



News Release

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Rick Snyder,
Governor
Kim Homan, Executive
Director

Michigan Land Bank Returns State Fair Bricks to Owners

During fair-themed event in Detroit, owners reclaim their state fairgrounds memorial bricks

May 2, 2013 — The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority (MLB) held a fair-themed community event in Detroit today where dozens of citizens reclaimed their Michigan State Fair memorial bricks. The bricks were part of a 1998 fundraising drive by Michigan residents and businesses to rehabilitate the World's Largest Stove and place it back at the fairgrounds with a state historical marker.

The state fairgrounds are in the process of being rehabilitated and the MLB is currently in Development Agreement negotiations with the developers Magic Plus, LLC and Redico to ensure the property is successfully redeveloped.

The MLB has cataloged the more than 1,200 memorial bricks and the developers have agreed to use the unclaimed bricks as part of a new memorial at the redevelopment of the fairgrounds property.

“Redeveloping the unused 157-acre property and returning it to productive use will help create jobs and have a tremendous economic impact on Detroit and the entire region,” said MLB Board of Directors Chair Deborah Muchmore.

“The Memorial Brick Return is part of the Michigan Land Bank’s effort to work with the community and developers as the redevelopment of the state fairgrounds advances,” MLB Executive Director Kim Homan said.

Working with the community to memorialize the bricks is just one of the ways the MLB is preserving the great memories of the State Fair. The MLB is creating a video where citizens reminisce about their favorite times at the fairgrounds and is also working to preserve the Grant House and War Veterans Memorial.

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The mission of the Michigan Land Bank is to promote economic growth in Michigan through the acquisition, assembly and disposal of public property, including tax reverted property, in a coordinated manner to foster the development of that property, and to promote and support land bank operations at the county and local levels.