

Can a Community Campus Help Solve America's Loneliness Epidemic?

Kintsugi Village in Detroit is a place where learning, creativity, connection and well-being come together across generations



West Bloomfield Township, Michigan Jun 25, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Detroit is no stranger to reinvention. Now, in the heart of Corktown, a historic school building is being reimagined as something increasingly rare in modern life: a place where people of all ages can gather to learn, create, connect and thrive.

Kintsugi Village is a new nonprofit community campus designed to bring people together through five interconnected pathways: early childhood education, the arts, culinary experiences, community gatherings and personal growth. While it includes an innovative early childhood school, Kintsugi Village is much more than a school. It is a destination for lifelong learning and meaningful connection.

"We believe people are looking for places where they can belong," said Paul Spiegelman, co-founder of Kintsugi Village. "Places where they can learn something new, meet people from different backgrounds, share experiences and grow together. That's what we're building."

Located in the former St. Vincent School building in Corktown, Kintsugi Village transforms a historic neighborhood landmark into a vibrant hub serving Detroiters at every stage of life. Visitors may encounter preschool children exploring the world through play, artists developing new work, neighbors gathering around food, entrepreneurs attending workshops, or community members participating in retreats and educational programs.

The campus was inspired in part by the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy, which sees learning as an active, collaborative and creative process. While Reggio Emilia guides the early childhood program, its principles—curiosity, discovery, creativity and the importance of environment—have influenced the design and spirit of the entire campus.

"Our goal was to create a place where learning doesn't stop at graduation or belong to a single age group," said co-founder Hamsa Yaqo. "We wanted to create an environment where curiosity, creativity and human connection are part of everyday life."

The organization's name comes from the Japanese art of Kintsugi, in which broken pottery is repaired with gold. For Kintsugi Village, the metaphor is not about brokenness. Rather, it reflects a belief that people flourish when they experience connection, belonging and community. The campus is intended to be a welcoming haven where relationships are formed, ideas are exchanged and individuals and neighborhoods can grow stronger together.

At a time when many Americans report increasing loneliness and fewer opportunities for meaningful connection, Kintsugi Village offers a different vision: a physical place designed to bring people together across generations, interests and life experiences.

Through educational programming, artistic expression, culinary experiences, community events and shared gathering spaces, Kintsugi Village seeks to become a new model for how communities can foster well-being, creativity, and lifelong learning.

About Kintsugi Village

Kintsugi Village is a Detroit-based nonprofit dedicated to advancing learning, creativity and community well-being by providing accessible spaces and programs that bring people together through education, the arts, culinary experiences and shared gathering. Located in Corktown, Kintsugi Village serves people of all ages through five interconnected pathways: early childhood education, arts and creativity, culinary learning, community connection, and personal growth



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