



DETROIT: OUR, HISPANIC STORY



Two miles from downtown
Detroit is one of Michigan's most ethnically rich and vibrant Hispanic neighborhoods.
A vibrant colorful

community also known as "Mexicantown".

The area known as Southwest Detroit has been home to many of our Hispanic brothers and sisters since the 1920s.



In 1910, the State of Michigan had fewer than 100 Mexicans. They started to migrate to Detroit from the states of Jalisco, Chihuahua, Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Durango, and Michoacán, and Mexican Americans migrated from southern states. Michigan was first entering the industrial revolution and there was a high demand for labor. Sugar companies were on the rise and began recruiting their employees from Mexico and Southern Texas to tend the state's sugar beets. Those who did not work in the sugar beet fields found work maintaining railways and assembly lines in the automobile plants.

In 1920, a severe recession left the beet workers stranded in their camps with no work



wages. Mexicans
moved to Detroit to
get industrial jobs,
including Henry
Ford's \$5 per day
jobs. The community
of Mexicantown,
originally known



as "La Bagley", was established to provide Mexican-oriented goods and services. In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, Michigan officials felt that they needed to come up with a solution for the lack of jobs reserved for "Americans", and the solution was to execute a kind of "ethnic cleansing",

DETROIT: OUR, HISPANIC STORY

story continued

with the focus on the Mexican population. Instead of providing family assistance to Latino families, the Detroit welfare department, the federal government, and the Mexican Consulate collaborated to financially support the deportation of unemployed workers. This was also known as the Mexican Repatriation, where millions of American citizens were unjustly deported to Mexico between 1931 and 1933. As a result, the Detroit Mexican population decreased significantly from 15,000 to a mere 1,200.

Around the 1950s/1960s, the second and third generations of Mexicans had been born in Michigan and their presence caused the size of the Metro Detroit Mexican community to increase to over 106,000.

The Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit and the Most Holy Redeemer Church have been the spiritual homes of the Hispanic community since the 1960s. Today, about 550,000 Hispanics reside in Michigan. Within Metro Detroit overall, Mexicans are the third-largest immigrant group.



Through the Hispanic community's dedication to their homeland's traditions, we as Detroiters have benefited greatly, as we have been invited to celebrate alongside them in their rich cultural traditions such as Cinco De Mayo (May 5th), Dia de Los Muertos (the Day of the Dead), La Navidad (Christmas) and the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



In 2025, Detroit's Hispanic community will be the focus of our Detroit Public TV/PBS film, Detroit: Our Hispanic Story. Documentary film producer/director Keith Famie will step

into the lives of many of Metro Detroit's multi-generational Hispanic families to tell the story of how a neighborhood community helped shape Southwest Detroit through their rich culture of food, art, music and faith.





April 9, 2024

Keith Famie Filmmaker Visionalist Entertainment 28345 Beck Road Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Keith,

It was great meeting you to discuss Detroit: Our Hispanic Story.

Celebrating the contributions of the various and diverse ethnic communities in metro Detroit is a subject of great importance in our area and we are pleased to include it in our broadcast plans for 2025.

Detroit PBS is committed to covering issues in the public interest, including those surrounding local history and events. PBS has always had a fine tradition of offering unique documentary programming like *Detroit: Our Hispanic Story* and it It is our sincere hope that working together this program will become part of that tradition.

Looking forward to working with you on another partnership that would allow us to continue our work on important topics like this one. Let's speak again soon, and in the meantime, let's align a plan to bring this film to public television.

Sincerely,

Fred Nahhat Senior VP, Production

Detroit Public TV





Consulate of Mexico in Detroit

May 1st, 2024, Madison Heights, Michigan

Keith Famie Filmmaker Visionalist Entertainment

Dear Keith,

It was a pleasure to meet you to talk about *Detroit: our Hispanic Story*. The Mexican diaspora, one of the oldest in the country, has a strong lineage in the metro Detroit area, most notably in the southwest, Detroit-Mexicantown. The Mexican community was established in Detroit over 100 years ago, during this time the diaspora not only grew to become the largest immigrant group, but also evolved with the times to bring cultural diversity to the city.

As a Consular mission, sharing our culture, customs and erasing misconceptions is at the heart of our cultural mission abroad. This is why it is important to recognize and support documentaries on this matters such as *Detroit: Our Hispanic Story*, without these type of projects many communities may go under represented or misrepresented.

