



Legacy, Land, and Unity: A Case Study of Idlewild, Michigan

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Executive Summary

This case study examines Idlewild, Michigan, a community of profound historic significance actively working to secure a sustainable future. The analysis finds that the path to economic revitalization hinges on navigating the complex challenges of forging a unified development strategy among its diverse and passionate stakeholders. In a proactive effort, community leaders are championing multiple Community Land Trusts (CLT) to build consensus, protect historic assets, and guide development. The report argues that success requires a multi-stakeholder partnership and provides recommendations on how local, state, and philanthropic partners can strategically support the community in establishing a single, unified CLT for a self-determined future.

Introduction: Navigating the Crossroads of Legacy and Future in Idlewild

Idlewild, Michigan stands as a landmark of African American resilience, culture, and entrepreneurship - a profound legacy of a vibrant resort community from the segregation era. Yet, for all its historical weight, the path to preserving this legacy while fostering a prosperous future has been complex and contested. For communities like Idlewild, heritage tourism is often viewed as a potential tool to address the identified need for Idlewild's revitalization.¹

However, this straightforward economic model frequently fails to account for the deep-seated challenges that lie beneath the surface. Idlewild is currently at a critical crossroads, where its future depends less on simply capitalizing on its past and more on navigating its present realities.

This case study moves beyond a simple assessment of tourism potential to investigate the fundamental obstacles to Idlewild's revitalization. It examines two interconnected challenges: (1) the inherent complexity of forging a unified vision among a diverse set of community stakeholders, particularly in a complicated rural social and political landscape and (2) the persistent pressure from non-community interests seeking influence over the community's historic properties. This report argues that for Idlewild to achieve sustainable revitalization, it must first address these foundational challenges of internal governance and external pressure. It posits that the formation of a single, unified Community Land Trust (CLT) represents a promising, community-driven path forward.

To build this argument, this study will first provide an overview of Idlewild's unique history. It will then analyze the fiscal and political landscape, drawing on determinative insights from community leadership to illuminate the challenges of internal consensus-building and external political pressures. Subsequently, this report examines the CLT model as the community's proposed solution, considering both its immense promise and the risks associated with a fragmented implementation. Finally, it concludes with strategic recommendations centered on establishing a unified CLT as a vehicle for equitable development and self-determination.

Idlewild's Legacy and Regional Significance

Idlewild, often referred to as “Black Eden,” emerged in 1912 as a pioneering resort community that offered African Americans a sanctuary for recreation, culture, and property ownership during an era of pervasive segregation. Situated in Lake County, within Michigan’s northwestern Lower Peninsula, Idlewild was one of the few destinations in the United States where Black individuals could legally purchase land and enjoy leisure activities without the constraints of Jim Crow law.^{2,3,4}

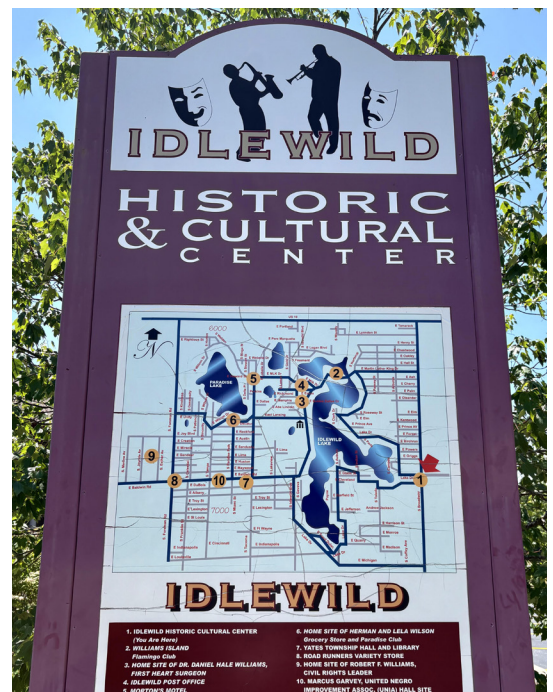
The resort was conceived by four white men: Erastus and Adelbert Branch from White Cloud, Michigan, and Wilbur M. Lemon and Alvin E. Wright from Chicago.⁵ These men recognized the growing demand among middle-class Black professionals for exclusive vacation spaces. They established the Idlewild Resort Company, acquiring over 2,700 acres of land and marketing plots to African American doctors, lawyers, educators, and entrepreneurs from urban centers like Detroit, Chicago, and Indianapolis. Prominent figures such as Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the first surgeon to perform successful open-heart surgery, and entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker were among the early property owners, lending prestige and attracting further interest to the community.^{6,7,8} This emphasis on land and property ownership from its inception established a powerful legacy of Black economic self-sufficiency and generational wealth-building, a theme that remains central to community identity and contemporary discussions about its future.

