
Luskin in Detroit

In Spring 2014, a group of fourteen students from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs spent spring break in Detroit, the epicenter of the nation's most pressing urban planning problems. As planning and policy students focused on social justice, this group sought to bridge the classroom and the real world and to contextualize urban planning issues in this canonical, distressed city. Particularly conscious to avoid a "tour of poverty," students met with nonprofit leaders, agency heads, and city officials, including Mayor Mike Duggan.

Detroit has faced massive population loss over the last forty years and suffered from striking racial segregation in the region. Yet its rich history and resilient people offer powerful lessons about urban governance and civic participation, and hold real potential to rebuild this iconic city. Based on their experiences, the students compiled a series of articles, photo essays, and infographics detailing their findings. The following two pieces represent a portion of this work.

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