On February 21, 2017, preservation advocates from across Michigan gathered in Lansing to attend the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s (MHPN) Second Annual Advocacy Day. More than 40 preservationists gathered to learn how to urge their state legislators to include preservation while planning Michigan’s future. Kicking off the day was Melissa McKinley, MHPN’s lobbyist, on the topic of Lobbying 101. This session included the basics of lobbying legislators in face-to-face meetings, and focused on the benefit of sharing personal stories as they relate to the state’s critical issues.

Attendees learned the basics of advocacy, networked with other like-minded preservationists, heard updates from legislators and state department directors, and met with their own legislators to discuss preservation issues. Included in the specific issues covered by advocates were the current Downtown Development Authority bills and the restoration of Residential Historic Tax Credits.

The keynote presentation was made by MHPN field representative, Ellen Thackery, who presented MHPN’s analysis and new report, Local Historic Districts and Property Values in Michigan Neighborhoods. The results of the report supported preservation advocates’ efforts in 2016 to save Michigan’s Local Historic Districts. “The findings of the statistical analysis confirmed that in Michigan, like similar studies completed across the country, local historic district designation enhances property values,” said MHPN’s executive director Nancy Finegood.

Advocacy Day is intended to help preservationists gain confidence in their negotiation of legislation that impacts historic resources, no matter if it is local, state, or federal level. Without the strong grass-roots core that MHPN boasts, our ability to show up, speak up, and speak out would be severely limited. It is only with our strong advocates that we can truly protect Michigan’s historic places, our economic vitality, sense of place, and connection to the past. We hope to see you next year! ✨

Postcard Advocacy

Preservation Detroit and MHPN recently collaborated on a postcard advocacy project at Building Hugger’s second annual Community Mingle in Detroit on Saturday, February 25. After speaking about preservation advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal level, we encouraged attendees to write to their elected representatives and strategic Michigan congresspeople (such as members of the House Ways and Means Committee) to support the federal historic tax credit during upcoming tax reform conversations. The postcards featured images of a variety of successful federal historic tax credit projects in Detroit, from the Bagley-Trumbull Market in Corktown to the David Whitney Building in Grand Circus Park.

Preservation Detroit has organized postcard writing nights before and annually hosts a postcard signing party where participants can write postcards to the Mayor and members of Detroit’s City Council to speak up for the importance of protecting Detroit’s historic resources for the long-term future. If you are interested in conducting a similar activity in your community, please visit their website at www.preservationdetroit.org. ✨
The MHPN Annual Conference is just weeks away, and we hope you will be joining us in Emmet County May 17-20 to attend our fantastic lineup of educational sessions, conference tours, and special events. Looking for a few activities that could encompass your down time during the Michigan Historic Preservation Network’s Annual Conference—or considering Making it an Emmet County Weekend? Look no further! Emmet County is rich in history, plentiful in natural wonders, and known for its vineyards.

There is a reason that Michiganders are known for “Going Up North.” The landscape in Emmet County is diverse and breathtaking. Among the most notable areas to experience include Petoskey State Park. This park encompasses 303 acres located between Harbor Springs and Petoskey, including 103 acres of beautiful shoreline. For bicyclers, the Little Traverse Wheelway route stretches 26 miles across the Little Traverse Bay.

Experience the landscape while dining at Harbor Springs Vineyards and Winery. Located on Pond Hill Farm along the scenic tunnel of trees, this tastning room and vineyard harboors amazing views, fantastic wines, and a local produce market featuring items grown on site. They also offer organic meals to pair with their delicious wines. Tunnel Vision Brewery is also located on site. There are several additional breweries located in Emmet County, including Burnt Marshmallow Brewing in Petoskey. The beer created here is brewed using ingredients sourced on the 190-acre farm of Rudbeckia. Seven rotating taps are featured. This brewery is co-located with Rudbeckia Winery, making it another great destination for the beer and wine lovers.

Whether your preference may be to shop, dine, or relax at any of the many designated natural sites of Emmet County, there is something for you to pair with your time at the MHPN Annual Conference. And remember when you share your adventures on social media to use #mhpn2017—so everyone can see the fun!

For more information on the conference and to register, head over to http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=154.

Have you included the MHPN in your estate plan?

Having an estate plan that reflects your wishes is important. It is meant to make your intentions clear, written when you have the time to think things through. Taking care of your family comes first of course. But there also are organizations to which you’ve been devoted during your lifetime that welcome your consideration. If historic preservation has been a passion, the MHPN may be one of them.

