



Melinda Kollins AWC Detroit Literacy Heroine



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Melinda Kollins, of Keego Harbor, is owner of her own communications business and has served on the board of the Association for Women in Communication (AWC) Detroit Chapter for the past three years.

As chair of the Advocacy Committee, she developed the “Driving Literacy in the D” program, which in 2018 involved the installation and promotion of five AWC-sponsored Little Free Libraries in the city. The Detroit Public Library (DPL) installations at the Main Library’s HYPE Teen Center and at the Redford, Parkman and Lincoln branches were funded through a joint project she arranged with the trustees of the DPL’s National Automotive Historical Collection.

She also is leading the 2019 AWC advocacy initiative to support literacy efforts at Westside Christian Academy, The Mercy Education Project and the Detroit Public Library’s Parkman Coders program. [See the video clips](#) she produced of AWC Detroit literacy events.

“There is an important need to raise awareness about Detroit’s literacy crisis. Detroit and the state of Michigan both rank last in the nation in literacy proficiency. As professional communicators, we have an obligation to rally fellow citizens to break out of apathy and begin to address this issue collectively.”



The **National Automotive History Collection**, housed at the DPL Skillman Branch, is regarded as the nation’s premier public automotive archive documenting the history and development of the automobile and other wheeled land transportation.

The **Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation** supports the Detroit Public Library, through volunteering and fundraising, to ensure that the library system can continue its mission of providing enrichment programming to library patrons and to preserve a space in Detroit where everyone is welcome to work, study, learn and create.