Throughout the 1920s to the 1960s, Idlewild flourished as a vibrant hub of Black culture and entertainment. The community boasted amenities, including hotels, nightclubs, and recreational facilities, that hosted legendary performers such as Count Basie, Sarah Vaughan, Aretha Franklin, and the Four Tops. At its zenith, Idlewild drew up to 25,000 visitors during peak summer weekends, offering activities ranging from boating and fishing to horseback riding and dancing.^{9,10,11}

However, the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which outlawed segregation in public accommodations, led to a decline in Idlewild's exclusivity and appeal. As African Americans gained access to previously restricted resorts nationwide, attendance dwindled, and many businesses closed. Despite this downturn, the community's legacy endured, and efforts to preserve and revitalize Idlewild have persisted. In 1979, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and recent initiatives aim to restore its historic landmarks and preserve their cultural significance. Today, Idlewild stands as a testament to African



Steve Kraft in Idlewild, MI
(Photo courtesy of Steve Kraft)



Map of Idlewild, MI
(Photo courtesy of Steve Kraft)



American resilience and the enduring quest for spaces of freedom and fellowship.¹² This history of a celebrated peak followed by a period of quiet endurance is what forged the complex community of today, comprising families who remained through decades of change and those who are now returning, drawn by the call of this enduring legacy.

A Complicated Funding Landscape

Since Idlewild's economic decline following the Civil Rights era, various local organizations have taken on the primary responsibility for advocating for and securing funding for the community. An analysis of the organizations central to Idlewild's identity reveals a fractured financial landscape, a key symptom of the community's long-standing coordination challenges. On one hand, many of the primary entities focused on community development and cultural preservation report significant financial constraints. According to available data, organizations such as the Idlewild Community Development Corporation and the Idlewild African American Chamber of Commerce have reported minimal to no revenue in the last ten years.^{13,14} The Idlewild Housing Corporation stands as a notable exception, with revenues of approximately \$213,899 in 2023, suggesting that projects with clear, tangible outcomes like housing can sometimes secure funding more readily.¹⁵

On the other hand, the community itself holds organizations with significant capacity. The Lake County Merry Makers, one of Idlewild's oldest and most historic social clubs, was identified by community leaders as having the financial means and organizational capacity to facilitate major funding opportunities.¹⁶ Furthermore, it was suggested that the Merry Makers often serve as a central communication point for state-level grant applications, possessing a level of strategic influence that other Idlewild-specific groups have struggled to achieve independently.

This paradox, where some community-based organizations are undercapitalized while another holds significant capacity and influence, is the central financial expression of Idlewild's core challenge. It highlights a structural disconnect within the community's civic infrastructure. The issue is not necessarily a total absence of resources or capacity within Idlewild, but rather a misalignment that prevents these assets from being leveraged collectively for the benefit of the entire community. This dynamic has led to uncoordinated and competitive approaches to funding, which have hindered large-scale revitalization efforts.

Yates Township's Fiscal Priorities

To understand the challenges facing Idlewild's development, it is essential to first examine the fiscal priorities of Yates Township. As an unincorporated community, Idlewild lacks its own municipal government and, in part, relies on the township for public funding and administrative oversight. Therefore, the township's budgetary decisions, therefore, have some effect on the resources available for local initiatives.

Over the past five years, Yates Township's financial reports reveal a consistent pattern of limited investment in economic development, particularly for heritage preservation and tourism initiatives in Idlewild.¹⁷ Annual spending on community and economic development has remained modest, typically below \$60,000 per year. This financial position is not unique and reflects broader systemic challenges faced by smaller Michigan municipalities. Research findings from the CLOSUP's MPPS data highlight that small governments often struggle to find, acquire, and manage state and federal grants.⁵ This trend was also evident in the use of federal ARPA funds, where a 2022 survey found that among the state's smallest governments, only 8% of direct funds were allocated toward community development and 4% toward tourism.¹⁸ While the township has identified heritage preservation, and more broadly, economic development, as a priority in its strategic planning documents, those goals have not yet translated into dedicated budget allocations.¹⁹

