Members and friends of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) have gotten together every fall for twenty years. Not to advocate for legislation, or to convene for a workshop, or to do long-range planning. They get together to have a great time at the MHPN’s Annual Fall Benefit!

The MHPN always chooses a noteworthy historic venue as the evening’s backdrop. “Most often we have been in Detroit at such landmark buildings as the Fisher, Grand Army of the Republic, or Guardian,” notes Nancy Finegood, MHPN Executive Director, “or at such venerable gathering spots as the Detroit Athletic, Golf, or Yacht Clubs. Many times, we have traveled to other parts of the state to enjoy the Union Station in Durand, the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, or the Masonic Temple in Ypsilanti.”

This fall, the MHPN will be at the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, a building with a story of stunning reclamation. Detroit architect Mortimer Smith designed the exquisite Second Empire façade of the Tibbits Opera House built in 1882. In the 1930s, the theatre had every shred of exterior 19th century detailing destroyed during its conversion into a “modern” Art Deco movie theater. Removal of the Deco façade in the 1960s and covering the original brick to conserve it until restoration funds could be raised, reduced the building to a characterless box whose importance lay hidden. The Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc. proposed in 1999 to have the theatre restored to its original grandeur. Funds were raised, scaffolding went up in February of 2012, and façade work was completed later in 2013.

Christine Delaney, Executive Director of the Tibbits Opera House, has written that restoration of the building to its original magnificence has had a far-reaching effect on the theatre, the community, and architectural preservation in general. “People who were not familiar with Tibbits had no way of recognizing the value of the building,” Delaney noted. “The restored façade has drawn an increase in theatergoers through a renewed interest in the facility and Tibbits’ programs, which in turn is having a very positive impact on the local economy.”

“We welcome the public to this 20th annual event,” states Emily Jarvi, MHPN Fall Benefit Manager for the past five years. “It includes strolling dinner fare and dessert, a hosted beer and wine bar, opera house tours, silent and live auctions, and more.” RSVP by Friday, October 3 on-line or by printing a registration form at www.mhpn.org. The website also includes information on the evening’s commuter bus originating in Southeast Michigan and requiring an earlier RSVP by Wednesday, September 10.

Fall Benefit tickets are $100 per person, or $75 for students and government employees; the commuter bus adds $38 per person round-trip. The Tibbits Opera House is located at 14 South Hanchett Street in Coldwater, MI 49036. The facility is barrier free; some portions visited during the tours are not. City parking is across the street and free. Dress is business attire. For more information, go to the MHPN website at www.mhpn.org, call 517-371-8080, or e-mail admin@mhpn.org.
The City of Midland was home to Alden B. Dow and today offers one of the most impressive concentrations of Modern design in the nation. We confirmed Midland as our host city during “Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America,” the symposium and exhibition at Cranbrook that during the summer of 2013 drew the nation’s attention to the significant role Michigan played in the global development of Modernism. This role was amplified when the exhibition was expanded and opened at the Grand Rapids Art Museum this summer, again with an accompanying symposium.

We have thought about how best to focus on Modernism while assuring that architectural historians, preservationists, archaeologists, as well as all their related allies can contribute to the program in their own ways and find their participation worthwhile. We can do this by making the following point: We may be calling mid-twentieth century design “Modern,” but when has anyone designed or built anything to be outdated? Whether prehistoric 17th century Woodland Period cultures constructing shelters, the 18th century French building Fort St. Joseph at Niles, 19th century Victorians abandoning Classicism and experimenting with every building system from framing to plumbing, or Alden Dow perfecting the Unit Block, each sought to be original, inventive, new. Thus springs our working title, “Always Seeking Modern.”

Conference Tracks:

The Midland Conference will include the MHPN’s usual five tracks. Would an idea of yours have a good fit?

Track One: “Theme” focuses on the conference theme of “Always Seeking Modern” and considers a wide array of options, many of which dovetail with the preservation’s emphasis on placemaking. Some ideas include:

• Tapping the wide variety of historic and pre-historic resources whose makers sought to be original and inventive—including buildings, structures, sites, objects, features, natural open spaces, and man-made landscapes, either alone or as cultural ensembles.
• Considering the usefulness of these resources to preservation as an economic stimulant for Michigan communities.
• Emphasizing preservation’s power to spur “destination tourism,” “new urbanism,” “traditional downtowns,” and more.

