



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **AIA MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES 2014 KORAB AWARD WINNER**

May 30, 2014- Detroit, Michigan- The American Institute of Architects Michigan is proud to announce the Balthazar Korab Award will be awarded at the annual Design Awards celebration on June 7 at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing. This award is named in honor of Balthazar Korab, Hon. AIA, renowned architect and photographer, who spent his career breathing life into architecture and the built environment. The Korab Award may be given each year in recognition of an individual's significant effort and contribution to architecture and/or the arts.

Primarily a painter and sculptor, Tyree Guyton has also been described as an urban environmental artist. Through the famed "Heidelberg Project", an ongoing 2 City Block Outdoor Art Installation founded in 1986, he has waged a personal war on urban blight on Detroit's East Side, transforming his neighborhood into a living indoor/outdoor art gallery. Through his art, Guyton has drawn attention to the plight of Detroit's forgotten neighborhoods and spurred discussion and action. Although partially destroyed by two Detroit Administrations and suspected arson attacks, the Heidelberg Project continues to rise from the ruins and today is recognized as one of the most powerful art environments in the world.

"When you come to the Heidelberg Project, I want you to think—really think! My art is a medicine for the community. You can't heal the land until you heal the minds of the people," says Guyton.

This iconic colorfully painted polka dotted neighborhood, which symbolizes our society's diversity, has played a vital role in transforming the visual indignities of poverty and have placed an international spotlight on the area, resulting in dramatic reductions in drug trafficking, gang violence, and crime. Guyton's vision for Heidelberg is to transform the two block area into a state-of-the-art Cultural Village.

Guyton also exhibits his work extensively throughout the United States and the world. Guyton studied at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and in 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Fine Art. His work is featured in the Detroit Institute of Arts, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Studio Museum of Harlem and many others. His work as an artist has earned him over 15 awards, locally and nationally.

Guyton has been featured in major publications, books, and television (including the Oprah Winfrey Show) and was the subject of the Emmy Award Winning Documentary, Come Unto Me, the Faces of Tyree Guyton; and more recently the subject of a book published in 2007 by WSU Press, Connecting the Dots, Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project—a 2008 Michigan Notable Book.

Guyton is married and continues to live and work in the city of Detroit.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the GM Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, established its awards program to bring to public attention the value and importance of architectural excellence and to recognize those whose notable achievements encourage all to make excellence in architecture the standard. Visit [www.aiami.com](http://www.aiami.com) or call 313.965.4100 to learn more.

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