Additionally, while maintaining a stable financial position, with unassigned fund balances typically between \$400,000 and \$500,000 annually, the township has taken a fiscally cautious approach, focusing on sustaining essential services rather than expanding into new or uncertain investments.¹⁸⁻²³ While their most recent Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, or ACFR, provides no direct reason for the high General Fund balance, it suggests a deliberate fiscally responsible approach as the Township faces unknown financial impacts from an ongoing sewage service dispute with the Village of Baldwin. With no clear indication of additional funds to be directed toward Idlewild, this suggests that while the township values Idlewild development, larger concerns for day-to-day operations are at play. For township officials managing a limited budget, investing significant funds into a community that has yet to produce a single, consensus-driven plan presents a considerable risk, making it easier to maintain the status quo. This leaves Idlewild's undercapitalized local nonprofits to shoulder the primary burden of preservation and tourism promotion.



A local lumber, hardware, and building supply business in the Village of Baldwin, Lake County, MI
(Photo courtesy of Steve Kraft)

The Core Challenge: Forging a Unified Vision

Contrary to the common assumption that revitalization is primarily a challenge of attracting financial capital, insights from community leadership reveal a different, more fundamental challenge. According to those deeply involved in Idlewild's civic life, the ability to "sell the story" of Idlewild to funders has never been the main obstacle. The true barrier is the long-standing difficulty of forging a unified vision and a coordinated strategy among the numerous organizations, stakeholder groups, and property owners that comprise the community.

Idlewild is a living community composed of several distinct groups, each with a unique perspective, history, and vision for the future. The four groups identified through fieldwork are as follows: 1) multi-generational, year-round "legacy" residents; 2) "returnees" who, cherishing childhood memories, have recently moved to Idlewild permanently; 3) seasonal property owners with deep family ties to the community; and 4) external allies, including academics, preservationists, and philanthropists. Legacy residents, having stewarded the community through its leaner decades may prioritize stability through providing core public services and quality year-round residential life. Returnees often bring a sense of urgency and a vision colored by nostalgia, potentially advocating for more ambitious redevelopment to restore "golden era" amenities while de-emphasizing basic services like K-12 education or healthcare infrastructure. Seasonal owners may focus on preserving the community's resort character and summer programming, while external allies can sometimes prioritize a historically faithful preservation that may not always align with the day-to-day needs of an evolving community.

This diversity of vision directly contributes to the fractured financial and strategic landscape described previously. Without a single consensus-driven master plan, each organization is left to pursue its own priorities. This results in inner-competition in grant applications and siloed projects, which have made it difficult for major funders to make large-scale, transformative investments. The challenge is not a lack of passion or viable projects, but the absence of a collective framework to channel that passion effectively.



External Pressures and Competing Regional Agendas

Insights from community leadership indicate that challenges with regional governance extend beyond the fiscal conservatism of Yates Township to a more active misalignment with broader local government leaders. Community leaders characterized this relationship as involving direct pressures that reflect a county-level vision for regional development that may be fundamentally at odds with Idlewild's goals of preservation and self-determination.

A community leader described past attempts by regional officials to condemn historic Idlewild properties under the guise of "blight." This redevelopment approach is critically damaging to revitalization efforts because it legally reclassifies irreplaceable cultural assets as public liabilities, thereby requiring their removal. Such a narrative directly conflicts with any heritage preservation model, which defines these same structures as the foundational pillars of a unique cultural economy and identity. This external threat could intensify redevelopment aims in the future by forcing difficult choices about which landmarks can be saved under a more unified approach.

Another example shared by leadership was a past proposal to use land and properties near Idlewild for staff housing at the North Lake Correctional Facility, a private prison operated by GEO Group.²⁰ This plan prioritized the logistical needs of a significant regional employer over the preservation of Idlewild's unique cultural landscape. Although community efforts successfully thwarted property buyouts related to this past initiative, the example serves as a stark reminder of the community's vulnerability if a unified vision and collaborative redevelopment strategy are absent.²¹ That vulnerability is especially acute today, as the GEO Group facility is reportedly slated to reopen under a new federal contract as an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center.²² This development signals a potential for continued pressure from powerful, non-community interests on Idlewild's land and diverse historic properties.

As for state level relationships, community leaders characterize these as more ambivalent. While most state-level bodies are not actively involved in local affairs, specific agencies like the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) serve as crucial, albeit bureaucratic, points of contact for potential funding. This dynamic is exemplified by a potential \$500,000 earmark for Idlewild in a recent state budget, and a \$50,000 grant from Michigan's Office for Rural Prosperity State.²³ While these funding opportunities are significant, it highlights a relationship based on intermittent, project-based support rather than a consistent structural partnership for revitalization.

