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## Kintsugi Village kicks off renovation project with groundbreaking



**Candice Williams**  
The Detroit News

Kintsugi Village kicked off construction Wednesday with a groundbreaking for a community hub in Corktown that will house an early childhood education center, an artist incubator and other services.

The nonprofit's co-founders, Paul Spiegelman and Hamsa Yaqo, were joined Wednesday by Mayor Mike Duggan and community members. The development sits at 2020 14th St., the former St. Vincent Middle School.

“What Paul and Hamsa are planning here will be an amazing community resource for families in and around Corktown looking for quality educational and cultural experiences,”

Duggan said in a statement. “By repurposing a large vacant building, Kintsugi Village also will be a big part of the revitalization radiating out from Michigan Central and Newlab, and will complement them beautifully.”



Kintsugi Village kicked off construction Wednesday with a groundbreaking for a community hub in Corktown that will house an early childhood education center, an artist incubator and other services. *David Guralnick, The Detroit News*



Paul Spiegelman, left, and Hamsa Yaqo, co-founder of Kintsugi Village, inside the group's future home next door to the Michigan Central Station on Nov. 11, 2024. A groundbreaking for the project to rehab the former school occurred on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. *David Guralnick, The Detroit News*

Detroit-based Sachse Construction is handling the renovation of the 40,000-square-foot building, which has sat vacant for years. It is a neighbor to the Michigan Central campus, where Newlab opened in 2023, followed by the Station in 2024.

“This project is a key part of the ongoing revitalization of Detroit's Corktown neighborhood,” said Todd Sachse, CEO of Sachse Construction. “Its prime location, next door to Michigan Central Station and alongside Newlab, positions Kintsugi Village to become a dynamic hub for the community, and we're proud to be part of its transformation.”

Spiegelman and Yaqo expect to open the early childhood education center on the first floor in the fall. Other services to follow are an artist incubator, a retreat center and a culinary kitchen. The planned early childhood center comes at a time when the city says there is a need for such facilities throughout Detroit.

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