The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is pleased to bring its 38th annual statewide preservation conference to East Lansing, May 17-19, 2018, headquartered at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center. This year’s theme, “Proactive Preservation,” considers how preservationists can safeguard the cultural assets of their communities, both urban and rural, by sharpening their advocacy skills.

The MHPN conference features four tracks of educational programming facilitated by experts in their fields. For example, Track One showcases inspirational projects from around the state. It features an All-Conference Panel Discussion titled “Advocacy and Proactive Preservation” during which presenters ranging from grass-root activists to lobbyists to legislators talk about strategies for effective preservation. Track Two shares information about policies, incentives, services, and best practices required for success. The MHPN again offers its ticketed Track Two workshop, “Incentives for Preservation Projects,” that looks in-depth at the power of combining financial incentives to bring projects to fruition.

Overseen by the MHPN’s Historic Resource Council, Track Three sessions look at techniques for preserving and restoring historic properties. The Track Three session titled “Got Archaeology? Proactive Preservation with Archaeology and Criterion D” is of interest to anyone working to conserve the below-ground resources of our state. Track Four offers tours of East Lansing that feature projects influenced by citizen advocacy. “Sacred Spaces, Special Places: East Lansing’s Houses of Worship” and “Mid-Century Modern Architecture Meets Mid-Michigan” are just two examples.

Beyond great programming, there is an appealing roster of special events. Two events are free and the public is welcomed. Thursday evening’s Opening Reception and Vendors’ Showcase present an opportunity for conference participants and area residents to learn about resources and products for restoring historic buildings. During the evening, guests can bid on auction items and pick up must-have used books. Also free is Friday afternoon’s annual keynote address, “Advocacy: The Heart of Preservation,” delivered by Renee Kuhlman, Director of Policy Outreach, Government Relations & Policy, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. On Friday night, the MHPN hosts the 27th Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony.

Tickets are available for purchase for valuable how-to sessions such as “Federal Historic Tax Credits 101,” “Conserving History: Using Charitable Contributions of Easements to Protect Historic Structures,” and Saturday morning’s workshop for Historic District Commissioners that considers how historic significance is determined.

Also on Saturday, the 2018 Great Michigan Road Trip “County Seats to Capitals” will explore Mason as a county seat and Lansing as Michigan’s capital city.

For more information, download the brochure at www.mhpn.org, request a copy at admin@mhpn.org, call (517) 371-8080, or register online at http://www.mhpn.org/registration. Costs range from $20-$335 for members with an Early Bird Discount; non-members are welcome but can enjoy discounted fees if they join while registering. For significant savings, consider applying for a scholarship or volunteer position. “Make it an East Lansing Weekend” by taking advantage of the 55th Annual East Lansing Art Festival, the MSU campus, and the Capital Area’s cultural resources. All sessions and tours are approved for AICP, AIA, and MCP credits.
2018 Slate of Nominees to the MHPN Board of Directors

The MHPN Nominating Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present the slate for officers and returning/new board members, to be voted on by the general membership at the May 17, 2018 annual meeting. First, we would like to thank this year’s outgoing board members. Richard Hosey and Ruth Mills are retiring from the board at the end of their third three-year terms. Tim Hunicutt is departing at the end of his second three-year term, and Kathrine Kolokithas resigned at the end of her first three-year term. We are grateful for the leadership these board members have given and look forward to continuing their close relationships with the organization as emeriti board members.

The slate of officers for the 2018-2019 year are Denise McGeen, President; David Varney, Vice-President; Chelsea Sturza, Secretary. The Treasurer position does not currently have a nominee.

Five current MHPN board members are standing for re-election. These individuals are Denise McGeen, Ron Campbell, Karen Nagher, and Gary Rentrop for a third three-year term, and Janet Kreger for a second three-year term.

The Board Development Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present two new candidates for board membership in May, and two 2017 mid-term appointments to be confirmed by the general membership.

Andrew Haan, Kalamazoo
Andrew is the President of Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated. He holds a Master of Science in Historic Preservation with Specialization in Downtown Revitalization from Eastern Michigan University. Most recently, Andrew served as Associate Director of the Governor’s Office of Urban Initiatives for Southwest Michigan and previously, as Executive Director of Downtown Muskegon Now. Andrew serves on the Local Advisory Board of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

W. Bradley McCallum, Detroit/Mackinac Island (2017 Mid-Term Appointment)
Bradley currently serves as Chairman of the Mackinac Island Historic District Commission, in addition to his role as vice-president and managing director of Mission Point Resort, on Mackinac Island. A Detroit native, he returned to Michigan in 2008, having spent a number of years living in Europe. He has served as president of the Mackinac Arts Council for the past five years. He currently splits his time between Mackinac Island and his home in Lafayette Park in Detroit.

Cara Soh, Grosse Pointe Park
Cara is an active volunteer with MHPN and currently holds the position of senior architect at Quinn Evans Architects in its Detroit office. She earned Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Michigan and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Columbia University. She has served as a member of the board of the Historic Preservation Commission in Maplewood, NJ and is currently an active member of Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners and Habitat for Humanity Detroit.

Chelsea Sturza, Royal Oak (2017 Mid-Term Appointment)
Chelsea is an Assistant Project Manager with The Christman Company. She first became affiliated with MHPN while earning a Master of Science in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University, and working with the State Historic Preservation Office reviewing federal historic tax credit applications. Chelsea previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University.

Proposed Bylaw Change for 2018

The Board of Directors is proposing the following change to the bylaws for approval by the membership at the annual meeting on May 17, 2018, at the opening session of the conference.

