

Actor Hill Harper buys Detroit Roasting Plant Coffee

Award-winning actor, author and entrepreneur Hill Harper, whose acting credits include CBS' CSI: NY and Showtime's HOMELAND among numerous other notable television and film roles, has taken over as owner of Downtown Detroit's Roasting Plant® Coffee. Harper, an honors graduate of both Brown University and Harvard University, has long used his platform as a celebrated actor and writer to work in support of underserved youth through his Manifest Your Destiny Foundation. Harper is now widening his reach and providing tactical work skills and professional growth opportunities for Detroit's youth through his ownership of the city's Roasting Plant Coffee.

"Detroit is a great American city that was forged on innovation, social enterprise and entrepreneurship. My ownership of Roasting Plant Coffee in downtown Detroit builds upon that legacy. It is truly an honor and privilege for me to help fuel the Motor City, not just with Roasting Plant's incomparable coffee — but by providing career paths and launching pads to greater success in a booming industry for young Detroiters hungry for opportunity and active mentorship," said Harper. "Having lived here filming two movies in Detroit over the past four years, I have come to love this city and its people. I believe in Detroit. It is truly a vibrant, unique and great American city."



Hill Harper

Harper's investment in Roasting Plant Coffee is a hands-on one, too. He recently purchased a home in one of Detroit's historic neighborhoods and has already begun its restoration. Harper plans to focus on making Roasting Plant's job training program a success and to increase his involvement with local charitable organizations. Additionally, Harper is bringing his successful youth Summer Empowerment Academy (SEA) to Detroit this summer. SEA is a free high school and college readiness program that Harper's Manifest Your Destiny Foundation runs in the most challenged areas in cities across the country.

"We are very fortunate to have Hill Harper as part of our community here in Detroit," said Mayor Mike Duggan. "Not just because of his new role as a resident and entrepreneur in the city, but because the personal commitment he brings with him to help support and provide opportunity to the city's youth and returning citizens."

Specializing in just-roasted, just-brewed-by-the-cup coffee, Roasting Plant is a fast-growing company at the forefront of the coffee industry's future. In addition to the purchase of the Detroit store, Harper has invested directly in Roasting Plant, Inc., and serves as both an Advisor and Brand Ambassador to the company as a means of providing not only the freshest cup of coffee in the city but as an engine of economic empowerment for Detroit and its young residents.

"Our experience in the Detroit market has exceeded our most optimistic expectations and we're grateful to our loyal customers," said Mike Caswell, Roasting Plant Founder. "When Dan Gilbert invited us to join Opportunity Detroit we jumped at the chance to be part of this great American city's renaissance. We're so excited to now be partnering with Hill Harper to bring an entrepreneurial approach to empowering young people across the city."

The innovation that sets Roasting Plant apart from other artisanal, third-wave coffee shops is their proprietary Javabot™ system. This state-of-the-art system brings the entire coffee supply chain into each café with on-site micro-batch roasting of green coffee beans and a selection of seven single-origin beans, signature blends or a wide-array of bespoke blends. This just-roasted coffee experience, with personalization of every custom cup of coffee, is the defining quality of Roasting Plant. In about a minute, Roasting Plant's Javabot™ system allows each customer to engineer their perfect cup of coffee, complete with a frothy crema on top—a telltale sign of freshness. You won't get this from any other cup of black coffee anywhere else.

Roasting Plant is a vertically integrated coffee company established in 2004 that designs, develops, and manufactures technology that disrupts the coffee trade. The company's Willy Wonka-like Javabot™ automation system micro-batch roasts in every café, gives customers a choice from a wide selection of the highest quality beans in the world and brews each custom cup of coffee to order.



Business booming for kids at Mackinac Center marketplace

By Roz Edward

Detroit's most enterprising next generation of aspiring entrepreneurs convened for a small business summit at the Detroit Historical Museum. Kids from 5 to 14 presented business products for testing, tasting and touching in a dazzling display of business showmanship and competed for cash prizes at the Detroit Children's Business Fair hosted sponsored by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Chronicle.

Business innovations represented at the open marketplace fair, ranged from candy creations to chemical free plant pesticides, and from jewelry to stunning photographs of Detroit jewels. Ambitious young entrepreneurs were encouraged to create a product, develop a business model and marketing strategy and bring the product to market.