There is a melting pot of different generations of Mexican and Mexican Americans contributing not only to the wellbeing of the Hispanic community, but the entire population in Detroit, this documentary will be a great opportunity for the Mexican and Hispanic diaspora to be herd and understood. The Consulate of Mexico congratulates you on such an important project that honors the actions of the Mexican diaspora to Detroit and the Metro Detroit Area.

Sincerely,

Robetto Micolas,

Consul of Mexico



April 10, 2024

Hon. Roberto Nicholas Vasquez Mexican Consulate of Detroit 1403 East 12 Mile Rd Madison Heights, MI 48071

Hon. Vasquez:

I am writing a letter of support to produce a local film called Detroit: Our Hispanic Story.

Detroit has been enriched by the immigration of people from many states in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Around the 1950s/1960s, the second and third generations of Mexicans had been born in Michigan and their presence caused the size of the Metro Detroit Mexican community to increase to over 106,000.

Msgr. Clement Kern, was the first priest to go to Mexico to learn Spanish in the 1950's. Consequently, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Corktown became the first spiritual home of the Mexicans. The Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit and the Most Holy Redeemer Church have also become spiritual homes of the Hispanic community since the 1960s. The Hispanic community is the dominate culture in Southwest Detroit with restaurants, stores, and many businesses. Today, about 550,000 Hispanics reside in Michigan. Within Metro Detroit overall, Mexicans are the third-largest immigrant group.

Through the Hispanic community's dedication to their homeland's traditions, we as Detroiters have benefited greatly, as we have been invited to celebrate alongside them in their rich cultural traditions such as Cinco De Mayo (May 5th), Dia de Los Muertos (the Day of the Dead), La Navidad (Christmas) and the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 2025, Detroit's Hispanic community will be the focus of the new Detroit Public TV/PBS documentary, Detroit: Our Hispanic Story. Documentary film producer / director Keith Famie will step into the lives of many of Metro Detroit's multi-generational Hispanic families to tell the story of how a neighborhood community helped shape Southwest Detroit through their rich culture of food, art, music, and faith.

I am very supportive of this new film production. I hope that the Consulate of Mexico in Detroit can also be supportive.

Sincerely yours.

Very Rev. Msgr. Dr. Charles Kosanke



Keith Famie Director/Producer/Author

Director/Producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef and a metro Detroit restaurateur. He was selected as one of America's "Best New Chefs" in 1989 by Food and Wine magazine; Esquire Magazine chose his restaurants as "Best New Restaurant" in America on two separate occasions. Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, "Survivor, the Australian Outback."

Keith hosted his own Food Network series, "Keith Famie's Adventures," traveling the world documenting cooking styles from the plains of Africa to monk monasteries of Taiwan, to the lifestyle of Key West. In 2004, the Adventure Chef embarked on a new journey - documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life-changing decision, Famie has been awarded twelve Michigan Emmys and been nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from ethnic documentaries to military tribute films. He and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions create informative, entertaining films that touch a wide audience.

Along with documentary filmmaking, Famie has released several books throughout his career, Famie's Adventures in Cooking (2001), You Really Haven't Been There Until You've Eaten the Food (2003), Living Through the Lens (2019), and Papa's Rules for Life (2021).

Outside of documentary production, Keith is involved in charitable projects. In 2003, Keith finished the 25th anniversary Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona with Team In Training for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In 2015, he was awarded the 2015 Diamond Award by the Association for Women in Communications Detroit Chapter. In 2017, Keith was presented the Media Award by the Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit, and in 2023, Keith was awarded a Dove Award from The Arc of Oakland County for Media Distinction. Over the years, Keith has been actively involved in several well-respected, Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organizations that support everything from children with cancer and hunger relief to veterans' issues.

Visionalist Entertainment Productions | www.v-prod.com



EMMY AWARD-WINNING VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1997 BY PRODUCER / DIRECTOR KEITH FAMIE. SINCE THESE EARLY YEARS, FAMIE AND HIS TEAM HAVE PRODUCED A WIDE RANGE OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMS.

DOCUMENTARIES

Ice Warriors (2005) An action-packed journey with the Detroit Red Wings' Alumni team through Russia.

Our Italian Story (2006) Progress, passion and promise – Detroit's Italian heritage.

Our Arab American Story (2007) Reverence, resourcefulness and respect-Detroit's Arab American Heritage.

