



Dean, School of Public Health  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

## THE SEARCH

The [University of Michigan School of Public Health](#) (UMSPH) invites applications and nominations for a bold, collaborative, and transparent leader to serve as its next dean. As one of the leading schools of public health in the nation, recently ranked #2 by U.S. News and World Report, and as part of one of the world's leading public research universities, UMSPH is uniquely positioned to advance the future of public health education, research, and practice within a world-class academic environment.

The [University of Michigan](#) (U-M) is home to 19 nationally recognized schools and colleges, making it one of the most comprehensive and academically diverse institutions in the world. U-M is ranked among the top three public universities nationally, with more than 100 graduate programs ranked in the top ten by U.S. News & World Report. U-M had more than \$2 billion in research expenditures for fiscal year 2024 and ranked fourth in the nation among all institutions of higher education, and second among public universities, in the fiscal year 2023 National Science Foundation research expenditure rankings. [Michigan Medicine](#), the University of Michigan's academic medical center, is one of the country's top-ranked academic health centers; its clinical branch, Michigan Health, includes 11 hospitals and hundreds of clinics statewide that are staffed by more than 30,000 employees.

UMSPH is a top-ranked school of public health dedicated to advancing health equity and improving population health. Founded in 1941, UMSPH enrolls more than 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students annually and is supported by over 190 faculty across six academic departments. The school offers a wide array of degree programs, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and certificate options, designed to prepare students for leadership in a rapidly evolving public health landscape. With more than \$100 million in annual research expenditures, the highest per capita of any school at U-M, UMSPH is home to over 30 research centers and initiatives and plays a leading role in university-wide efforts such as Precision Health, Poverty Solutions, and the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. UMSPH's faculty includes internationally recognized leaders with an advanced understanding of infectious disease dynamics, environmental exposures, and health equity. Their research and policy engagement shape decisions at the national and international level, while their mentorship trains the next generation of

public health practitioners and scientists. Faculty and students engage in interdisciplinary, global work across more than 90 countries. UMSPH offers a dynamic academic environment and a strong foundation for the next dean to lead the school into its next era of excellence and impact in public health.

The successful candidate will be a visionary, collaborative, and strategic leader with a deep commitment to public health and a bold ambition for its future. They will guide UMSPH through a pivotal moment, establishing a unifying strategic vision, strengthening the school's financial foundation, and fostering a culture of trust and transparency. Building on its record of excellence, UMSPH is poised to expand its impact across education, research, and practice. The next dean will champion innovation in public health education, accelerate research in areas of critical importance, and serve as a powerful advocate for the school and the field. This is a rare opportunity to lead one of the nation's premier schools of public health and shape the future of public health locally, nationally, and globally.

The University of Michigan has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries in confidence to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated at the end of this document.

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Since 1941, the University of Michigan School of Public Health has been pursuing a healthier, more equitable world through education, research, and action. Students, staff, and faculty work with compassion, innovation, and inclusion to create meaningful, lasting impact.

From its founding, UMSPH has helped define the modern field of public health. Faculty at Michigan led the landmark 1954 Salk polio vaccine trial, the largest public health field trial in U.S. history, and established a model for rigorous, population-based evaluation of health interventions. Over the decades, UMSPH researchers have advanced foundational methods in epidemiology and biostatistics, shaped national and international standards in environmental and occupational health, and led global initiatives in disease prevention and health equity. This legacy of scientific innovation, policy impact, and community partnership continues to guide the school's mission today.

UMSPH is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1946. Additional program level accreditations include the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The school trains more than 1,300 graduate and undergraduate students each year who go on to join the school's more than 19,000 alumni committed to positive change and improving the health of the world. With more than 190 faculty and researchers across six academic departments and numerous collaborative centers and institutes, the school produces impactful research aimed at finding lasting solutions to pressing public health problems.

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The school's six academic departments of [Biostatistics](#), [Environmental Health Sciences](#), [Epidemiology, Health Behavior and Health Equity](#), [Health Management and Policy](#), and [Nutritional Sciences](#) offer students endless opportunities to work closely with experts in specialized fields while connecting with peers with similar professional interests. These six academic departments are comprised of top-flight faculty, committed to cutting-edge research, world-class education, and impactful public health practice in their fields.

## **Research**

With more than \$100 million in annual research expenditures, the highest research per capita of any school at U-M, UMSPH is a powerhouse of discovery and innovation. The school is home to more than 30 research centers and numerous programs that advance science and improve health through interdisciplinary collaborations. Faculty lead and contribute to many major university-level research initiatives, including Biosciences, Precision Health, the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, and the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, as well as national and global research consortia supported by the National Institutes of Health and leading foundations.

U-M researchers conduct work that spans the full spectrum of public health, from molecular and environmental determinants of disease to social, behavioral, and policy interventions that promote health equity. Their research has, and continues to, inform vaccine development and evaluation, shaped environmental and occupational health standards, advanced statistical and computational methods, and guided global and domestic public health policy. The school's collaborative environment, robust infrastructure, and strong partnerships across campus and around the world foster the translation of discovery into practice, ensuring that UMSPH's science continues to have tangible impact on populations locally and globally.

## **Academics**

UMSPH offers five graduate degrees across eight areas of study, including doctoral degrees, residential and online master's degree options, featuring several dual degree programs, and two undergraduate degree options. Each graduate degree is completed within a UMSPH department or program. Further information about the specific degrees and programs can be found in the appendix.

UMSPH faculty are deeply committed educators who bring cutting-edge science and real-world problem solving into the classroom. Their mentorship cultivates leadership, analytical rigor, and a deep sense of purpose in addressing today's public health challenges.

## **Public Health Practice**

Public Health Practice extends the university's resources to public health practitioners in governmental and community-based organizations and provides practice opportunities for UMSPH students and faculty.

Programs housed in Public Health Practice demonstrate the school's commitment to securing and strengthening Michigan's current and future public health practice community through student engagement, workforce development, and community engagement.

In addition to these initiatives, UMSPH faculty play influential roles in shaping public health practice and policy nationally and globally. Faculty members collaborate with partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and have served in key leadership and advisory roles on expert committees, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC). Through these and other partnerships, UMSPH is a leading force in advancing evidence-based public health, contributing to national and global pandemic preparedness, and strengthening health systems around the world.

Centers and programs in Public Health Practice include the Certificate for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control (CHIP), Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST), Region V Public Health Training Center, and Practice Advisory Council (PAC).

### **Global Public Health**

Global Public Health at UMSPH is rooted in equitable, community-based practice and interdisciplinary collaboration. Faculty are engaged in research and partnerships across more than 90 countries, contributing to critical public health infrastructure and high-impact solutions worldwide. Many also serve as advisors to ministries of health, NGOs, and multilateral organizations, bringing science and evidence-based practice to confront complex health challenges across the globe. Students can pursue global-focused academic programs and supplement their studies with hands-on field experiences and internships abroad. The school also offers funding support for global internships and research, including through the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Training Program. Through its global engagement, UMSPH promotes health equity, human rights, and social and environmental justice in diverse international contexts.

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE INCOMING DEAN**

The dean of UMSPH serves as the school's chief academic and administrative officer and is a key member of the university's academic leadership. Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, [Dr. Laurie McCauley](#), the dean provides strategic vision and operational leadership across all aspects of the school's mission: education, research, and practice. The dean is a member of the Health Sciences Council of Deans, which is a highly supportive and close-knit group that consists of leaders from all health sciences schools and colleges on the Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn Campuses.

The dean of UMSPH oversees an annual general fund budget allocation of \$48.5 million net funding with an endowment of \$174 million. As of November 2024, the school included 130 tenured/tenure track

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faculty, 13 clinical track faculty, and 30 research track faculty. The school provides institutional support for the 9-month base salaries of instructional track (tenure/tenure-track) faculty, reflecting a strong commitment to sustaining the core academic mission.

UMSPH derives revenues from sponsored research contracts and grants, degree and certificate program tuition and fees, gifts and endowment payouts, and other miscellaneous income. The [U-M budget model](#) functions within a hybrid system of responsibility center budgeting, incremental budgeting, and centralized/initiative budgeting.

### **Establish a bold strategic vision for the future of the School of Public Health**

The next dean will be charged with establishing a bold, unifying strategic vision that positions UMSPH for long-term impact and resilience. Through a collaborative strategic planning process that engages faculty, staff, students, and external partners, the dean will articulate a forward-looking strategy rooted in the school's mission and responsive to evolving public health needs, workforce demands, and societal shifts. This vision must bring coherence across the school's diverse and entrepreneurial departments, enabling more effective decision-making while preserving the innovative spirit that defines UMSPH.

In a rapidly changing landscape, marked by technological disruption, shifting enrollment patterns, and constrained funding, the dean will lead with creativity and pragmatism. They will ensure the school remains proactive in adapting to emerging trends such as artificial intelligence, while stabilizing core operations and strengthening internal structures. This includes developing clear policies and processes, aligning resources with strategic priorities, and fostering a culture of unity, transparency, and shared purpose.

### **Support and strengthen the school's legacy of research excellence and impact**

Widely recognized for its research excellence and leadership in advancing public health science, UMSPH has long been a hub for groundbreaking, interdisciplinary discovery. Its faculty are internationally recognized for their scientific innovation and leadership in public health, serving on high-level advisory committees and leading major NIH- and foundation-funded consortia. From shaping WHO and FDA policy guidance to spearheading national initiatives on health equity and environmental justice, UMSPH scholars exemplify the school's commitment to translating discovery into action. The next dean will play a pivotal role in stabilizing and growing the financial foundation and infrastructure that supports this work, ensuring that the school's research enterprise continues to thrive and deliver meaningful benefit to public health. By fostering collaboration across departments and across the university, and by strengthening the systems that support grant generation, donor engagement, and diversified funding, the dean will help accelerate research in areas of critical importance. In doing so, the dean will ensure that the work of the school and the faculty directly translates into policies and practices that save lives.

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### **Champion a forward-looking educational strategy rooted in the student experience and academic excellence**

A passionate advocate for the student experience, the dean will reinvigorate the school's educational approach, positioning UMSPH at the forefront of public health education. As part of the collaborative strategic planning process for the school, the dean will ensure a clear educational strategy emerges that aligns research and teaching and supports thoughtful evolution of the program portfolio. On a regular basis, the dean will ensure that the UMSPH community assesses and refines its curriculum to meet the needs of current and future students. The dean also will champion efforts to expand co-curricular and experiential learning opportunities and invest in pedagogical innovation that equips students with dynamic skills, including fluency in emerging technologies.

### **Inspire trust and collaboration within the school through relationship-building and transparent communication**

A compassionate leader, the dean will take a thoughtful approach to balancing the autonomy of the school's departments with unifying the school in a shared sense of community. The dean will be an approachable and visible figure within the school, regularly and proactively communicating with students, faculty, and staff and engaging the school community in productive dialogue. In doing so, the dean will set the tone for a culture of trust and collaboration between departments and the dean's office.

At a time when the school is navigating a complex funding environment and evolving public health challenges, the dean will foster a culture of openness, inclusion, and mutual respect. By welcoming feedback from all stakeholders and encouraging transparent, bidirectional communication, the dean will help reinforce a sense of shared purpose. Engaging in honest conversations with empathy and clarity, the dean will cultivate a collaborative environment where faculty, staff, and students feel heard, supported, and empowered.

### **Stabilize the school's finances through skillful budget management and fundraising**

A skilled fundraiser and fiscal manager, the dean will be a strategic steward and generator of resources. U-M has a decentralized budget model at the university level, and deans have discretion when allocating funds to support college priorities. The dean of UMSPH will assess the current financial state of the school and identify strategic opportunities to stabilize and strengthen that financial positioning. Amid federal funding uncertainties and recent budget cuts, the dean will identify opportunities to diversify revenue sources through various funding and programmatic options, as well as fundraising.

UMSPH is actively participating in the university's *Look to Michigan* fundraising campaign, which aims to raise \$7 billion. With a school-specific goal of \$150 million, the most ambitious in its history, UMSPH is building on the momentum of its successful \$113 million *Victors for Michigan* campaign. The next dean will play a pivotal role in advancing this effort, with the opportunity to pursue a transformational naming gift, as UMSPH is the only top 5-ranked school of public health in the nation that is not named, and other major philanthropic investments. Fundraising priorities include expanding access to ensure no student is

denied a UMSPH education due to financial barriers, supporting faculty and research excellence, and connecting with communities across the world. The dean will engage a deeply committed alumni base of more than 19,000, expand connections across the broader Michigan alumni network, and cultivate relationships with foundations and corporate partners nationwide.

### **Serve as a powerful external advocate for the school and the field**

The dean will balance internal engagement with external advocacy by being accessible within the school while effectively representing UMSPH to donors, policymakers, and the public. This includes building relationships with local, state, and federal government leaders. As a top school of public health, the dean of UMSPH also holds an important role as an ambassador for public health more broadly and promoting public health in the nation. As such, the dean will productively engage in national and global dialogue around the significance of public health, meeting the moment and advancing the field.

### **Continue to leverage and expand cross-disciplinary opportunities across the University of Michigan**

In line with the university's long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, the dean will seek new and innovative opportunities for such work across the school's departments and across the university. The dean will continue to build upon positive momentum already in place, as the work of public health is inherently interdisciplinary and UMSPH faculty engage in research that crosses disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of discoveries that advance human health. The next dean will be able to continue to lean into and build upon the interdisciplinary and collaborative dynamic of U-M and UMSPH specifically, building upon relationships within the strong, collaborative, and supportive cohort of deans.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS**

This position requires a visionary and collaborative leader with strategic acumen, emotional intelligence, and a deep commitment to public health. They will uphold the University of Michigan's values: integrity, equity, respect, diversity, inclusion, and innovation.

- An earned doctorate in a public health discipline or a closely related field
- A record of scholarly achievement commensurate with appointment as a tenured full professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Demonstrated leadership experience in academic, research, or public health practice settings
- Nationally or internationally recognized record of academic achievement, research, and service in public health
- Significant administrative experience, including strategic planning, budget management, and organizational leadership
- Demonstrated commitment to faculty and staff development, mentoring, and fostering an inclusive culture of excellence and belonging
- Proven success in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty, staff, and students

- Visionary leadership that embraces innovation in education, research, and practice, including emerging technologies that shape the future of public health
- Ability to translate scientific discovery into public health impact and to represent the school effectively to external partners, policymakers, and the public
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing health equity and community engagement across local, national, and global contexts
- Exceptional communication skills and the ability to engage a wide range of internal and external audiences
- Strong interpersonal skills, including collaboration, transparency, and consensus-building
- Demonstrated success in securing external funding through philanthropy, grants, or partnerships
- Deep understanding of the evolving public health landscape, including workforce needs, policy dynamics, and global health trends
- Ability to build effective partnerships across university departments, health systems, government agencies, and community organizations
- High standards of professional integrity and ethical leadership

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

The University of Michigan has engaged the executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in the search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications (including a CV and cover letter) should be sent in confidence via this link: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-michigan-school-public-health/dean>

Stephanie Fidel, Partner  
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*Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office (ECRT) at 734-763-0235 and [ecrtoffice@umich.edu](mailto:ecrtoffice@umich.edu), and as follows:*

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## APPENDIX

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Founded in 1817, the [University of Michigan](#) (U-M) is one of the nation's first public universities and has long been recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, research, and public service. With over 67,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across its Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses, U-M combines broad accessibility with world-class scholarship.

#### Leadership

President Domenico Grasso began his tenure on May 8, 2025. President Grasso is an accomplished environmental engineer; his research focuses on molecular-scale processes that govern the ultimate fate of contaminants in the environment and the development of new techniques to reduce risks to human health and natural resources. Prior to stepping into the presidency at U-M, Dr. Grasso served as chancellor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and prior to this appointment served as provost of the University of Delaware, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College at the University of Vermont, was the Rosemary Bradford Hewlett Professor and founding director of the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College. He holds engineering degrees from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (B.Sc.), Purdue University (M.S.), and the University of Michigan (Ph.D.).

Laurie McCauley, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, oversees U-M's 19 schools and colleges. In partnership with the other executive vice presidents, Provost McCauley leads U-M's Campus Planning 2025 initiative, as well as the university's Strategic Visioning process. Before her appointment as provost, in May of 2022, Dr. McCauley served as dean of the U-M School of Dentistry. She is an active researcher supported by the National Institutes of Health and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She is also a recipient of the Ida Gray Award in recognition of her outstanding efforts in promoting multicultural ideals. Since taking on the role of provost, she has committed to creating a more accessible and inclusive environment for people with disabilities at the university, as well as integrating disability awareness into more educational contexts across campus. Additionally, she serves as a leader in the university's Well-Being Collective.

#### Strategic Vision

The University of Michigan's strategic vision, [Look to Michigan](#), charts an ambitious course for the decade ahead. Anchored by a \$7 billion fundraising campaign, the largest in U-M's history, it advances a unified plan for impact across education, research, service, and health care. *Look to Michigan* builds on the goals of *Vision 2034*, now fully integrated, with a focus on life-changing education, health and well-being, democracy and civic engagement, global impact, and sustainability. Complementing this effort, [Campus Plan 2050](#) provides a long-term framework for physical spaces that support innovation, connectivity, and carbon neutrality.

## MICHIGAN MEDICINE AND UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

[Michigan Medicine](#) is the University of Michigan's fully integrated academic medical center and one of the state's largest and most comprehensive health systems. It encompasses the University of Michigan Health (U-M Health), the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS), the University of Michigan Medical Group (UMMG), and the Michigan Health Corporation, which supports strategic partnerships and affiliations. Together, these entities advance a shared mission of excellence in patient care, education, and research.

### [University of Michigan Health](#)

U-M Health is consistently ranked among the nation's top hospitals by [U.S. News and World Report](#), with national recognition across a wide range of adult and pediatric specialties. The health system's clinical operations are anchored by a number of world-class facilities, including University Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital, the Frankel Cardiovascular Center, Kellogg Eye Center, Rogel Cancer Center, Chelsea Hospital, U-M Health West, and U-M Health Sparrow. In FY 2023, the system included more than 2,200 licensed beds, with over 90,000 hospital discharges, 96,000 surgical cases, 328,000 emergency and urgent care visits, and 4.1 million outpatient visits. Its clinical reach extends statewide, serving patients from every county in Michigan through an expansive network of hospitals and health centers.

## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE OFFERINGS

### Undergraduate Education

UMSPH offers courses for all undergraduate students at U-M as well as two upper-level undergraduate degree programs for students interested in majoring in public health. Students can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Sciences or a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Community and Global Public Health. UMSPH offers the option for undergraduate students to pursue a dual degree with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA). UMSPH also offers the Fundamentals of Public Health Supplemental Studies program, a 10-credit course sequence for students who do not intend to complete an undergraduate degree in public health but would like to gain an understanding of the field of public health.

### Master's Degrees

UMSPH offers the following master's degrees:

- Master of Public Health (MPH), offered in-person by the Health Behavior & Health Equity, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Management and Policy, and Nutritional Sciences departments

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- Online Master of Public Health (MPH), offered in a fully online format by the School of Public Health, allowing students to continue working full-time
  - Master of Science (MS), often pursued as a prelude to a doctoral degree in a public health field and offered by the Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, and Nutritional Sciences departments
  - Accelerated Master of Science (MS) degrees in Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, and Nutritional Sciences, for which undergraduate students at the University of Michigan and Spelman College are eligible to apply
  - Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA), offered by the Health Management and Policy department
  - Executive Master's Program in Health Management and Policy, offered in a hybrid format by the Health Management and Policy department that allows students to continue working full-time
  - Master of Health Informatics, an interdisciplinary program offered by the School of Information, the School of Public Health, and the Medical School

Master's students are also able to pursue a formal Multiple Dependent Degree Program (MDDP) or self-initiated dual degree options, completing coursework in both the School of Public Health and another University of Michigan school.

### **Doctoral Degrees**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees are offered in all six departments of UMSPH, and they are administered by the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School.

### **Certificate Programs**

All master's and doctoral students who are currently enrolled in a residential graduate degree program at the University of Michigan are eligible to earn a certificate within UMSPH.

UMSPH offers the following certificates:

- Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control
- Injury Science
- Public Health Genetics
- Maternal and Child Health
- Risk Science and Human Health
- Social Epidemiology
- Climate, Justice, Health, and Sustainability
- Sustainable Food Systems

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Additionally, the Nutritional Sciences master's degrees all offer the Dietetics pathway, which allows students to be eligible to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

## ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

The vibrant and active city of Ann Arbor is a cultural hub and urban oasis in the heart of the Midwest that is rated as one of the nation's top college towns. It is no surprise to residents that a recent publication named Ann Arbor as #1 among "Best Places to Live in the U.S." In addition to its world-class university, Ann Arbor is home to high-tech research companies and charming neighborhoods with a rich mix of cultures. People from across the country and around the world come to Ann Arbor to study, work, and thrive. Downtown Detroit is less than an hour's drive away, and Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) offers a nearby (half-hour from Ann Arbor) gateway to the globe. Chicago and Toronto are just four hours away.

Although geographically small, the Ann Arbor area is perhaps most renowned for its cultural offerings and nightlife. It boasts a vibrant arts sector with renowned galleries, museums, and arts non-profits, as well as theatrical and musical organizations, such as the Ann Arbor Symphony. The University Musical Society is among the top four university presenters in the nation and features 70–80 performances by world-class artists each season, such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Ballet Preljocaj, and the Royal Shakespeare Company. From independent bookstores and cutting-edge art exhibits to performances by local, regional, and international artists, there are abundant opportunities to enjoy arts and culture throughout the community. Every July, the award-winning Ann Arbor Art Fair transforms the campus and downtown into an art gallery featuring thousands of juried artists and drawing nearly 500,000 visitors. The Ann Arbor Summer Festival hosts a month-long schedule of performances each June, many of which are outdoors and free. Athletics is equally integral to the life of the university and community. Home to one of the most successful and storied athletic programs in the nation, the University of Michigan brings together students, alumni, and residents in a shared spirit of pride and tradition that energizes the city year-round.