



Detroit City Council
Councilmember Renata Miller

MEMO

TO: Neil A. Barclay, J.D, President & CEO
Charles H. Wright Museum

THROUGH: James Tate, Council President
Detroit City Council

FROM: Renata Miller, Councilmember
Detroit City Council

DATE: March 12, 2026, 3:00 pm

RE: 2026-2027 Budget Hearing, Museum of African American History

1. Given the City's \$2.6 million annual contribution, what measurable outcomes—such as visitor growth, program participation, or educational outreach does the museum expect to achieve in FY2027?
2. The museum reported \$12.9 million in revenue and \$13.9 million in expenses, resulting in a \$1 million deficit. What factors contributed to this gap, and what steps are being taken to strengthen financial sustainability?
3. Grants and contributions declined significantly in FY2025. What strategies are being pursued to secure additional funding sources?
4. What is the status of staffing vacancies, and what is the anticipated staffing level for FY2027?
5. If City or ARPA funding is unavailable for future capital improvements, what alternative funding sources will be used to complete the museum's mechanical system upgrades?