As purveyors and shoppers walked the cobblestone streets of Old Detroit on the lower level of the Detroit Historical Museum, ambitious young business owners stood ready to bargain and barter their special wares to win money prizes for business expansion, research and development and the all-important bottom line.

Well-groomed 9- and 10-year-olds in business suits complete with power ties, extended their hands with hearty handshakes followed by impressive product



presentations, competition judges made their way from vendor to vendor to sample their offerings and rate the budding businesses on product originality, creativity and business potential.

"We believe in the power of entrepreneurship. We believe in the power of businesses to really be a building block of strong communities," explained John Mozena event organizer and vice president of Marketing and Communications at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. "In addition to all of the research work we do and all of the educational work we do, we thought we would put our money where our mouth is, and show it in action with young kids."

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a free market think tank, is a nonpartisan research and educational institute dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Michigan residents by promoting sound solutions to state and local policy questions. "We believe that when you let people reach their potential, and when you create real opportunities for everyone and let them live their lives as free as possible from government interference, great things happen and people live a better quality of life," says Mozena.

As more than 100 shoppers visited the nearly 20 youth-owned micro-businesses, an important dynamic became apparent, as participants

grasped the bigger business picture. They embraced the value of hard work, increased their self-esteem and were eager to share their good fortune and commit a portion of their sales to philanthropic and charitable opportunities.

One enterprising student and his pitch man, caught my attention as I passed his ZJ Cardboard Creations booth, where he asked passersby, "Hey, do you like folding laundry?" I responded with a resounding "no," and he launched into an enthusiastic demonstration of his perfect-fold laundry invention. "I use recycled cardboard and made special cuts to place clothing on, so all you have

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Dorinda Walker

Dorinda Walker: An inspirational warrior tells her story to help others overcome hardships

By Donald James
 A Special for Real Times Media

Dorinda Walker has an epic story to tell. It's a story of growing up with heroin-addicted parents, physical abuse, suicide attempts, dropping out of high school, exploring street life, and much more. Yet, Walker refused to allow the early chapters of her life story dictate the latter chapters, because today, she is vice president of multicultural marketing for a Fortune 100 Corporation.

Yet, for Walker, growing up in New Jersey was rooted in dysfunctionality.

"My father's side of the family, for the most part, were gangsters, drug dealers, and number runners," she explained. "My mother came from a well-educated family. However, she got involved in drugs."

Walker said her mother was a functional heroin-addict. To support her habit, she worked as a legal secretary and paralegal, but was caught one day stealing at a local supermarket. Walker, a little girl at the time, was with her. Facing a judge, Walker's mother had to choose between jail or rehab; she chose rehab.

As a result, Walker went to live with her father, who she described as a street hustler who sold pills in the 1970s to subsidize his heroin habit. During an altercation over \$10, Walker said her father killed a man and was sent to prison. Walker again lived with her mother, who was now released from rehab. This living arrangement included a man, who her mother met in rehab. He was physically abusive to both Walker and her mother.

"I felt that I was alone and didn't have a voice," Walker recalled. "I was afraid because I was shuffled around and abused. I was afraid if I had a voice I would have been considered a burden

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Ground Up Coffee Shop Juan Basurto, Endy Martinez, Alexa Valerio

Summit

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to do is fold the board and it folds the clothes," he beamed adding that five percent of the proceeds would be used to provide patients at Children's Hospital with folded paper airplanes.

The Detroit Children's Business Fair is one arm of Mackinac Center's comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for Detroiters and Michiganders. Founded in 1987 the institution promotes policy changes and enhancement through a multi-pronged approach. The center focuses on change in the areas of; state and local policy, fiscal practices, legislative initiatives, educational programs, labor acts, criminal justice reform and its legal foundation. "We are very heavily identified with the right to work ... and it's one of the first public policies we supported. Just like with the right to free speech you have a right not to speak. So just as you have the right to free association you have the right not to be in a union if you choose not to," said Mozena.

The advocacy organization has been hailed for its vigorous support of citizen's rights and its consistency in ensuring personal freedoms.



The photo of the girls at the booth is Eena Arts, run by Mena and Zena Nasiri.

"If you go back to our philosophical first principles it is all very consistent that we are about individual liberty and the right to live your life the way you want to ... whether that's in the work place or living

your life owning and running your own business."

