

**Kutsche Office of Local History**  
**Priorities and Strategies**  
**2022-2026**

**Mission**

The Kutsche Office of Local History aims to strengthen the intellectual and social bonds of West Michigan communities by giving voice to diverse communities through history.

**Vision**

The Kutsche Office of Local History will be a regional and national model for fostering intentional and deep community connections through the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the diverse histories of underrepresented populations.

**Values & Guiding Principles**

We value deep community connections, respect for storytelling, and academic rigor to strengthen communities throughout West Michigan. These values involve bringing together faculty, staff, students, local historians, and community members to facilitate conversations and develop programs that leverage the lessons learned from the region's past. We value diversity in local and regional histories. We value interdisciplinary methods to unearth, collect, and preserve local and regional histories.

**Commitments**

- **Lifelong Learning**  
The Kutsche Office of Local History will encourage learning over the course of a lifetime by showcasing the local history community as a valid and robust source of knowledge outside of academia and bringing people of all ages into this learning community.
  
- **Empowered Educational Experiences**  
The Kutsche Office of Local History will create accessible, high impact learning experiences by connecting the local history community with students. The Kutsche Office is uniquely placed to formalize these connections in a way that is sustainable and systematic.
  
- **Educational Equity**  
The Kutsche Office of Local History will center equity and inclusion by reducing barriers to student participation in the local history community, creating bridges between formal local history institutions and others involved in the production of local history knowledge.