In an effort to address the complex dynamics Idlewild faces, Michigan's Office for Rural Prosperity is leading a facilitated conversation with Yates and Idlewild. At the time of this report's writing, the meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2025. The meeting is designed to clarify the state's precise role, authority, and potential as a long-term partner, opening conversations to move beyond short-term, project-based support. Critically, this initiative will also provide a platform for the community's numerous stakeholder groups to help state agencies understand the competing priorities and determine how a unified vision can be developed to better forge a relationship between the state and Idlewild.

The Proposed Solution: Community Land Trust Model

After a thorough analysis of the internal and external challenges facing Idlewild, we now turn to a discussion of the primary solution being explored by community leaders themselves: the formation of Community Land Trusts (CLT). This section defines the CLT model, analyzes how it directly addresses the specific challenges Idlewild faces, and explores the complex community perspectives, including a proposal for multiple CLTs.

Community Land Trusts

A Community Land Trust is a non-profit, community-governed organization designed to acquire and hold land in stewardship for the permanent benefit of a local community. The central function of a CLT is to separate the ownership of land from the buildings upon it. The CLT retains ownership of the land while providing for the ownership of homes and other structures through long-term, inheritable ground leases.²⁴ This innovative model allows a community to ensure long-term housing affordability, guide local development, and prevent land speculation. Governance is foundational; most CLTs are managed by a tripartite board with representation from residents of CLT land, general members from the wider community, and public-interest experts, ensuring the organization remains accountable to community needs.²⁵

Implementing the CLT Model in Idlewild: Opportunities and Challenges

In the context of Idlewild, the CLT model presents a compelling framework for addressing the community's most fundamental challenges. A single, unified CLT would establish the formal, democratic structure for consensus-building that community leaders have identified as a critical need. It could offer a single table around which Idlewild's diverse stakeholder groups could collaboratively create and execute a shared vision, backed by the legal and fiduciary responsibility of a unified board. Such a structure may also provide a powerful defense against external pressures by consolidating land stewardship under a mission-driven entity legally bound to protect it from condemnation or unwanted acquisition. Furthermore, it would establish a single entity for large-scale fundraising, presenting a clear vision for state and philanthropic organizations.

However, the path to implementation in Idlewild is itself a reflection of the community's core challenge. As detailed by community leaders, the current discussions include a proposal to establish three separate CLTs, each potentially focused on a different aspect of revitalization. While this approach stems from a valid desire to represent the community's diverse interests and stakeholder groups, it highlights the difficulty of achieving a single, unified strategy. As such, implementing multiple CLTs could risk perpetuating the very coordination challenges the model aims to address, potentially continuing the pattern of siloed projects and a fractured front when engaging with external funders and regional governments.

At a more fundamental and symbolic level, land ownership is understood not only as a source of individual family wealth, but also as a collective symbol of the freedom and self-determination that the community has always represented. The ability for Black Americans to independently own private property was a foundational pillar of Idlewild's creation and its enduring identity. Fieldwork discussions with a community leader reaffirmed that this value remains central today, as the legacy continues to attract new individuals to purchase property in the region.

However, the CLT model introduces a structure that is novel to this tradition. By separating the ownership of a home from the land beneath it, the CLT framework challenges and perhaps dilutes the conventional concept of property rights. While the model provides for secure, long-term, and inheritable use of a home via a ground lease, the notion that one would not hold a traditional deed to the land itself presents a conceptual and cultural shift of the common conception of ownership.

This conceptual shift is made far more complex by a national history of U.S. policies designed to prevent Black families from owning property and establishing a chain of generational wealth, a history that community insiders noted is never far from mind. Generations of systemic injustice, from the failure of post-Civil War land distribution to 20th-century redlining and predatory lending, have created a legitimate and deep-seated mistrust of any mechanism that could be perceived as weakening a Black family's claim to their property.²⁶

The result of these combined factors is a perspective among some community members that can best be described as "protective skepticism." This underscores one central finding of our study: for any collective land strategy



to succeed in Idlewild, the implementation process must prioritize building trust and demonstrating, with unequivocal clarity, how shared stewardship can honor family legacies while providing a stronger, more permanent defense for the entire community's land.