Youth owned businesses in the 2017 Detroit Children's Business Fair at the Detroit Historical Museum included:

- Aireyonna Co
- BeUtoFul Creations & Lucky Charms
- Chemical Free Zone
- Cutie Cream
- Delicious Smoothies
- EenaARTS
- Ground Up Coffee Shop
- Hot Heads
- KIDD Caramel Apples
- Kraftabulous Kreaions
- L'Animal Gourmet Cupcakes
- MimiBears
- NML Productions
- Pic Detroit
- Relaxing Essentials By Z
- Rockin' Jewelry by Jessica
- Slime Factory by Jenna & Grace
- ZJ Cardboard Creations

"There's really no better place to have a children's business fair than in Detroit, which rose through the success of its entrepreneurs and is turning to a new generation to lead its revitalization," Mozena concluded.



John Mozena

Transportation infrastructure expert to lead new Detroit office

Michigan Chronicle reports

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, a leading 60-year-old architectural engineering firm, announced this week the addition of Regine Beauboeuf as director of client services and office lead for the firm's newest location in the city of Detroit.

"We are excited to welcome Regine, especially as we continue to grow in Southeast Michigan," said Kamran Gadeer, FTCH senior vice president and principal. "She brings significant transportation infrastructure experience to our operations, tightening our focus on the region's increasingly complex needs as it grows and changes."

Bauboeuf, a civil engineer with 33 years of large transportation project experience in the U.S. and Canada, recently joined FTCH, a top five engineering firm in Michigan, after spending 13 years at global engineering and construction firm Parsons as vice president and as board member of Parsons Transportation Group Inc. of Michigan. During her tenure, she served as project manager for the development of the Detroit River International Crossing.

"I'm thrilled to be part of FTCH's expansion to Detroit to continue the firm's tradition of striking a safe and healthy balance between the environment and the region's rapidly modernizing and multifaceted infrastructure," said Beauboeuf.

The FTCH Detroit location at 1001 Woodward Ave., one of nine offices in Michigan, Indiana and



Regine Beauboeuf

Ohio, is slated to officially open later this summer. Four additional engineers and scientists across various disciplines, along with support staff, are expected to be hired. The new office will plan, execute and oversee design, engineering, construction and environmental sustainability projects for city of Detroit-based clientele.

Current projects led by the Detroit office include a study for rain-water harvesting and reuse at a major football stadium and replacement of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard over The Lodge (M-10), along with associated improvements such as extending the ramp north of The Lodge to Grand River Avenue (M-5). The Lodge project, including traffic signal replacement, signage upgrades and total rehabilitation of Grand River Avenue from Cass Avenue to I-94, will significantly improve traffic flow in anticipation of increased vehicle traffic volume near the new stadium district. Just

north of Detroit, FTCH recently employed nontraditional measures to rehabilitate the deteriorating Cad-dell Drain in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills to protect drinking water, property and infrastructure.

Bauboeuf's extensive background includes 16 years as supervising engineer of the project development section for the Michigan Department of Transportation, managing a \$3 billion budget with responsibility for all capacity improvements and new road projects for the State of Michigan. In this role, she oversaw development, budgeting and scheduling of roadside programs, including major transportation projects, rest areas and visitor welcome centers, landscapes, wetland mitigation sites, and noise abatement initiatives.

Former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed Beauboeuf, a registered Professional Engineer (PE), in 2004 to the Michigan Board of Professional Surveyors and the Michigan Board of Professional Engineers, serving as board chair. Beauboeuf currently serves on transportation and business management committees for the American Council of Engineering Companies and as secretary of the Michigan chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

Bauboeuf holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and architecture from the University of Haiti, and an MBA from Davenport University. She speaks French and Kreyol.

Dorinda Walker

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and thrown away. Therefore, I developed very low self-esteem, became angry and rebelled. In the 7th grade, I began getting failing grades. I had fights every day in school, and was suspended."

The fall of 8th grade, Walker's father, according to Walker, was released from prison. Wanting to distance herself from the physical abuse dispensed by her mother's boyfriend, Walker reunited with her father, who was living in the projects with his girlfriend. Things went well, said Walker, until her father was diagnosed with AIDS. Walker was devastated, and reacted.

"I dropped out of school, began selling drugs, and didn't have any moral integrity," she said. "I was dating older men and drug dealers. I also supplied my dad's heroin habit. He was in and out of the hospital many times due to his condition. He felt God was punishing him for introducing my mother to drugs, for not being a good parent, and for killing a man."