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.
Proposed Bylaw Changes for 2017

This year, the Board of Directors is proposing two changes to the bylaws to reflect alterations to its committee structure. In the first change, the Nominating Committee is transitioning to a standing (rather than ad hoc) Board Development committee to better recruit and nurture its board members. The Board is also establishing a standing Finance Committee to better provide financial guidance and oversight to the Board of Directors and the organization. In the text below, language being removed is indicated by a strikeout, while proposed new language is in italics.

Article VII: Committees and Duties

3. The **Nominating Board Development Committee** shall consist of five (5) Board members who shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Board of Directors at least three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting. The **Nominating Board Development Committee** shall be a standing committee whose purpose is to identify potential new Directors, arrange mentoring and professional development for new and continuing Directors, retain existing Directors, and conduct exit interviews with departing Directors. The Board Development Committee shall prepare a slate of individuals who have agreed to serve as a Director and a slate of Directors who have agreed to serve as officers, and present the slates for separate votes by the full Board of Directors. The slates shall be presented to the membership thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

4. The **Finance Committee** shall be a standing committee whose purpose is to provide financial guidance and oversight to the MHPN on behalf of the Board of Directors. Members of the Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Board of Directors. The work of the Finance Committee shall include but not be limited to working with the Board Treasurer and staff to develop the annual operating budget, review audit and tax returns annually, guide MHPN’s long-term investments, protect MHPN’s assets, and provide financial training for the Board of Directors to better ensure informed votes on financial matters.

The change in name to the Board Development Committee necessitated minor alterations in several other areas of the bylaws where that committee is referenced.

Article V: Board of Directors

2. The Board of Directors shall be so constituted as to represent the population of the State of Michigan both geographically and demographically, to the extent that suitable candidates are available to the **nominating board development committee**.

3. The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint any MHPN member in good standing or official representative of a member organization, commission, professional/corporation, HRC, or affiliate group in good standing to fill any vacancies that may occur in its membership until the next election; appointees shall be chosen from nominations provided by the **nominating board development committee**.
   a. Someone appointed to fill a vacancy is not assured

that the Board of Directors will vote to approve their nomination in the next general election. If chosen by the **nominating board development committee**, voted by the Board of Directors to be part of its slate of board nominees for presentation at the Annual Meeting, and approved by a vote of the full membership, the person shall begin their first three-year (3-year) term at that time.

6. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any member of the Board of Directors to fill any vacancy that may occur in its membership until the next election; appointees shall be chosen from nominations provided by the **nominating board development committee**.

2017 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 upon by the general membership at May’s annual meeting. First, we would like to thank this year’s outgoing board members. Cheryl Early is departing at the end of her third three-year term. Gregory Saxton and Christine Bowman have both left the board during their second terms due to other commitments, and Nancy Bryk has resigned at the end of her first term. We are grateful for the leadership these board members have given, no matter the length of their service, and look forward to continuing their close relationships with the organization as emeriti board members.

The slate of officers for the 2017-2018 year are Denise McGeen, President; David Varney, Vice-President; Kathrine Kolokithas, Secretary, and Chip Windisch, Treasurer. Current President Ruth Mills will become Immediate Past President upon the election of the new officers.

Three current MHPN board members are standing for re-election. These individuals are Richard Karp (Lansing) for a third three-year term, and Dawn Bilobran (Detroit) and Kathrine Kolokithas (Brighton) for a second three-year term.

The Board Development Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present one new candidate for board membership in May.

Elaine Robinson, Jackson

Elaine Robinson, M.S. Historic Preservation, has been employed at Commonwealth Heritage Group for over 20 years and is currently a Senior Architectural Historian in the Jackson office. Outside work, Elaine has been active in historic preservation organizations since 1983 when she joined Preservation Wayne (now Preservation Detroit). Elaine was on the MHPN Board of Directors from 2005-2014 where she held several officer roles, including Treasurer, Vice-President, and President (3 years). It was also during this time that she began her tenure as chair of the Communications Committee which continues today. In this role, she leads projects such as the tri-annual publication of this newsletter, the Annual Report, the MHPN website, including the Michigan Places Matters program, and MHPN's social networking efforts.
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/Government
_____ $25 Student (enclose copy of student ID)  _____ $140 Historic Resource Council
_____ $25 Senior (age 60 and older)  _____ $150 Historic District Commission or Committee (up to 10 members)

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 __________________________________________________________________

Please Join Us! Complete and return the attached membership form today.