



RENDEZ-VOUS DÉTROIT PRESENTS
BONNE FÊTE 325 DÉTROIT
HAPPY 325TH BIRTHDAY DETROIT!

July 24 – 25, 2026

Fort Pontchartrain Hotel, Detroit, MI 48226

Calling all descendants of Detroit's early French settlers! Francophones, Francophiles, lovers of Detroit history and those who simply enjoy a great dose of joie de vivre, you're invited! Rendez-vous Détroit is throwing a party! It's a weekend of festivities to celebrate Detroit's 325th birthday. We will be saluting the efforts of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac and his brave convoy of French and Indigenous trailblazers who, together, put Détroit on the map. Our party encompasses a variety of components, all recognizing and celebrating the French history and heritage of Detroit while appreciating how our legacy will continue to influence the future.

Please join us and be a part of this very historic event.





FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

Hotel Room Check-in begins at 3:00 p.m.,
Fort Pontchartrain Hotel, 2 Washington Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

- 4:00 p.m.** Founders' Recognition Ceremony, Founding Convoy Plaque, Hart Plaza, Detroit, Michigan. Chorale music provided by The French Boys' Choir, La Maîtrise des Hauts de France, Lambersart, France.
- 5:15 p.m.** Cocktail Meet and Greet, Fort Pontchartrain Hotel, Ballroom B.
- 6:30 p.m.** Dinner: Pure Michigan Buffet: Michigan Cherry Salad, Broccoli Slaw with Bacon and Cheddar Cheese, Maple Pork Tenderloin, Lake Perch, White Cheddar and Chive Cheesy Potatoes, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables and Crêpes with Fresh Berries. Ballroom B.
- 8:00 p.m.** "Early beginnings of Détroit," by Catherine Cangany, Ph.D.,
- 9:00 p.m.** Music by Dennis Stroughmatt and L'Esprit Creole, Deborah Hyland, Dance Caller.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

- 8:00 a.m.** Continental Breakfast: Assorted Fresh Fruit, Flavored Yogurts, Assorted Muffins, Bagels and Breakfast Pastries. Ballroom B.
- 9:30 a.m.** "Jean Baptiste Vernier (1762 – 1834) Adventurer, Landholder, Businessman, Entrepreneur and Progenitor," by Jim Verney.
- 10:30 a.m.** "Michiganaise: Tracing Francophone Identity in the Great Lakes," by Claire-Marie Brisson, Ph.D., Preceptor in French, Harvard University, Hometown: Dearborn, MI.
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch: Soup and Salad Bar, French Canadian Pea Soup and Soup du Jour, Chicken Salad and Tuna Salad on Croissants, Pasta Salad, Garden Salad, Fresh Fruit and Tarte Aux Pommés. Ballroom B.
- 1:15 p.m.** Leave hotel for afternoon activities:
 - Détroit French History Cruise:* The Detroit River was the main highway of 18th Century Détroit. The bilingual (French/English) tour highlights the French historical sites along the river. Our ship, The Diamond Belle, has capacity for 200 passengers. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - The Detroit Historical Museum:* If you haven't been to Detroit before, the Detroit Historical Museum is well worth the visit. Known in the 1950s as the Paris of the Midwest, Detroit has worn many titles: The Motor City; Car Capital of the World; Motown; The "D."
- 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.** Détroit French History Tour on the Detroit River or Detroit Historical Museum Tour, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202
- 6:30 p.m.** Dinner Dance: Caesar Salad, Cassoulet, Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, and Petit Fours. Music provided by La Compagnie Dance Troupe. Ballroom B.

À bientôt!

Questions? Email rendezvousdetroit@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION

FRIDAY – SATURDAY, JULY 24 – 25, 2026

Register online at rendezvousdetroit.org

Early-Bird Registration Ends: May 21, 2026

Standard Registration Ends: July 2, 2026

Mail-in Registration

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ CITY _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

Please make checks payable to Rendez-vous Détroit and mail to: Rendez-vous Détroit, P.O. Box 4158, Centerline, MI 48015.

Full Weekend Registration includes Friday afternoon Founders' Ceremony, Cocktail Party, all meals, four drink tickets, lectures, activities and entertainment.

