The Michigan Historic Preservation Network annually presents awards to outstanding projects, people, and organizations that exemplify historic preservation in Michigan. In 2018, sixteen awards were presented in six categories.

**Lifetime Achievement Awards**

**Kerry Chartkoff, East Lansing/Ferndale, California.** Kerry was recognized for her decades of leadership in restoring, safeguarding, and interpreting the State Capitol of Michigan. Her meticulous research was invaluable in guiding the accurate restoration of the Capitol from 1989 to its rededication in 1992. She was responsible for nominating the Capitol as a National Historic Landmark and securing a National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award for the authenticity of the Capitol’s restoration. This dedication resulted in her appointment as the Capitol’s official historian in 1992, a position she held for over 20 years. Her work ranged from writing and overseeing the maintenance plan for the Capitol to developing programs to promote its history and importance. Although Kerry has now retired with her husband to California, she remains active in overseeing the ongoing preservation and restoration of the Capitol as a member of the Michigan Capitol Commission.

**Kristine M. Kidorf, Detroit.** Kristine was honored for her contributions to the profession of historic preservation in Detroit and Michigan, and for her leadership of the MHPN. She has been involved as a professional in the field for over 30 years, working in both the public and private sector before she made the leap to establish her own Detroit-based consulting business in 2005. In the late 1990s, Kristine became involved with the MHPN, where she was elected to the Board in 2000 and then served three terms as President of the organization. She introduced professional facilitation for retreats and integrated goals into the everyday work of the organization to hold people accountable and get projects completed. Kristine is a sought-after trainer of Historic District Commissioners, having trained hundreds of people around the state. Her advancement of the MHPN and the field of historic preservation in Detroit and Michigan has been invaluable.

**Ted J. Ligibel, Lambertville.** Generations of students in Eastern Michigan University’s Historic Preservation Program have been inspired by “Dr. Ted’s” leadership and passion for historic preservation. Ted cut his preservation teeth in grassroots advocacy work in northwestern Ohio, and authored numerous books and articles on preservation topics over his 44-plus year career. But it has been his greatest strength and joy to help guide hundreds of students to launch meaningful careers in the preservation field. Ted took the program founded by Marshall McLennan and Andrew Nazzaro and expanded it into a nationally-recognized graduate program, including inaugurating the annual hands-on field school, now entering its 20th year.
Donald J. Weir, Jonesville. Don was recognized for his lifelong dedication to archaeological investigations as a tool to study and protect Michigan’s history. A career archaeologist, and leader in the Cultural Resource Management field, Don has worked on or led almost 200 projects in Michigan alone. This doesn’t include all the projects completed across the country, or his leadership role in organizations from advocational and professional preservation groups to nationally active non-profits promoting preservation of cultural resources. Don is much more than an archaeologist, he is a preservationist, and an inspiration.

Building Awards

The Foundation Hotel, Detroit. Designed by Detroit architect Hans Gehrke, the 1929 building served as the Detroit Fire Department Headquarters until 2013. The building reopened in 2018 as the beautifully repurposed Foundation Hotel. On the exterior, the decorative terra cotta panels sporting firefighters, fire hydrants, and DFD shields were restored, as were the original fire-engine red doors. The adaptive reuse of the first floor lobby and restaurant incorporated historic finishes and salvaged materials into a contemporary design that evokes the building’s history while looking ahead to its future.

General Motors Durant-Dort Factory One, Flint. The building, constructed in Flint in 1880 as a woolen mill, later became the home of the Durant-Dort Carriage Company and then the birthplace of General Motors. After the building changed hands several times and began sliding into disrepair, General Motors reacquired it in 2013 and set in motion a collaborative process to restore and redeedicate it as a multifunctional space. Set in the center of the restored building is a climate-controlled state-of-the-art archival facility that is self-contained in order to preserve the masonry exterior walls. The remainder of the building serves as a conference and event space while maintaining the industrial open character of the interior. The revitalized factory pays homage to the city of Flint and its industrial heritage while providing space for future innovation.

United States Post Office, Plymouth. After the US Postal Service moved out of its 1935 building in downtown Plymouth for a smaller facility, the community feared the Depression-era structure with its Works Progress Administration mural would be demolished or inappropriately remodeled. Instead, the community worked with the Postal Service to establish a preservation easement. Then, a local family acquired the building and found a business owner eager to repurpose it, bringing a food market back to downtown for the first time in decades. The thoughtful rehabilitation plan respected both the decorative features of the original public lobby and the utilitarian character of the work areas. The historic post office and its magnificent mural are once again a vital part of the Plymouth community.
The Strathmore Apartments, Detroit. Built in the Roaring Twenties, the Strathmore Hotel was one of Detroit's elegant and desirable apartment hotels, which accommodated both transient and long-term residents. After the building closed in 2004, it sat vacant for a decade, succumbing to the elements. The carefully planned rehabilitation of the Strathmore restored or recreated many of the distinctive exterior and interior features, including decorative plaster ceilings, wood wainscot, terrazzo and marble floors, and the lobby’s marble staircase. The rehabilitation, which incorporated a number of sustainable features, has returned 129 apartments (a mix of market rate and affordable units) and 2,000 square feet of commercial space to the local economy and transformed a once-blighted property into a vibrant community asset.