Our Greek Story (2007) Antiquity, modernity, and destiny-Detroit's Greek Heritage.

Our Polish Story (2007) Family, faith and fortitude-Detroit's Polish Heritage.

Our India Story (2008) Amity, diversity and sovereignty- Detroit's Indian Heritage.

Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009) A tribute to our Michigan WWII veterans, both men and women, who fought for the freedom of our families and our country.

Our Vietnam Generation (2011) A long overdue welcome home to the men and women who served during Vietnam.

Can You See How I See? (2011) An inspiring look into the life of those who are without sight.

One Soldier's Story (2011) the profound story of Sgt. Michael Ingram, Jr. and his legacy.

The Embrace of Aging: Men's Series (2012) 13-part series on men and 7-part series on women.

The Embrace of Aging: Women's Series (2014) 13-part series on women and 7-part series on men.

The Embrace of Dying (2015) 8-part series on how we deal with the end of life.

Maire's Journey (2016) Follow Maire Kent as she sets sail on an epic journey to fulfill her dying wish.

Death is NOT the Answer (2016) A deep look into the complex world of depression and suicide.

Enlisted (2017) Choice. Adventure. Growth. Why would one enlist in the military?

Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia (2018) What can be done to stop this truly devastating disease?

Those on the Front Lines of Cancer (2019) Can the uncommon journey that cancer patients undergo result in anything positive?

Blessed Solanus Casey's Journey to Sainthood (2019) How does a humble boy from Irish immigrant parents rise to the rare and distinguished honor of beautification?

Shoah Ambassadors (2021) An educational journey two young non-Jewish individuals go on with those who survived the Holocaust.

Hospice Care in America Today (2022) Where did Hospice originate? Why is this service so important for end of life care?

Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower? (2022) A story of those living and thriving with Down Syndrome.

Detroit: The City of Churches (2022) The significance the many Detroit churches played on some of the most iconic moments in Detroit's history.

Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars (2023) Celebrating Detroit's hot rod & muscle car community & how the Motor City has shaped world culture.

Detroit: The City of Faith: Shining the light on the Christian community and those early immigrants who made their way to the Motor City in search of the American dream.

MICHIGAN EMMY AWARD WINNERS

Taste of Taiwan (2006) On-Camera Talent - Keith Famie

Our Italian Story (2006)

Best Human Interest Special, Best Director

Our Polish Story (2007)

Best Director: Post-Production

Our Greek Story (2007)

Best Cultural Documentary,

Best Human Interest Program Special

Our Arab American Story (2007) Societal Concerns Program Special

Our India Story (2008) Best Documentary Cultural

Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009) Best Editor

Our Vietnam Generation (2011) Best Documentary Historical

The Embrace of Aging: The Female Perspective of Growing Old (2014) Best Director: Post-Production

Shoah Ambassadors (2021)
Rost Director, Rost Lighting, Rost Editing

Best Director, Best Lighting, Best Editing

Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower? (2022) Best Human Interest - Long Form Content

Detroit: The City of Churches (2022)Best Director, Best Editing, Best Photography, Best Lighting

PRODUCTIONS IN 2024 / 2025

Detroit: The City by The River: A journey up and down our beloved Detroit River, to uncover the richness of the past and gain a better understanding of where the river's meandering course will take us in the future.

The Razor's Edge: A day in the lives of those that live on the razor's edge of society who face poverty and survival every day with many calling the streets their home.

Detroit: The City of Chefs: The unfiltered story of Detroit's culinary heritage.

The Calling: A deeper understanding of religious sisters who selflessly choose to dedicate their lives to God & the betterment of humanity.

Detroit: Our Hispanic Story: How a Hispanic neighborhood community helped shape Southwest Detroit through their rich culture of food, art, music & faith.

AWARDS & HONORS

2016 - Maire's Journey- DOCUTAH 2016 - International Documentary Film Festival - Winner

2021 - Shoah Ambassadors-

- Toronto Indie Filmmakers Festival -Best Feature Documentary - Winner
- SR Socially Relevant Film Festival NY– Honorable Mention
- Tokyo International Short Film Festival Honorable Mention
- Austin Lift-Off Film Festival Official Selection
- LA Documentary Film Festival Official Selection
- Miami Jewish Festival-Official Selection
- Santa Monica Film Festival Official Selection
- Malibu Film Festival Official Selection

2022 - Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?-

• Grand Rapids Film Festival - Award Winner

