Contrary to popular belief, Detroit isn't a third world country. some say IT'S TIME TO LET GO.

more claim that it's over for the city

that we've reached ROCK BOTTOM. but it's not true.

we are **growing**, **HEALING**, improving.

we are the D. we are the Motor City. we are pop, not soda. we are "Made in Detroit". we are coney dogs with chili. we are the Heidelberg project, we are the "Spirit of Detroit". we are the Mosaic theater, we are Roseville, we are MSU Spartans. we are Livonia, we are Greektown, we are the "eat

em' up Tigers' guy, we are Oakland, we are Bell thing a Street lawn, we average the first which are Pewabic Pottery, we are Eastern Market, we are the first property of the Control of th

Mexicantown, we are Indian Village, we are Diana Ross, we are Flint, we are Aretha Franklin, we are Ann Arbor, we are the DIA, we are the Pistons, we are Monroe, we are "fudgies," we are the MGM Grand, we are the Detroit Tigers, we are Madonna, we are the RenCen, we are success, we are failure, we are triumphs, we are tragedy, we are determination, we are strength, we are endurance, we are achievement, we are rebirth, we are alive.

Art gives rise to rebirth, growth in city

In the midst of a major financial crisis, positive news from Detroit is practically nonexistent. Instead, the city is plagued with stories of greed, corruption, and poverty. Partially in response to this crisis, though, a new contemporary art scene has been developing in Detroit over the past few years.

"There is now a small community of young adults who are eager to change Detroit and its reputation," said Ellen High '14.

High, who took a class at the College of Creative Studies (CCS) this past summer, said she is excited for the future of the movement.

"I think the presence of art will grow in Detroit in the future," said High. "And while CCS is a huge contributor to this, there are others groups and committees in the city working to put more public art around the city to encourage pedestrian traffic and lower crime rates."

One of the faces of the movement, Tyree Guyton, is responsible for many of these projects, including the Heidelberg Project and Street Folk.

According to its website, the Heidelberg Project is an "outdoor community art environment" with different pieces of salvaged, recycled materials. With "canvasses" ranging from park benches to actual homes, each piece of art is meant to force the viewer consider what they are seeing.

Each house, too, is completely

unique; some are covered in polka dots, while others have hundreds of stuffed animals glued to the walls. Despite their differences, though, the homes always combine a sense of whimsicalness with gritty realism.

"I've gone to a couple of Heidelberg clean ups," said Angela Hysenllari '14. "In one of the cleanups, the OJ house had burnt down, so groups of volunteers moved charred wood and cleaned out the house."

Rather than completely redoing the house, workers plan on incorporating the burnt part and only restore parts of it, Hysenllari said.

"The Heidelberg project is really eye opening," said Hysellari. "There's a lot of projects around there made with materials I wouldn't even think to use for art. And it's cool how various local Detroit artists drop off their work at Heidelberg where it joins the collection."

Hysellari also said she thinks it's refreshing to see massive pieces of art take up so much room in such an industrial city.

While the Heidelberg Project was created to bring attention to the city's thousands of abandoned homes, the Street Folk exhibition emphasizes the massive amount of homeless people in our city, according to the Huffington Post.

"I really admire the Street Folk project," said Lane Hubbell '13. "I think that our homeless population is such a huge issue, and I'm glad that there are artists who are bringing attention to the problem."

Along with these artists bringing attention to major issues in the city, many have developed nonprofit groups to directly help those struggling.

Veronika Scott's 'The Empowerment Plan,' for example, is an organization that hires women out of shelters to sew coats for the homeless. The coats, which are given for free to the homeless, also double as sleeping bags.

Scott's vision began as a class project at CCS; she fell in love with the idea so much, though, that she was able to make it a reality. Many told her that it would never work, as the homeless women she hired would be "worthless."

"Every day I enjoy proving all of those people wrong," said Scott on the foundation's website. "The homeless women I hire are powerful, driven, and I am privileged to be a part of their lives."

Ultimately, the art revival in Detroit emphasizes the strength and resiliance of Detroiters. It is undeniable that Detroit is going through an incredibly rough time. What matters now, though, is how the city and its residents respond to the crisis.

Ceped quis soluptatur? Puditiamus untur reptasped ut fugit lam, sam nonem ea verro cus sunt aut aditem qui qui nonet assitatem es exernam consentias num qui voluptat ent aut molum quibusae am endunt volupta sitiam, to eum, con et laut quae lab idiorit eatqui tem suntur? Nest, occum re nam etur, offictibus

top 6

The rank of the Detroit Institute of Arts compared to other national art galleries.

10,000 Detroiters' shoes do-

Detroiters' shoes donated to the "Street Folk" art exhibition. The shoes filled up an entire street to bring awareness to the homeless population.

8

Henri Matisse paintings housed in the Detroit Institute of Arts

275,000
People from around the world, including 124 foreign countries with a visit the

124 foreign countries, who visit the Heidelberg project every year.