

Michigan Every Day **By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly**

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Joe Louis fist sculpture dedicated

As a boxer, Joe Louis united a nation in the lead-up to World War II when he defeated German boxer Max Schmeling for the heavy weight title of the world. The city of Detroit honored its hometown hero with a symbol of his strength – an extended fist similar to his boxing jab. Artist Robert Graham 's sculpture to honor Louis was commissioned by Time Inc. and dedicated on October 16, 1986. The 24-foot long black arm and fist is suspended from a pyramid supported in the median on Jefferson Avenue across from the downtown's Hart Plaza. The sculpture weighs approximately 8,000 pounds. A life-sized statue of "The Brown Bomber" is found inside Cobo Hall, near the fist statue.