Proposed Amendment
Article III: Membership and Voting Privileges.

1. Membership in the MHPN shall be of eight FIVE (5) categories: Historic District Commission/Study Committee, Organization/Business/Institution/Government, Historic Resource Council (“HRC”), and, for individuals and households: Basic Membership, AND Student/Senior Patron, Sponsor, and Benefactor.

2. Individual and household members in the five two (5) categories of: Basic Membership AND Student/Senior Patron, Sponsor and Benefactor each BOTH shall have one (1) vote, and are entitled to hold office and participate in meetings of the MHPN.

Rationale:
The proposed Amendment removes early donor recognition levels associated with annual memberships. These recognition levels accommodated a gift made with membership, naming the member a Patron, Sponsor, or Benefactor if adding $100, $250, or $500, respectively, to their membership fee.

The reason for removing these donor levels is that, over time, they have been supplanted by the MHPN’s Heritage Society. Established in 1999, the Heritage Society recognizes members who commit to making gifts of at least $1,000 in each of three consecutive years. Gifts levels are established for donors annually giving $1,000, $2,500, $5,000, and so forth. The MHPN has developed a package of benefits associated with Heritage Society membership and participation in the program is promoted and recognized.

With growth of the Heritage Society, the earlier donor recognition levels associated with membership are neither promoted nor have benefits or recognition associated with them. Participation is limited. Their elimination will remove the confusion of having a second set of gift levels in addition to those of the Heritage Society.

The MHPN will continue to ask for a new or renewing member’s gift support with membership, but it will be open-ended in amounts of the member’s choice.
Our MI Impact Coalition effort to reinstate Michigan’s Historic Tax Credit is off to a great start!

Bills to reinstate the Michigan Historic Tax Credit (HTC) have been introduced in both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives. Senate Bill 469, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), and House Bill 5178 (Rep. Ben Frederick, R-Owosso) would reinstate the popular program and economic development engine that offered a credit of up to 25 percent of rehabilitation expenses against state income tax liability. Before it was eliminated in 2011, the HTC consistently proved to be a sound investment for Michigan, returning $11 for every $1 put into the program. And, unlike the federal tax credit program, the Michigan HTC could be used on both commercial buildings and residential properties.

Thanks to your support, the bill passed the state Senate in December by a 36-2 margin, and now moves on to the House.

MHPN has been meeting one-on-one with members of the House Tax Policy committee and is receiving positive feedback on the proposed new legislation. MHPN hopes that a committee hearing will be scheduled by mid to late April, which means that we will need our friends to take action! Contact your legislators, plan to be in Lansing for the hearing, and testify in favor of the tax credit. MHPN will keep everyone informed with meeting schedules so you can do your part to make this happen.

Though MHPN is emboldened by the response from legislators and constituents alike, reinstatement of the HTC is not a slam dunk - and we need your continued support. Here are just a few suggestions on how to get involved:


• Follow us on social media and please share our posts with your friends and followers. This will demonstrate to lawmakers that there is widespread support for the HTC legislation from across the state for this invaluable development and preservation tool! Please “like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/miimpact2018 and follow us on Twitter at @MIImpact2018 and on Instagram at @MIImpact.

• Check out our newly launched website, www.miimpact.com, where you can find documents and information on the HTC, and reinstatement progress. Please feel free to share this material widely! Spread the word about the HTC legislation by sharing your photos and stories of buildings that have been saved thanks to the historic tax credit or could be saved if it were reinstated. Please send your photos and stories to dan@vandykehorn.com.

MHPN Launches the Living Trades Academy

The Living Trades Academy is designed to create opportunities for underemployed and unemployed Detroiter to become skilled building tradespeople. The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is piloting the nine-week program in a former neighborhood synagogue built on King Street in the mid-1920s south of Holbrook and west of what today is I-75. A "living lab" for high-demand traditional building trades, the building serves a dozen participants learning new skills from experienced preservation craftspeople as they restore the building as a community center. The broader community was introduced to the Academy at a press conference held on site on Friday morning, March 9, 2018.

MHPN Executive Director Nancy Finegood announces the launch of the Living Trades Academy (courtesy of Janet Kreger).

A Planned Gift is a Gift to the Future

We ask you to consider designating the Michigan Historic Preservation Network as one of the beneficiaries in your will, living trust, retirement plan, or other account. A gift to the future, your planned gift assures that the MHPN will continue to protect our state’s cultural resources and keep them a vital part of our lives…just as you have done during your lifetime.

If you’ve already included the MHPN in your estate plan, please let us know. If you’re thinking of doing so, we would be pleased to send you “Making a Charitable Bequest to the MHPN” to share with your advisor. Contact Janet Kreger, MHPN Fund Development Committee, at 734-222-9310 or kregerj1981@att.net.

Your information is treated with confidentiality.
To join MHPN, get more information about our organization and its activities, and to see a list of upcoming events, please go to our website at

www.MHPN.org

For Individuals and Households: For other entities:

- $45 Basic Membership - $80 Organization/ Institution/
- $25 Student (enclose copy of student ID) Government
- $25 Senior (age 60 and older) Historic Resource Council

Add an optional extra gift to your membership:

- $50 Sustaining $250 Sponsor
- $100 Patron $500 Benefactor

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed (payable to ‘MHPN’) Charge my: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Discover

Name on Card ____________________________ Member’s Name ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Street Address ____________________________

Credit Card Number ____________________________ City/State/Zip ____________________________

Expiration Date M/Y ____________________________ Email Address ____________________________

CVV (3 digit verification code on back of card) ____________ (required to process card)

Card Holder’s Signature ____________________________

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