Track Two: “Information” looks at the laws, policies, designations, and incentives available to protect and continue to use the historic resources that were our predecessors’ successes at inventiveness and modernity. Consider:

• Integrating the various programs of tax credits and loans, assistance, easements, etc., and working with all parties involved on financial packages that make preservation projects succeed.
• Becoming familiar with the laws and policies, the codes and procedures needed to effectively advocate for preservation.
• Identifying best practices in historic preservation, land use, and cultural activities that can be primary to a community’s revitalization, not just a sidelong.

Track Three: “Applied Skills” taps those who participate in the MHPN’s Historic Resource Council and focus on the traditional trades, crafts, and hands-on techniques that make preservation possible. Ideas might include:

• Presenting inspirational case studies of once-modern buildings saved from demolition, adaptively reused, and returned to inventive new uses.
• Considering the connections between preservation and the Green Movement and LEED rating systems to demonstrate that historic buildings, once new and cutting-edge, can be energy efficient again.
• Showcasing the people doing hands-on work with historic resources, both trade professionals and those working on their own properties.

Track Four: “Partners” provides the opportunity for them-related presentations by, among others, MSHDA’s State Historic Preservation Office, State Archaeologist, and Michigan Main Street Program; the Michigan Barn Preservation Network; those conserving cultural landscapes; members of the Michigan Archaeological Society and the Conference on Michigan Archaeology; and members of other allied groups such as the organization for the Documentation and Conservation of...
Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement (DOCOMOMO), The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), and The Association for Preservation Technology (APT).

Track Five: “Tours” presents tours developed by the host community to showcase the conference theme and inspire participants. Abstracts are not called for this track, but your ideas are welcomed and will be shared with the Planning Group.

Abstract Submission: An Abstract must include the following six parts. Prepare and submit them via e-mail as a Word document. No scanned or .pdf documents please.

• Title: Provide a title that will capture the audience’s attention.

• Summary: In 300 words or less, describe the session. This Summary allows the Selection Committee to understand what you propose to achieve. The MHPN endorses the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and, if appropriate to your topic, asks that you describe your adherence to them in this Summary.

• Learning Objectives: Provide at least four (4) brief Learning Objectives fulfilled by your proposed session. These help secure continuing education credits from the American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Certified Planners, etc.

• Topic Statement: The Topic Statement of 50 words or less becomes the description in the conference brochure – if your Abstract is selected – meant to engage the conference’s attendees.

• Speaker’s Contact Information: For each speaker, provide:
  o Name as it would appear in the conference brochure
  o Any suffixes to the name – i.e. Ph.D., AIA, Esq., CPA, etc.
  o Title
  o Affiliation
  o Mailing address
  o Phone

  o E-mail
  o Confirmation that each speaker is available Thursday and Friday, May 14-15, 2015.
  o For a panel, who is best to contact with any questions.

• Biography: 150 words or less for each speaker, covering such things as education, relevant experience, role in a project, etc.

Deadline: Abstracts are due on or before Sunday, September 14, 2014, by midnight, to Janet Kreger (kregerj1981@att.net), conference co-manager; she will acknowledge its arrival by return e-mail. Janet, or another member of the Planning Group, will respond to e-mailed questions you might have as you prepare your Abstract. Sample Abstracts are available on request.

Acceptance/Decline and MHPN Terms of Participation: The Selection Committee will notify selected speakers on or before Sunday, October 5, 2014, by midnight. Declines will also be acknowledged and the Abstracts archived.

If a speaker is selected, the MHPN hosts them on the day he or she speaks, including registration fee, food and beverages, and evening activities. The MHPN offers much-reduced registration fees for any additional conference days.

In return, the speaker agrees to present during the designated time slot without compensation, reimbursement for travel or overnight costs, or an honorarium.

Speaker Recognition: Although speakers are not remunerated, their names and affiliations are included in a well-recognized conference brochure with a distribution of over 10,000 copies in Michigan, in the Midwest, and around the country; their participation is noted on preservation-related websites, social media sites, and in e-blasts; and they are featured at a conference with 375-400 participants.