The Plaza, Detroit. Built in 1966 as a medical office building for doctors at the nearby Medical Center, the Professional Plaza became a beloved local landmark along Woodward Avenue in part because of the iconic “Hammer and Nail” sign on the roof. The building was being prepped for demolition when a local developer intervened to save it. The building’s curtain wall proved the biggest challenge due to the failure over time of the insulating glass panels and reflective interior film, and inappropriate caulking. Following restoration of the curtain wall framing and the installation of new insulating glass that replicates the original glass color, the once-tired façade now sparkles again. Meanwhile, residents have moved into the 72 apartments on the upper floors, and the iconic Hammer and Nail sign now occupies pride of place in the first floor retail space.

Tax Credit Award

East Main Redevelopment, Milan. This project transformed an entire city block in downtown Milan through the combination of four late 19th century commercial buildings into one cohesive mixed-use development. The building exteriors were restored, including masonry repair, window replacement, and new and rehabilitated storefronts. The rehabilitated interiors have brought 10,000 square feet of retail/commercial space and 15 loft-style apartments back into active use. The project proved once again the importance of historic tax credits in leveraging historic assets to spark economic activity in a historic downtown.
Citizen Awards

Rebecca Binno Savage, Detroit. Rebecca has made an indelible impact on the culture of the Detroit metro area through her education and advocacy work. She has authored nearly 20 successful nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, including Hamtramck Stadium, Detroit’s Financial District, and the Alger Theater. Rebecca has given back to the community through her volunteer work with local cultural and preservation organizations, including the Detroit Area Art Deco Society, the Detroit Sound Conservancy, Preservation Detroit, and of course the MHPN. Many residents and visitors have learned about the city’s history through her tours and presentations on Detroit’s historic resources. Her active involvement in the community is a testament to her love for Detroit and her commitment to leading it into the future.

John Gallagher, Detroit. As a business reporter for the Detroit Free Press, John has spoken out on issues affecting us all. In 2016, John helped mobilize a massive outpouring of dissent that thwarted a challenge to the Local Historic Districts Act. The following year, he helped reverse the attack on the federal historic preservation tax credit and, most recently, he has lent his support for reintroduction of Michigan’s state historic preservation tax credit. What gives John’s Detroit Free Press articles integrity and added power is his author’s ability to contextualize each situation through his longer works. He has authored books from the sweeping survey contained in 2003’s AIA Detroit: The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture (co-authored with Eric Hill) to an in-depth look at the life and work of a single architect in 2015’s Yamasaki in Detroit: A Search for Serenity. With all his writing, John has been an ally of inestimable value.

Preservation Gem Awards

Valpey Building Façade Restoration, Detroit. Located at 1413 Woodward Avenue in the heart of downtown Detroit, the 1896 Donaldson & Meier-designed Valpey Building housed a number of Detroit institutions over the years, including the Valpey Shoe Co., for which it was named, and the Frank & Seder Department Store. During the latter store’s tenancy, the original brownstone façade was painted white. Over the years, the masonry façade deteriorated extensively and many of the decorative details were lost. When restoration of the building was planned, the disfiguring staining on the brownstone could not be cleaned without further damaging the brick. Instead, the National Park Service recommended the application of a white mineral coating that would highlight the architectural details without further damaging the masonry. The brilliant white exterior now accentuates the restored cornice, balustrades, and decorative features while paying homage to the building’s history and prominent location along Woodward Avenue.
West Hall Lantern Restoration, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The lanterns marking the Denison Archway on the Albert Kahn-designed West Hall are one of the most prominent landmarks on the University of Michigan campus, ushering students onto the historic Diag since 1904. The copper-clad lanterns had suffered from weathering over the years, making restoration a priority for the University. The original copper cladding was carefully removed, restored, and re-installed over reconstructed and structurally strengthened framing, ensuring the longevity of these iconic lanterns. The restoration of the West Hall Lanterns is a fitting example of a building owner making the investment in a building to preserve its aesthetic and historic character for future generations.

Community Awards

Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, Leelanau and Benzie Counties. For over 20 years, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear has been working in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve and interpret the historic structures and landscapes of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Leelanau and Benzie Counties. During that time, PHSB has stabilized, repaired, rehabilitated, and restored dozens of buildings and landscapes. Their work has ranged from restoring the graceful Katie Shepard Hotel on North Manitou Island, to reclaiming the historic farm fields of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, to sponsoring activities and publications to educate the public about the region’s history. Their simple goal has been “save as many as you can” and they have indeed saved many.

The Congregation of the Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church, the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Hayes Township, the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, John Dziurman Architects, and Indian River Custom Log Homes, to recognize their work in restoring the Greensky Hill Historic Indian United Methodist Church. Located in Hayes Township, near Charlevoix, the mid-nineteenth century church has served as a significant American Indian heritage and cultural site for generations of community members. When the congregation noticed some rather significant structural issues several years ago, they began looking for a way to restore the church while not disturbing its historic character. They received a grant from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, with Hayes Township and the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance supporting the church through the granting process. The restoration was guided by John Dziurman Architects and Indian River Custom Log Homes, with many members of the congregation and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians joining in the effort. Through this collaborative project, the log structure was restored and is now ready to serve its community for another 150 years.