

FEATURED MOSQUES

The video monitor across from this display features interviews with the leadership of several area mosques. These panels provide background on each mosque and a guide to the content of the videos.



Islamic Center of America

The Islamic Center of America traces its history to the 1950s when a dedicated group of young Lebanese Americans asked Imam Mohamad Jawad Chirri to help them establish Michigan's first Shi'i mosque. The Center dedicated their first building on Joy Road in Detroit in 1963. The community has thrived over the years, and this prosperity is reflected in their new facility on Ford Road in Dearborn. In 1997, the center opened a K-6 school, the Muslim American Youth Academy on Ford Road. The new mosque, at 120,000 square feet in size, is much grander than the original structure, yet both facilities are marked by large social spaces that can accommodate huge crowds for special events and holiday observances.



Al-Islah Islamic Center

The Al-Islah Islamic Center was founded in 2000 by Bangladeshi immigrants, most of whom are followers of Allama Abdul Latif Chowdhury (Fultholi). The first Bangladeshi mosque to open in Hamtramck, the center moved to its current home, a renovated medical clinic, in 2001. The group plans to renovate the building next door and establish a madrasa (religious school) there. The Al-Islah Islamic Center attracted national media attention in 2004 when they tried to broadcast the idhan (call to prayer) from a loudspeaker outside the mosque. While the idhan is freely broadcast in Dearborn and Detroit, many Hamtramck residents opposed the practice, and the Al-Islah leadership found itself embroiled in an election year battle with the City Council. The matter was resolved in a special city-wide referendum, which Al-Islah won handily.



Imam Shuajb Gerguri discusses the history of the Albanian Center, his thoughts on being a European Muslim, and his aspirations for the future (video track 1).

The Albanian Islamic Center

The Albanian Islamic Center, built in Harper Woods in 1963, boasts a distinctive Balkan-style dome and minaret. With a prayer area, offices, large social hall, classrooms, and kitchen, the mosque serves an old Albanian American community (already well established in the 1940s) and newly-arrived immigrants from Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, and other Muslim countries. The center provides weekend religious instruction in Arabic, Albanian, and English along with other educational and service programs. The Albanian Islamic Center is open to Muslims from all ethnic backgrounds, but immigrants from Europe and their descendents form its core membership. The mosque is unusual for its location in Detroit's eastern suburbs.



Abdul Motlib, President, discusses the call to prayer campaign on video track 2

Hajj Hussein Makled, the only surviving member of the Center's founding Board of Directors, recounts key moment in the community's history in Detroit on video track 3, and Hajj Eide Alawan provides a tour of the new center on track 4.