Thank you for submitting your Abstract for a great session!
Michigan Modern in Grand Rapids

After the success of the exhibition and symposium at Cranbrook in 2013, Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America moved to Grand Rapids in 2014. The exhibition, which was redesigned by Seth Keller of Chicago for the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM), opened in May and runs through August 24.

A second symposium was held June 19-21, which included a keynote presentation by New York-based designer Todd Oldham, an interview of play sculpture artist Jim Miller-Melberg by Debbie Millman, various tours in the West Michigan, and lectures by speakers from around the country.

The symposium began at the GRAM with a reception and the keynote by Oldham who spoke about his latest book, the first major retrospective on designer Alexander Girard’s work. One of the most prolific mid-twentieth century designers, Girard worked in many disciplines, including textile design, graphic design, typography, illustration, furniture design, interior design, product design, exhibit design, and architecture.

Other highlights from the symposium included a tour of the Herman Miller Furniture Company in Zeeland. Attendees were able to tour the company archives, the light-filled GreenHouse, the award-winning Design Yard, and the company’s formal Headquarters, which was designed by George Nelson and Gordon Chadwick in 1958. There was also a presentation titled Threads, given by Steve Frykholm and Clark Malcom, where they used videos, audio clips, and images to tell the stories behind Herman Miller’s rich legacy of design, inclusiveness, and creativity. Mira Nakashima, daughter of woodworker George Nakashima, gave a presentation called Nakashima’s “Origins,” which gave a look into his life, his design philosophy and its effect on his work.

Other presenters included Donald Albrecht, Emily Bills, Christian G. Carron, Karen Carter, John Comazzi, Anthony Fontenot, Eric J. Hill, Reed Kroloff, Debbie Millman, Marilyn Moss, Geoffrey D. Reynolds, and Susan Szenasy.

Special events included an opening reception for Michigan Modern: “Killing It,” which was an exhibition at Kendall College of Art and Design, highlighting the booming and new breed of graphic design post World War II, and a meet and greet with Docomomo US/Michigan chapter. Docomomo is an opportunity to document, promote, protect, and reuse Michigan’s modern resources. To find out more information check out its website at http://docomomo-us.org/michigan or follow its Facebook page, Mich Docomomo.

For more information on Michigan Modern, go to our website or follow us on Facebook.
Bob Christensen Receives MSHDA Above and Beyond Award

Congratulations to National Register Coordinator Bob Christensen, who received the 2014 Above and Beyond award for excellence from MSHDA at a luncheon recognizing staff contributions. SHPO staff submitted the nomination along with letters of support from a number of colleagues in the field, including National Park Service Historian Patrick Andrus, MDOT’s Sigrid Bergland, and the MHPN’s own Janet Kreger. According to Andrus, “During Bob’s tenure as National Register coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan has produced nominations of properties to the National Register which few states can match in terms of quality of documentation.”

Bob’s work for the last 35 years has helped strengthen Michigan communities through the preservation of their historic resources. Virtually all of the historic rehabilitation projects undertaken in Michigan during the last three decades began with sites being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with Bob’s help. Congratulate Bob and say “thank you” next time you see him.

SHPO Staff Changes

The SHPO said farewell to four staff this spring.

Information Coordinator Ted Grevstad-Norbrock accepted a faculty position in Iowa State University’s planning department, where he will create a historic preservation curriculum from the ground up. Ted led the development of a request for proposal for the SHPO’s planned online database. Work is underway to fill his position.

Grants Manager and Budget Analyst Denise Sachau retired after twenty-five years of service to the citizens of Michigan. Denise’s retirement plans include traveling to national parks with her husband Dave in their new RV.

After nearly eight years as Main Street designer, and lots of travel around Michigan, Kelly Larson returned home to Kansas and began a new career as the Lincoln County economic development director.

Jessica Puff worked at the SHPO for four years as a volunteer, a student, and a temporary employee. She devoted most of her time to the Michigan Modern website, symposia and exhibitions. Jessica now works at the Hawaii SHPO.

In September, the SHPO will welcome Joelle Letts as the grants manager/budget analyst. Joelle has a bachelor of arts from the James Madison College of MSU and is currently a departmental analyst in the Budget and Accounting Division of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. She has a strong grants management and fiscal management background together with experience in dealing with historic armories. Welcome Joelle!

