

Midwestern Legislative Conference July 8 Tour of Detroit's Historic and Vibrant Eastern Market

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 8, MLC attendees will have the chance to tour and learn about a crown jewel of Detroit — Eastern Market. Discover America's last great urban food district anchored by one of the nation's largest and oldest public markets, and learn what you can do in your state/province to boost local food production and distribution.

A bus will depart The Westin Book Cadillac Detroit (host hotel for this year's meeting) at 1 p.m. Tour participants will return to the hotel no later than 5 p.m.

The Eastern Market Partnership is pleased to offer four tour segments for MLC attendees.

- <u>Visit the Farmers Market</u> as the Saturday Market winds down and experience the joyful chaos that gives Eastern Market its distinctive character. This part of the site visit begins at 1:15 p.m. and is self-guided, giving you the opportunity to experience the tastes and sounds of the market. We will then reconvene as a group at 2 p.m. for the remaining tour segments. (More details will be provided to participants on-site.)
- <u>Get an inside look</u> at plans to preserve the market district, strengthen regional agriculture and improve food access in Detroit. With \$12 million in support from the state of Michigan, Eastern Market is building a wholesale distribution center to better serve Michigan farmers. It aims to address the missing middle of our national food system and is intended to be replicated in places seeking to scale up local vegetable production. You'll learn about this project and much more.
- <u>A guided walking tour</u> will focus on the Eastern Market Partnership's food-business incubation and acceleration work as well as efforts to encourage the retention of food businesses in the historic core of the market district.
- <u>A product tasting</u> will provide a scrumptious sampling of locally made food and beverages from both market vendors and district businesses.

You must be pre-registered to take part in this tour of Eastern Market. Space is limited, with availability on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can reserve your space for this tour when registering for the MLC Annual Meeting at <u>csgmidwest.org</u>. Please contact Tim Anderson at CSG Midwest if you have questions: <u>tanderson@csg.org</u> or 630.925.1922. The MLC is offering this tour as part of the yearlong MLC Chair's Initiative of Michigan Sen. Roger Victory: "Food Security: Feeding the Future."