Saturday-Only Registration includes all meals, two drink tickets, lectures, activities and entertainment.

Cut-off for standard registration is Thursday, July 2, 2026. Cancellations and refunds will not be processed after July 2, 2026.

FULL BONNE FÊTE 325 DÉTROIT WEEKEND

(includes Friday Founders' Ceremony, Cocktail Party, Friday and Saturday meals, four drink tickets, all lectures, activities and entertainment)

- Early-Bird Registration** until May 21, 2026\$276.00
- Standard Registration** May 22 – July 2, 2026\$326.00

SATURDAY-ONLY

(includes all meals, two drink tickets, all lectures, activities and entertainment)

- Early-Bird Registration** until May 21, 2026\$195.00
- Standard Registration** May 22 – July 2, 2026\$245.00

FRIDAY-ONLY DINNER DANCE

(does not include Cocktail Party)

- 6:30 p.m., Ballroom B**\$87.00 per person

SATURDAY-ONLY DINNER DANCE

- 6:30 p.m., Ballroom B**\$87.00 per person

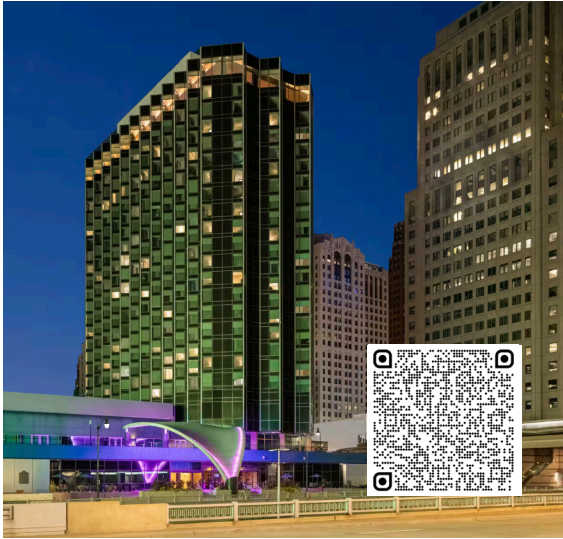
Please fill out one registration form for each person attending. Please include any dietary restrictions and food allergies.

Please select one of the options below for your Saturday afternoon activity:

- Detroit French History Cruise on the Detroit River (Ship capacity 200, first come, first served sign-up)
- Detroit Historical Museum (excellent exhibits on early French history in Detroit)

On Saturday afternoon, July 25, we will be walking two blocks from the hotel, either to the boat dock on the Detroit River to board the ship or to Woodward Avenue to board the Q Line which will transport passengers to the Detroit Historical Museum. If walking is not an option for you, it is a short drive to both activity locations. If you have paid for event parking at the Fort Pontchartrain Hotel, you will be allowed to leave and return at no additional cost. The Detroit Historical Museum has their own parking lot next to the museum. There are parking ramps and street parking near the boat dock.

This registration form does not include the hotel reservation which must be made directly with the Fort Pontchartrain Hotel. Please ask for the Rendez-vous Détroit group rate when making your reservation.



BONNE FÊTE 325 DÉTROIT HOTEL

Fort Pontchartrain Hotel

2 Washington Blvd. • Détroit, Michigan 48226

Call 313-965-0200 and request group rate for Rendez-vous Détroit

- Bonne Fête 325 Détroit Rate: \$189 plus taxes per night
- Parking per day including overnight: \$45
- Event parking up to 8 hours: \$20

Please request the Rendez-vous Détroit group rate when you make your reservation. Rate is applicable for July 23 – July 26, 2026. Reservations may be made online by scanning the QR code on the left or by calling (313) 965-0200 and requesting the Rendez-vous Détroit group rate.

FAMILY SHOWCASE

Rendez-vous Détroit will have exhibit space next to Ballroom B for people who would like to share their French family history, stories and genealogy boards. Please use three-panel stand-alone presentation boards for your display. Space is limited so one board per family please!

Exhibits must be in place by 3:00 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2026 and retrieved by Sunday, July 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m. The Family Showcase Registration must be completed and submitted at the time of Bonne Fête 325 registration.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ CITY _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FAMILY SURNAME ON BOARD _____



Questions? Email rendezvousdetroit@gmail.com.