SHPO Grant Program Update

Over the course of the summer, the SHPO was fortunate to have two new grant programs added to its collection of available financial incentives. In June the National Park Service (NPS) announced the availability of the National Maritime Heritage Grants. A total of $1.7 million is available for this first grant round with an application deadline of September 23. The grants are for education and preservation activities related to maritime resources and can range from $25,000 to $200,000 with a one-to-one match requirement. The SHPO will partner with NPS to administer the grant program. Detailed information can be found at the NPS Maritime Heritage Program web page at www.nps.gov/maritime. In July the SHPO was invited to partner with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), to develop a Michigan Heritage Restoration Program (MHRP) with $600,000 that was placed in the MEDC budget by the Michigan legislature. Following the models established by the Certified Local Government (CLG) grants and the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grants, the SHPO will develop a program for the MHRP grants by October 1, 2014. The SHPO staff is excited about these two new opportunities to provide significant funding for important planning and rehabilitation projects in our great state!

Upcoming Deadlines
MLAP applications: November 21, 2014
CLG applications: December 19, 2014

MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2014

Saturday, October 18, 2018
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Michigan Historical Center
702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing

Admission free courtesy of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority
SHPO Outreach Specialists Hit the Road

When we reported on Jessica Flores and Mollie Olinyk in July 2012, they were finishing up their Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) duties. Since then they have been serving as SHPO outreach specialists, working closely with colleagues throughout state government. The focus of their collaboration is to identify ways to combine resources in the governor’s Prosperity Regions in order to make placemaking projects happen.

The Pure MI MiPlace Regional Team Meetings also known as “Team Michigan” were held in prosperity regions throughout the state and brought together state agency field representatives to meet one another and to exchange ideas, discuss current and future projects, and to brainstorm. They discuss interdisciplinary collaboration, “silo-busting” opportunities, and strategic placemaking activities in the region. A recent article in the St. Ignace News reported the team’s meeting in Mackinac County.

Jessica Flores serves Prosperity Regions 1-8, which include all but southeast Michigan, so she puts many miles on the SHPO car. Jessica visits communities from Allegan to Gaylord to Calumet with her MiPlace colleagues, spreading the word about placemaking, the Certified Local Government Program, and educating officials and other stakeholders about available state programs. She also consistently reminds them of the transformational effect historic rehabilitation can have.

Mollie covers Prosperity Regions 9 and 10 in Southeast Michigan, including the city of Detroit, where efforts are underway to stabilize the city and create a sense of place within 139 square miles and over 100 distinct “neighborhoods.” Mollie collaborates with the City of Detroit, MEDC, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC), the Detroit Land Bank Authority, MHPN, MDOT, DEQ, DNR, HUD, nonprofit groups, and scores of public and private developers on planning and rehabilitation projects as well as the application of programs to build historic preservation capacity within the city. Mollie also worked in conjunction with MHPN, the city, and other organizations to develop projects such as the Detroit Regional Workshop series—targeted on an at risk neighborhood with high potential for rehabilitation and stabilization.

In addition, Jessica and Mollie work closely with Historical Architect Robb McKay on potential historic rehabilitation projects using the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit program.

If you are aware of projects that would benefit from their expertise, call them at 517-373-1630 or email floresj3@michigan.gov or olinykm@michigan.gov.

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Reminder

Historical Architect Robb McKay wants to remind everyone to be sure and use the 2014 version of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit form. Using the old form will result in delays.

First Dig Camp a Success!

SHPO archaeologists teamed up with Michigan Historical Museum staff to lead a group of 10-12 year olds at Dig Camp, a week-long day camp at the Michigan Historical Center. Students learned different soil types, mapping skills, how to analyze artifacts, about ethics and personal responsibility, and how to use a surveying instrument to put in stakes and string to set up a grid of excavation units. They also worked in mock excavation units and screened the soil looking for artifacts and other evidence of the past. The lesson plan was designed using the core concepts of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. Both campers and staff had a great week, and the museum plans to offer the program again next year.
MHPN 2014 Annual Preservation Awards

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s (MHPN) annual preservation awards ceremony was held May 16, 2014 at the Michigan Theatre of Jackson in Jackson, Michigan. Fourteen awards were presented in six categories. They include:

**Lifetime Achievement Awards**
Cooper Stephen Demeter, Jackson. Steve was honored posthumously for his lifetime of dedication to discovering and sharing the prehistory and history of Michigan.

