



Contact: Jerjuan A. Howard  
Cell: (313) 699-8894  
Email: umojadebateteam@gmail.com  
Website: umojadebateteam.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

03/16/2023

## **UMOJA DEBATE TEAM PARTNERS WITH BLACK HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE**

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITIONS ARE SET TO TAKE PLACE AT DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

*The goal of the partnership is to expose youth to Detroit History while creating a platform for debate.*



This spring, Detroit Public Schools Community District(DPSCD) middle school students will have an opportunity to debate competitively at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Umoja Debate Team partnered with DPSCD to provide a free after-school debate program for 4 middle schools. The middle schools are John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy, Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy, Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary-Middle School, and Catherine C. Blackwell Institute.

Under Umoja Debate Team, each one of these schools has debate coaches that come in twice a week after school to train the middle schoolers on debate and fine tune their oratorical skills. In the spirit of competition, these schools will meet at the Detroit Historical Museum to compete against one another to put those skills to the test. The topics will be chosen by the Black Historic

Sites Committee of the Detroit Historical Museum and the Board of Directors for Umoja Debate Team.

“We are excited to partner with a youthful group that’ll work with us to keep our rich history moving forward”, said Eard Gaddies of the Black Historic Sites Committee.

“The goal of our debate program is to give the youth opportunities to gain confidence in public speaking, increase literacy, boost conflict resolution skills, and open the door for them to articulate and express their concerns around a variety of topics. We want to mold the leaders of tomorrow, said Umoja Debate Team’s Executive Director, Jerjuan Howard.

Currently, in order to be a participant of Umoja Debate Team you must be a student at one of our participating DPSCD Schools, but we plan to open the program up to all children ages 11-14 during our Summer Program. For more information and updates, visit [www.umojadebateteam.org](http://www.umojadebateteam.org)

The first debate is set to take place April 8th at the Detroit Historical Museum.

**About Umoja Debate Team:** *Umoja Debate Team is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We are a youth debate team based in Detroit, MI. By using debate as our vehicle, we provide students with the opportunity for self expression, critical thinking skills, and conflict resolution skills.*

<https://www.umojadebateteam.org/>

**About Black Historic Sites:** *At the Detroit Historical Society, we believe that stories hold power and that there is also power in having autonomy over one’s own story. The Society’s Black Historic Sites Committee (BHSC) has been committed to discovering, documenting, and marking the numerous sites associated with the people and events important to Detroit and the city’s Black history.*