

# Historic Preservation in Michigan



2016 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

Indian Village Historical Collections, City of Detroit, Public Lighting Authority, DTE Energy, Offshore Spars, Corby Energy Services, SS Stripping/CDS Performance Coatings, and the Consulting Engineering Associates and Wade Trim Joint Venture

## The Indian Village Historic Streetlight Rehabilitation Project

Lighting the Future by Preserving the Past was a project to rehabilitate 57 streetlights originally installed around 1910 in Detroit's historic Indian Village neighborhood.

The project involved removing each of the existing streetlights and disassembling them. Each component was inspected, prepped and repainted before being reassembled. The rehabilitated streetlights were reinstalled in their original locations with new infrastructure and LED luminaires.

This project was unique. In the beginning none of the key players had experience in rehabilitating historic streetlights, so they did the research and testing necessary to make the project happen. Indian Village residents participated fully in the project by opening their homes for fundraising home tours, promoting the project through the media and citywide events, and volunteering their time. In addition, they raised grant funds, including a Michigan Heritage Restoration Program grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Streetlights can be an integral part of the character of a neighborhood. Thanks to the Indian Village Historical Collections and its partners, the rehabilitated streetlights still serve their original purpose of illuminating the sidewalks and streets of one of Detroit's great neighborhoods.

