

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Dean Adkins  
517-787-2320 ext. 240

**ELLA SHARP MUSEUM AWARDED  
MOTORCITIES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA GRANT**

Jackson, MI – The Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History was recently awarded a MotorCities National Heritage Area mini-grant for WHEELS, a new automotive exhibit.

WHEELS: Jackson Marion-Handley Car Project will feature a restored 1916 Marion K Six Cylinder Touring Car manufactured in Jackson, Mich. Never before exhibited to the public, the Marion-Handley will be the centerpiece of the museum's new Jackson Heritage Gallery slated for opening October 1, 2006.

The MotorCities grant award of \$2,465 will cover more than 25 percent of the total project cost. "Museums and other non-profits need to rely more and more on the abundance of mini-grant programs and not solely on state and national funding sources," states Lynne Loftis, Ella Sharp Museum President.

The new, permanent exhibit WHEELS is designed to communicate how automotive manufacturing contributed to the social, economic and cultural development of Jackson County.

In 1913, James Handley's Mutual Motors Company bought the Indiana-based firm that introduced the Marion in 1903 and moved the company to Jackson. The car was renamed Marion-Handley and the firm went on to sell a total of 2,505 automobiles before the end of production in 1917.

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