Norman and Irena R. Tyler, Ann Arbor. The Tylers’ unique forty-plus year partnership has been committed to preserving communities through advocacy, teaching, and professional practice.

**Building Awards**
DeZwaan Windmill, Holland, for the restoration of an 18th century Dutch windmill, brought to Holland in 1964.

Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, Frankfort, for the transformation of a USCG station into a community arts hub.

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Port Huron, for the restoration of Michigan’s oldest lighthouse as one of its newest tourist destinations.

Stewart Edward White Hall, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, for the creation of a sustainable, accessible facility within a 1907 Tudor Revival mansion.

The 2014 winner of the **Government/Institution Award** is the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, for its Michigan Modern project.

**Preservation Gem Awards**
Detroit Institute of Arts Theater Terrace Arcade, Detroit, for the rehabilitation of the iconic marble arcade and stair.

Honolulu House Museum Fence, Marshall, for the meticulous recreation of this unique museum’s ornate fence.

Tibbits Opera House Façade, Coldwater, for the reconstitution of the stately façade, hidden for more than seventy years.

The 2014 **Cultural Landscape Award** was presented to the McGregor Memorial Conference Center Reflecting Pool and Sculpture Garden at Wayne State University in Detroit.

**Tax Credit Awards**
Coronado Apartments, Detroit, for the provision of twenty-four safe and upgraded affordable housing units in this 1894 building.

Cottage 36, The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, Traverse City, for the creation of twenty-nine eco-friendly housing units within the renewed former Northern Michigan Asylum complex.

For pictures of the winners, a list of previous winners, and more information about the Annual MHPN Awards program, go to our website at [http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=150](http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=150).

New features at www.mhpn.org

Like many who spend time on the internet, we at MHPN are always seeking new and better information to share on our website. In fact, if you haven’t been to the site recently (www.mhpn.org)—you are certainly going to want to check out all the new features.

- We’ve added social networking icons that pop-up as soon as you open the site (www.mhpn.org). Don’t worry if you miss them on the home page because they will open for each new page you visit and float near the bottom right corner of your screen for easy access.
  - MHPN is on Facebook
  - We Tweet using the name @mihpn
  - We are on LinkedIn
  - And on YouTube
  - Instagram (coming soon to the social networking icons on the website) is #michiganplacesmatter

- One of the newest pages on the MHPN website is our exciting new Michigan Historic Properties for Sale. This page features buildings around Michigan that are over 50 years old and could be the answer to a preservationists dream. Properties are updated regularly so check back often. Oh, and if you want to list a historic property in your community, we invite you to use the submission form at the top of the webpage.

- In June MHPN launched the video “Vacant Not Blighted.” You can find the video on our YouTube page or click on it directly at [http://vimeo.com/96926735](http://vimeo.com/96926735)

- Coming events can be found in several areas.
  - Check for the latest information on the Fall Benefit (to be held this year at the fabulous Tibbits Opera House, Coldwater, Michigan, on Saturday, October 11, 2014).
  - The call for Abstracts for the 2015 conference, “Always Seeking Modern,” has been issued with all the details found on the Conference webpage.
  - Watch for the latest news about house parties or Bring Your Own Hard Hat (BYOHH) Parties

- Don’t forget that you can get the latest news on MHPN either in MHPN in the News or MHPN Press Releases.

Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival 2014

October 9-12, 2014
APLEX Event Center
701 Woodward Avenue, Alpena

The four day event offers activities for people of all ages. Lighthouses from Tawas to Mackinaw will be open for tours (aerial, boat or personal vehicle). The festival boasts entertainment and more than 100 maritime-related vendors including lighthouse preservation groups, artists, authors and more.
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:

- $40 Basic Membership
- $20 Student (enclose copy of student ID)
- $20 Senior (age 60 and older)

Add an optional extra gift to your membership:

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