Comparative Analysis: Lessons from Established Community Land Trusts

To contextualize the strategic options available to Idlewild, this section examines two seminal Community Land Trusts in the United States. These cases are not presented as direct blueprints, but as sources of strategic principles and transferable lessons in navigating challenges analogous to those faced by Idlewild. They provide insight into how communities have successfully addressed issues of historical legacy, internal fragmentation, and external political pressure.

New Communities, Inc.

Founded in 1969 in southwestern Georgia by Civil Rights leaders Charles and Shirley Sherrod, New Communities, Inc. is widely regarded as the first modern CLT in the United States. It was established as a direct outgrowth of the Civil Rights Movement, intended to provide economic independence and secure land tenure for Black farmers on a collective farm that grew to nearly 6,000 acres. This pioneering effort represented a tangible vision for Black land sovereignty in the face of deep-seated discrimination.²⁷

The dispossession of this land in 1985 followed a severe drought that had crippled the farm financially, forcing the community to seek an emergency loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The organization alleged that the agency discriminatorily denied their application, which triggered a mortgage foreclosure and forced the sale of the property. Decades later, within the legal framework established by the landmark *Pigford v. Glickman* class-action lawsuit, New Communities organized to collectively file a claim against the USDA, leading to a significant settlement and resurrection of the organization on a new property. This example illustrates a crucial principle: that mission-driven land stewardship can be achieved through strategic legal and political approaches to counter systemic pressures. This precedent is particularly salient for communities like Idlewild, given the identified challenges to Idlewild's historic sites posed by governmental or corporate entities.²⁸

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative

The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), one of the nation's most significant urban Community Land Trusts, was established in the mid-1980s in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. The area, marked by severe disinvestment and a socially fragmented population, faced widespread blight across more than 1,300 vacant, city-owned lots. DSNI's initial success was rooted in how it addressed this challenge. It pioneered a community-led planning process designed to build consensus from within. Through what former Executive Director John Barros called a "real robust process of engaging people" and a unique collaborative board structure, DSNI forged the internal cohesion and credibility necessary to create a comprehensive master plan, giving residents a unified voice to guide the area's revitalization.^{29,30}

This internal cohesion proved instrumental in achieving DSNI's historic success of gaining the power of eminent domain from the City of Boston. A top-down effort by the city would have likely failed due to deep resident mistrust. The resulting partnership was symbiotic. The city provided the legal authority that DSNI lacked, while DSNI provided the on-the-ground credibility and unified vision the city could not manufacture on its own. The principle of a trusted community organization partnering with local government provides a transferable framework for Idlewild, even when considering the differences in scale between a rural township and a county. The case illustrates

that before a community can effectively address external challenges, it must first establish an authentic internal agreement that allows it to negotiate from a position of trust and unified strength.³¹

While distinct in their histories, these two cases offer a unified lesson on the sequence of community empowerment. The success of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative demonstrates that the intensive, internal work of forging a unified vision through a resident-led process is the essential first step that builds the political capital necessary to negotiate with external powers. For Idlewild, this reinforces the central argument of this report: the community's primary task is to resolve its internal fragmentation to build a single, cohesive front. Once accomplished, such unity would position the community to effectively partner with key governmental bodies, including local entities such as Yates Township and Lake County, as well as crucial state-level agencies, to execute its vision. Only then, as these precedents suggest, can Idlewild effectively address the external challenges posed by regional governance and competing interests by using the CLT as a framework for achieving the political solidarity needed to secure a self-determined future.

Recommendations

This report concludes with the following policy and strategic recommendations, designed to provide a clear and actionable roadmap for all stakeholders committed to supporting this vital effort.

For Idlewild Community Leadership

- *Prioritize a Single, Unified CLT:* Formally commit to establishing a single, unified CLT as the primary vehicle for revitalization. This requires tabling the discussion of multiple CLTs to present a clear and consolidated front to all external partners, which is essential for building political power and securing significant funding.
- *Launch a Transparent Education and Buy-In Campaign:* Before legal formation, undertake a patient, community-wide education campaign about the CLT model. This process must directly and respectfully address the "protective skepticism" surrounding land ownership by educating residents on how the governance structure of a CLT can provide a stronger collective defense for all community assets while also honoring family legacies.
- *Establish an Inclusive Founding Committee:* Create a temporary steering committee for the CLT formation process that provides a designated, balanced seat for each key stakeholder group, including legacy families, year-round residents, seasonal residents, and existing non-profits. This ensures the founding principles and governance structure are truly representative.
- *Strategize a Mechanism for Holdouts:* The founding committee must have a strategy for addressing potential individual or group holdouts who may initially decline to participate. Rather than allowing the process to stall, the committee should pursue a dual-track approach. First, it must conduct persistent, good-faith outreach to understand the holdouts' specific concerns, keeping their designated seat symbolically open as a sign of ongoing welcome. Second, the committee must proceed with its foundational work in a fully transparent manner, making its progress and decisions accessible to the entire community.

