

“Toolkits and Wheelhouses”

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network announces its
39th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18, 2019
Holland, Michigan

headquartered at the Haworth Inn and Conference Center
located on the historic campus of Hope College.

You are invited to submit a session abstract to be considered for presentation.

Deadline: Sunday, September 9, 2018, midnight.

***Abstracts are welcomed from Michigan's
Upper and Lower Peninsulas as well as from neighboring states and Canada
and may come from individuals and panels.***

About Our Theme “Toolkits and Wheelhouses ”

Many Michigan communities have nurtured effective preservation programs – i.e. those that passed their local protective ordinances in the '70s and '80s and use them well, those that spur effective community participation, and those that have included preservation in their planning and development activities and utilized local, state, and federal programs to greatest effect. Many other communities have younger preservation programs but much to share because they have avoided known pitfalls and used new techniques – i.e. those that include in their initial survey work not just buildings but the historic trees, alleys, and outbuildings around them, those that are recognizing the importance of protecting their Mid-Century Modern architecture before it is lost, and those embracing new protection techniques such as Form-Based Codes that fully integrate preservation into zoning laws.

Communities both new and seasoned can learn from these preservation champions and, perhaps more importantly, see that no matter how effective a community has been, constant vigilance and education are required and some battles are lost. Participants will see what successful programs keep honed in their toolkits to make preservation work, and which communities have the advantage of preservation being firmly in their wheelhouses. What is shared can apply directly to traditional downtowns and neighborhoods, archaeological resources, architectural treasures of the recent past, Legacy Cities, the fragile shoreline and agricultural communities that face constant development pressure, and more.

Holland is the perfect host community for considering this theme because the city has a great array of architectural resources, a well-established protective ordinance, one of the first city-funded professional preservation positions, and a community with a sound preservation ethic. Having presentations from communities throughout the State will be our goal, with emphasis placed on those presenting best practices, inspiring successes, and failures that are cautionary tales.

We'll use Holland – as well as its surrounding communities – to instruct and inspire ourselves. Your session could help assure the success of the conference!

Three Conference Tracks:

Conference programming gives participants an opportunity to experience the City of Holland, the historic campus of Hope College, and some of the smaller, history-rich communities in the area. Against this backdrop, we seek a wide array of abstracts for our three program tracks and welcome submissions from individuals and panels from Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas as well as from neighboring states and Canada. Would a session idea of yours have a good fit?

Track One: "Theme" - focuses on the conference theme of "Toolkits and Wheelhouses." Some session ideas might include:

- Considering the tools used to spur economic revitalization, a sense of place, destination tourism, the reclamation of traditional downtowns and neighborhoods, and the skills of diplomacy needed to bring together groups with varied opinions.
- Discussing the tools used to convince the public to safeguard its cultural resources - including buildings, structures, sites, objects, features, natural open spaces, and human-made landscapes, either alone or as cultural ensembles.
- Reviewing the multi-faceted efforts of a preservation program that has conservation efforts firmly in its wheelhouse.

Track Two: "Information" - looks at the laws, policies, designations, incentives, and best practices available to those advocating for the protection and continued use of historic resources. Session topics could include:

- Studying the various programs of tax credits and loans, assistance, easements, etc., used by those whose wheelhouses include the ability to negotiate financial packages that make preservation projects a reality.
- Discussing the laws, policies, codes, and procedures that are the tools used by people who proactively and successfully advocate for preservation.

Track Three: "Applied Skills" – taps members of the MHPN's Historic Resource Council who have in their wheelhouses the traditional trades, crafts, and hands-on techniques that result in successful projects. Ideas might include:

- Presenting case studies of historic buildings that are saved from demolition, adaptively reused, and returned to inventive new uses because the tools needed were at hand.
- Considering the most compelling arguments that prove how historic buildings can be energy efficient by tapping the newest tools of green technology.
- Showcasing people doing hands-on work with historic resources, both trade professionals and do-it-yourselfers, and considering the tools they used to overcome obstacles.

Abstract Submission:

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

- **Title:** Provide a title that will capture an 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:** A topic statement of 50 words or less becomes the description in the conference brochure – if your abstract is selected – meant to engage the participant's interest.
- **Speaker's Contact Information:** For *each* speaker provide:
 - Name as it would appear in the conference brochure if the session is chosen.
 - Any suffixes to the name – i.e. Ph.D., AIA, Esq., CPA, etc.
 - Title
 - Affiliation
 - Mailing address including address, city, state, and zip code
 - Best phone for contact
 - Cell phone
 - E-mail address
 - Availability on Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17, 2019.
 - 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, role in the session, etc.

Deadline: Your abstract is due on or before Sunday, September 9, 2018, by midnight, to Ruth Mills (ruthmills@gmail.com), conference Co-Manager. She will acknowledge its arrival by return e-mail. Ruth, or another Co-Manager, can respond to e-mailed

questions you may 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 7, 2018, by midnight. Declines will also be acknowledged and those abstracts archived.

If a speaker is selected, the MHPN hosts them on the day he or she speaks, including registration fee, food and beverages, tours, and evening activities. The MHPN offers registration fees reduced by 50% for any additional conference days attended. In return, the speaker agrees to present during the assigned 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 almost 10,000 copies in Michigan, 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!