



**THE FREER HOUSE**



71 E. Ferry, Detroit, MI 48202  
313-664-2500



# Freer House and Garden Tours

**Sunday May 19, 2019**

Freer House members & students: \$10  
General public: \$15

*Space is limited, advance registration required.*

**Register online at:** <https://commerce.wayne.edu/freerhouse/events.html>

To register by phone, contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509

Tours will last approximately 60-90 minutes. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your tour time

Take a guided tour of the historic home and courtyard garden of Detroit industrialist and world renowned art collector, Charles Lang Freer, founder of the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C..

This rare opportunity to visit the entire house will include viewing Charles Freer's master bedroom suite and guest bedrooms, normally occupied by the research programs and offices of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University.

Our dedicated team of volunteers and docents are excited to welcome you to experience one of Detroit's most important landmarks and its newly revitalized garden!



A small number of tickets may be available at door.

Please note, due to the historic nature of the building, the Freer House is not fully accessible.

Photography is permitted.

For more information, please contact Andrew Smutek at (313) 664-2500 or [asmutek@wayne.edu](mailto:asmutek@wayne.edu)

**1:30 PM & 3:30 PM TOURS**



photo by Alexander Vertikoff

- DETAILS AND MAP ON BACK -



## MEET YOUR FREER HOUSE DOCENTS



**Darren Brim**

Occupation:

Fiduciary and Claims Specialist  
Social Security Administration

"I have a passion for Detroit's architectural heritage. I've always been attracted to the city's beautiful buildings. But so much of the built landscape has rapidly disappeared which is why I am very fortunate to be involved with the Freer House. Its history and significance are an integral part of the Detroit story. The best part of this architectural adventure is there is always more to discover."



**Rebecca Binno Savage**

Occupation:

Historic Preservation Lead  
Kraemer Design Group, Detroit

"The compelling history of the Freer House, Charles L. Freer, the art collection, and the architecture that is tied to Detroit's history brought me here. Yet it is a hidden history at The Freer House, and it is exciting to share it with people. I am fortunate to have learned about the Freer House from some of the nation's experts, and am always learning more, from different perspectives."



**Michael Coleman**

Occupation:

Director of Student Life  
College for Creative Studies

"Being a docent at the Freer House is wonderful as it is more than simply telling the story of a man who built a magnificent house in Detroit who collected art. While the house is a piece of local history, Mr. Freer's story is a global one which stretches from upstate New York, to Detroit, to Europe, to Asia, and finally to Washington."

### THE FREER HOUSE, MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE



C.L. Freer, *Alvin Langdon Coburn*,  
1909 Freer Gallery of Art Archives

**Charles Lang Freer** (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, that include paintings by Whistler and his famed Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



photo by ALEXANDER VERTIKOFF

The Freer House (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include 14 reproductions of original paintings throughout the house, the completion of the courtyard garden project, and acquisition of the original painting, "Flapjacks," by Frederick Stuart Church. Current goals include a future visitors and exhibit room and the restoration of the Whistler gallery.

**Join Us! For more info contact:** William Colburn at  
william.colburn@wayne.edu or 313-664-2500

### TOUR LOCATION

#### THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry St., Detroit, MI 48202  
(One block north of the DIA)



**Parking** is available behind the Freer House. Travel south on John R. to access WSU Lot 35. Pay \$8.00 at the gate with credit or debit card.