

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



William "Mickey" Stevenson, Esther Gordy Edwards and Smokey Robinson are pictured in 2005.

## Motown Co-Founder Leaves Legacy

### Esther Gordy Edwards remembered

(AP) — Esther Gordy Edwards, who helped build Motown Records alongside her brother Berry Gordy Jr. and led efforts to turn its original Detroit headquarters into a museum, died Aug. 24 at the age of 91.

Edwards was a Motown executive for nearly three decades, holding numerous leadership positions within the music company whose artists included Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations and The Four Tops.

Motown Records, which Berry Gordy started with a family loan in

1959, churned out scores of global hits from the building it dubbed "Hitsville, U.S.A." in Detroit.

Wonder has praised Edwards for being like a mother to him when he joined the label as a child. She is credited with helping Wonder enroll in the Michigan School for the Blind, as well as managing and guiding the careers of Robinson, Gaye, Diana Ross and others.

"She believed in me — when I was 14 years old and many other people didn't or could only see what they could at the time, she championed me being in Motown," Wonder said in a statement. "I shared with her many of my songs first before anyone else."

When Motown and most of her family moved to California, Edwards stayed behind. She amassed what

would become Motown memorabilia and set to work on preserving the old headquarters, including the label's famed Studio A. The large stately former house on West Grand Boulevard opened as a museum in 1985.

"I always thought I was the visionary in the family but I missed the biggest thing of all when Esther turned the so-called trash left behind after I sold the company in 1988 into a phenomenal world-class monument at the spot where Hitsville started — the Motown museum," Berry Gordy said in a statement Thursday.

Gordy also said Edwards gave him "the hardest time" when he sought to get the family loan to start what would become Motown Records. She became, he said, "one of my biggest assets at Motown."

## Table Set for Jambalaya Festival

### Annual feast to delight tastebuds

The Martin Luther King Jr. Loaves and Fishes Center will host the sixth annual Summer in September Jambalaya Festival and Barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 10, from noon to 6 p.m. at Dawson Park in north Portland.

Live musical entertainment will be featured, as well as dance lessons by the Cascade Zydeco Club. Presenting sponsors are Dignity Memorial, NW Natural, the Albina and East Portland Rotary, and Varsity Blue BBQ.

The culinary team for this event is headed by Loaves & Fishes Centers Board Member Teletha Benjamin and Loaves & Fishes Centers

Executive Director Joan Smith, both of whom have connections to southern Louisiana. The pair will be using a traditional Creole-style jambalaya recipe passed down in Teletha's family. Proceeds from the event will provide hot meals to seniors served by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Loaves and Fishes Center in northeast Portland.

"The daily menu at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center has evolved to include a variety of soul food entrées," said Center Manager David Lomax. "The food has received such good reviews that we decided to make it available to the general public for one special

night. We guarantee a sumptuous feast to delight the tastebuds!"

The menu includes authentic Creole-style jambalaya (a non-seafood version is available) or BBQ Ribs, along with bread, salad, beverage and dessert. Cost is \$15 for adults or \$45 for a family ticket for four. Tickets are available in advance at feedsensiors.org, from the center or at the event. Meals are available for take-out.

Dawson Park is located between North Williams and Vancouver and North Morris and Stanton Streets across from Emanuel Hospital. For more information, call David Lomax at 503.953.8207.

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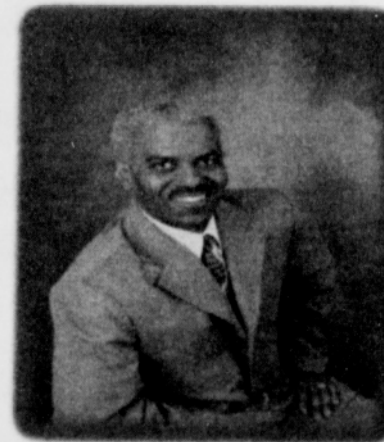
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