to achieve energy efficiency. Our services and products improve infrastructure while also promoting equity through energy education. With more than a decade of corporate energy experience, Carla Walker–Miller started Walker–Miller Energy Services as a solution to a problem. She became the first black Detroit-based distributor, handling a complete line of major electrical equipment. A decade later, the company was able to transition its core business from a utility equipment distributor to an energy efficiency services company. As Founder and CEO of Walker–Miller Energy Services (WMES), Carla is a dedicated advocate for providing sustainable, efficient solutions to residential and commercial clients in efforts toward energy efficiency.