For Yates Township and Lake County

- *Formally Recognize the Idlewild CLT:* Once legally established, both the township and the county should pass resolutions formally recognizing the unified Idlewild CLT as the designated community partner for all planning, preservation, and development activities within Idlewild. This grants the organization legitimacy and a crucial seat at the table.
- *Create a Land Transfer Policy for Vacant Parcels:* Establish a "first right of refusal" policy or a streamlined process to transfer tax-foreclosed and other publicly-owned vacant lots within Idlewild to the CLT for a nominal fee.



This is a direct, low-cost way for local government to empower the community to combat blight and control its own redevelopment.

- *Align Regional and Community Master Plans:* Integrate the Idlewild CLT's future Master Plan into the official Master Plans for both Yates Township and Lake County. This ensures that future zoning, infrastructure, and regional economic development decisions support, rather than contradict, Idlewild's community-led vision.

For the State of Michigan

- *Designate the Office of Rural Prosperity as the Lead State Partner:* The Governor's Office or the Legislature should formally task the Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) with coordinating all state-level support for Idlewild's revitalization. The ORP should act as the primary liaison between the community's unified CLT and other key state agencies, ensuring a "no wrong door" approach for the community.
- *Provide Coordinated Technical Assistance via ORP:* The Office of Rural Prosperity should convene and lead a multi-agency support team for Idlewild. This team should include dedicated experts from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for housing initiatives, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for preservation planning, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for tourism and business development strategies.
- *Commit Foundational and Recurring Funding:* The state should make a dual-funding commitment to Idlewild's revitalization. First, it should allocate discretionary seed funding to support community-led revitalization planning and organizational capacity-building. This initial investment would provide the flexibility needed for essential groundwork, such as exploring and establishing community stewardship models. Furthermore, to ensure long-term success, the state should establish a recurring historic preservation fund for Idlewild. A predictable annual allocation, administered through the ORP, MDARD, or SHPO, would help solidify a permanent state partnership in protecting this vital cultural legacy.

For Philanthropic Foundations

- *Fund the Process, Not Just the Project:* Provide grants that support the early, often-overlooked work of community organizing, facilitated dialogue, and consensus-building. This "social infrastructure" investment is critical for overcoming the internal divisions and ensuring the long-term success of the CLT.
- *Sponsor the Master Plan:* Offer a dedicated grant for the creation of a comprehensive, professional, and community-led Master Plan. This tangible document will serve as the strategic roadmap guiding all future land acquisition, development, and fundraising efforts.
- *Explore a Revolving Loan Fund:* Partner with the Idlewild CLT to establish a low-interest revolving loan fund for strategic land acquisition. This would provide the flexible capital necessary for the CLT to act quickly when key historic or vacant properties become available, allowing it to effectively compete with private interests.



Conclusion

The story of Idlewild, Michigan, is a profound testament to African American resilience, culture, and the enduring quest for self-determination. As this report has sought to understand, the community today is navigating a complex crossroads where its path forward appears deeply connected to its ability to forge a unified vision in the face of significant external pressures. The formation of a single, unified Community Land Trust, a model already being explored by its leaders, offers a powerful framework for this very work. It presents a potential vehicle not only for land stewardship, but also for building consensus and collective strength that can empower the community in its goal of self-determination.

To that end, the recommendations provided in this report serve as a potential framework for action, suggesting pathways through which regional, state, and philanthropic partners can effectively support this vital, community-led effort. By moving beyond simple admiration for Idlewild's past, these partners can become effective allies in the community's work. Ultimately, supporting this process is an investment in the stewardship of one of Michigan's, and America's, most vital cultural legacies, ensuring that the vision of its own residents determines the future of Idlewild.

About the Fiscal Health Project

CLOSUP's Fiscal Health Project aims to develop a deeper understanding of the fiscal health and fiscal challenges of local governments in Michigan, and beyond. These case studies focus on specific Michigan local governments and are intended to highlight some of the unique and possibly overlooked fiscal challenges they face.

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Notes

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