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The Indiana University presents a Branigin Lecture by

TIYA MILES

Detroit: Then and Now

Is Detroit a potentially fruitful test case of postindustrial urbanism or a frightening cautionary tale? Can community members and their academic partners find ways to build constructive change on the ground? This presentation explores the notion that the challenges Detroit faces in the present may hold similarities to the challenges the settlement confronted in the late 18th and early 19th century when newly incorporated Detroit was a new kind of place within the American geo-political landscape. Through a reconstruction of early Detroit in the first American decades, this presentation considers the question of whether understanding Detroit then can help to shape visionary thinking and action for Detroit now.

Tiya Miles is Professor in the Program in American Culture, Center for Afro-American and African Studies, Department of History, and Native American Studies Program at the University of Michigan. Her research interests include African American and Native American interrelated and comparative histories and literatures; African American women’s history; American culture; the histories, feminist theories, and life experiences of women of color in the United States. She is the author of two award winning books: The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story (2010) and Ties that Bind: the Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom (2005). In 2011, Miles was a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” Fellowship. Her visit is co-sponsored by African American & African Diaspora Studies.

Monday, October 15, 2012
4:00 p.m.
State Room East, Indiana Memorial Union
IU Bloomington