Walker said her father eventually died, and her mother disappeared. Finding it difficult to deal with life, Walker, while living on her own, twice attempted suicide.

Eventually, through what she called, "God's grace," Walker went to live with an aunt, who she said had a successful professional career. Ultimately, Walker met a man, fell in love, married, and began having children. Her mother, whom she had not seen in 18 months, resurfaced with a crack addiction. After going through rehab, once again, she relapsed. Walker's mother asked to move in with Dorinda.

"Mom, there comes a time in one's life when you have to love someone from a distance," Walker told her mother. "I love you, but I cannot allow you to live with me and my family. I can't subject my children, or myself, to your drug addiction anymore."

That was a defining moment in their relationship, Dorinda recall's her

mom telling her years later "No, was the best gift you ever gave me. It forced her mom to choose between her love of family and her addiction of crack, and she chose family. They subsequently enjoyed 16 years of living in a three family home along with Dorinda's maternal grandmother.

Walker's mother was later diagnosed with cancer, for a second time, "She died while in hospice care at my house," Walker said. "I gave her something that I was not able to give my father, which was forgiveness. My forgiveness allowed her to die in peace."

Today, Walker and her husband of 24 years have three children and one granddaughter. Walker is also a successful corporate executive of multicultural marketing for a Fortune 100 Company. Independent of her professional work, Walker shares her life story with regularity with at-risk youth, drug addicts, and struggling women. While there are many tenets that Walker believes are liberators to one's difficult past, there's one that towers over the others.

"Forgiveness," Walker said. "You have to have the ability to forgive people, if you don't you carry a weight that prevents you from living a life of joy and abundance."

Walker is now ready to tell her riveting story in a new book, and is looking at options about a movie and / or television series about her life.

"I believe my story will benefit and empower people," she said. "Many people may not be struggling with the same issues I had. But, if they are struggling, and don't know how to overcome it. I want them to trust in the higher power of God, because if I made it, they can too!"

For more information about Dorinda Walker, or to book her as an inspirational/motivational speaker, call 310.677.4540, or log on to www.dorindawalker.com. She can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dorindajwalker.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses celebrates graduation of 80 Southeast Michigan small-business owners

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Detroit celebrates the graduation of 80 small-business owners who have completed a rigorous education, coaching and business support module and are ready to deepen their contributions to Southeast Michigan's economy. The event takes place on Wednesday, May 17 at 3 p.m. at Wayne State University's St. Andrew's Hall, 918 Ludington Mall (Anthony Wayne Dr. & W. Warren Ave.), Detroit.

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses initiative aims to help create jobs and economic growth by providing small-business owners in the area with practical business education, business support services and access to capital. The program is active in urban and rural communities across the US. Results of the program nationally have shown that 18 months after graduation, 76% of participants reported an

increase in their revenues and 57% reported creating net new jobs. In addition, the program has a 99% graduation rate and 84% of graduates are conducting business with each other. Including the May 2017 graduates, there are approximately 260 10KSB alumni doing business in the Detroit region.

"Small Businesses are playing a huge role in the revitalization of Michigan's and Detroit's economy," says Camille Walker-Banks, director of the 10,000 Small Businesses Detroit program.

The 10,000 Small Businesses Detroit program is accepting applications for its next cohort, which begins in September 2017. The program is open to businesses that have been in operation for at least two years, have a minimum of two employees and have recorded revenue of at least \$100,000 in the last fiscal year. For more information, visit <http://10ksbdetroit.com>.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan ("EAA"), shall dissolve effective close of business on June 30, 2017. All persons with claims against the EAA are requested to present them in accordance with this notice. Claims must be filed with the EAA at the following address: Clark Hill PLC, attention Jenice C. Mitchell Ford, Esq., 500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3500, Detroit, MI 48226. Each claim must include: (i) the name and address of the claimant; (ii) the basis for and amount of each claim (in sufficient detail to permit the EAA to make a reasonable judgment whether the claim should be accepted or rejected); (iii) documentation establishing the claim; and (iv) the date or dates on which each claim arose. Each claim must be received by the EAA no later than the close of business on September 1, 2017. The claim will be barred if it is not received by the EAA by such date. The giving of this notice does not constitute recognition that the person/entity to whom the notice is directed has a valid claim against the EAA. This notice is given on behalf of the EAA on May 24, 2017.