

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
14TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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WOMEN'S ISSUES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2214

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November 13, 2018

Mr. Paul Daniel Smith, Deputy Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Reconnaissance Study of the Detroit Sound Conservancy (DSC)

Dear Deputy Director Smith:

I respectfully write to request a reconnaissance survey of the Detroit Sound Conservancy (DSC), located in Detroit, Michigan, with the intent to determine the possibility of designating DSC as an affiliated area of the National Park Service. Since 2012, the Detroit Sound Conservancy has been a significant organization working to preserve Detroit's rich historic musical legacy.

Through partnerships and programs spanning outreach, preservation, education, storytelling, curation, and innovation, the DSC has established itself as a committed advocate for the preservation and advocacy of the city's sonic heritage. In 2012, DSC conducted a music tour for the Allied Media Conference and since then has gone on to archive an oral history of Detroit music online, making its legacy truly accessible. In 2015, DSC acquired the historic Graystone International Jazz Museum Collection. They also moved their operations into the United Systems Recording Studios, a locally designated historic district, home to numerous prominent musicians for decades and the birthplace of Berry Gordy's Motown Records. In 2016, DSC rebuilt the Blue Bird Inn Stage, a historical Detroit jazz venue. In 2017, they transported the stage to France for a major design exhibition and started the Detroit Sound Hall of Fame. Most recently in 2018, DSC purchased the Blue Bird Inn with the plans of redeveloping it as a creative community node on Detroit's West Side.

From jazz to techno, blues to hip-hop, the core of Motown and beyond, Detroit has been at the center of musical innovation since the early 20th century. I write today to ask that the National Park Service conduct a reconnaissance survey to see if a designation of the Detroit Sound Conservancy as an affiliate area of the National Park Service would be possible and appropriate.

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If you or your staff need any additional information regarding my support, please do not hesitate to call our office. We look forward to hearing from you and we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brenda L. Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress