

Henry Ford statue rededication ceremony held Oct. 16 at Henry Ford Centennial Library

DEARBORN, Mich. – A special ceremony was held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, to rededicate the statue of automotive pioneer Henry Ford that stands on the grounds of Dearborn's Henry Ford Centennial Library and to thank the people who made the restoration possible.

The statue, located outside the library on the north plaza, was originally dedicated on June 8, 1975 and cost \$50,000.

Over the years, it and its marble base and background vignettes had deteriorated. A request to restore the statue was made to Cynthia and Edsel B. Ford II, which resulted in a generous donation of more than \$28,000 from the Henry Ford II Fund. The Friends of the Library--Dearborn donated \$800 for a plaque.

The original idea for the sculpture surfaced in the 1940s when Dearborn civic leaders sought a memorial to honor Henry Ford and his many contributions to the City.

The Henry Ford Statue Committee was formed in 1968 and raised the money through donations from school children and local service organizations. They commissioned noted Michigan sculptor, Marshall M. Fredericks, whose many works include "The Spirit of Detroit" sculpture, to create the statue of Henry Ford.