



The Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy

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For immediate release January 14, 2009

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Tiger Stadium Conservancy adds Morris Hood III to Board of Directors

Project now eligible for additional historic preservation tax credits through legislation signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm

The Tiger Stadium Conservancy has started the new year with two pieces of good news: State Representative Morris Hood III has joined the Conservancy's Board of Directors and Governor Jennifer Granholm signed Public Act 448 into law, giving the redevelopment of Tiger Stadium an additional 15 percent in state historic tax credits -- estimated at over \$4 million -- towards the total project cost.

Outgoing State Representative Morris Hood III of Detroit has just wrapped up his third term in the Michigan House of Representatives. He represented the 11th House district, the district in which he was born and raised. "It was a great honor and privilege to be asked, and then to accept the invitation to join the Tiger Stadium Conservancy," he says. "The Conservancy has great vision, goals and dreams in the creation of its project and, with the help and support of the public, I know that it can and will have an enormous impact, not only in Detroit, but also to the State of Michigan."

Hood has served in various leadership roles in Lansing such as Chairman of the Fiscal Oversight Subcommittee and Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee, Democratic Caucus Chair, Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Assistant Associate Democratic Floor Leader, and the ranking Democrat on the Standing Committee on Insurance. He is active in numerous community organizations, including the Michigan Democratic Party, NAACP, Barton McFarland Neighborhood Association and Northwest Youth Organization among others.

Governor Jennifer Granholm signed Public Act 448 of 2008 into law on January 13. This special state historic preservation tax credit would be equal to 15 percent of total development costs and can be used in addition to any other historic tax credits. Prior to its passage, Tiger Stadium would have been restricted to a 20 percent federal historic preservation tax credit, coupled with a state historic preservation tax credit limited to just five percent.

Now, the project will be eligible to receive a 20 percent state historic preservation tax credit in addition to the federal 20 percent credit. The funds must be used in conjunction with a federal appropriation, which is being pursued by Senator Carl Levin, a key supporter of the redevelopment of Tiger Stadium. The combined tax credits and appropriation are valued at more than \$14 million of the project's total \$27 million development cost.

Outgoing Michigan State Representative Steve Tobocman, a member of the Conservancy's board, was a sponsor of the bill in his branch of the legislature. "It was important that the bill created the 'mega' historic tax credit for important cornerstone projects like Tiger Stadium," says Tobocman. "Often, these projects can have significant impacts on entire communities, like I am sure it will have on Corktown and all of Greater Detroit."

The Tiger Stadium Conservancy is working to preserve and rehabilitate the Navin Field portion of Tiger Stadium that dates back to 1923. The home plate entrance at Michigan and Cochrane and the lower concourse will be retained, with part of the grandstand enclosed with a glass curtain wall. The seats outside of this curtain wall will provide spectator seating for future events staged on the historic playing field.

The Tigers' clubhouse will be retained as part of an interpretive exhibit space. There will be retail space fronting Michigan Avenue on the lower concourse level, while the main level will feature a restaurant and banquet facility as well as exhibit space for baseball and sports artifacts of historical significance to Detroit and Michigan. The broadcast booth will be preserved and restored as part of this exhibit space. The upper deck will be modified to provide 20,000 square feet of leasable office space. This space will overlook the remaining upper deck seats. The innovative plan for the renovated structure will feature a vegetative, or "green," roof.

The stadium structure will be refurbished and repainted in its historic pre-1978 green color, while the metal cladding currently concealing the historic façade will be removed. The playing field, upon which trod Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Hank Greenberg, Charlie Gehringer, Hal Newhouser, Willie Mays, Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline, Willie Horton, Kirk Gibson, Lou Whitaker and Alan Trammell -- along with hundreds of other Hall of Famers and baseball legends -- will be available for amateur and youth baseball and community events. The result will be a vibrant, viable facility that will contribute to Detroit's economic growth while functionally preserving this nationally significant historic landmark for future generations.

The Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Detroit Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The Conservancy has already paid the EDC \$69,000 for maintenance and security of the stadium and placed an additional \$150,000 in a separate escrow account. An additional \$150,000 will be deposited into the account; the \$300,000 escrowed amount will ultimately be used to purchase the stadium and lease the playing field from the EDC. The Conservancy is currently developing architectural drawings of its plan as well as making detailed plans for programming of the site. Funding from various foundation sources is being vigorously pursued; over 600 individual donors have already contributed generously to the cause.

The Conservancy believes that the adaptive reuse of Tiger Stadium will anchor the ongoing revitalization of Corktown and Southwest Detroit, will provide much-needed recreational space for Detroit youth, and will quickly become the symbol of a progressive, sustainable, and creative city. "The successful preservation and redevelopment of Tiger Stadium will be transformational for Detroit and the region," says Conservancy president Thomas Linn, chairman emeritus and former chief executive officer of Miller Canfield. "It will be a tourist Mecca and a catalyst for attracting and retaining young urban professionals in our region by tying together Midtown and Downtown, two neighborhoods that are thriving despite these tough economic times."

For more information on the Conservancy and its plans, visit www.SaveTigerStadium.org.

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