



Detroit City Council
Councilmember Renata Miller

MEMO

TO: Elana A. Rugh, Executive Director/CFO
Historical Museum

THROUGH: James Tate, Council President
Detroit City Council

FROM: Renata Miller, Councilmember
Detroit City Council

DATE: March 11, 2026, 11:00 am

RE: 2026-2027 Budget Hearing, Historical Museum

1. Given the City's \$2 million annual contribution, what measurable outcomes—such as visitor growth, program participation, or educational outreach—does the Society expect to achieve in FY2027?
2. The Society reported \$6.2 million in revenue and \$7.6 million in expenses, resulting in a \$1.4 million deficit. What factors contributed to this gap, and what steps are being taken to improve financial stability?
3. Federal and state grant funding declined significantly in FY2025. What strategies are being pursued to secure additional grants or diversify revenue sources?
4. Staffing increased from 75 to 80 employees between FY2024 and FY2025. What operational needs have driven this increase?
5. If City or ARPA funding is unavailable for future capital projects, what alternative funding sources will be used to maintain and upgrade museum facilities?