



Network News

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

April 2015

1772 Foundation Awards MHPN \$150,000 to Fund Jefferson-Chalmers Preservation Demonstration Project Over Two Years



The Vanity Ballroom, one of the Jefferson-Chalmers' district's historic gems (image courtesy of Emilie Evans).

The 1772 Foundation selected the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) as a recipient of \$150,000 over two years to be used on the Jefferson-Chalmers Preservation Demonstration Project.

With this funding, MHPN will carry out Phase III of the Preservation Demonstration Project (PDP), which aims to demonstrate the role strategic preservation plays as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization through brick and mortar rehabilitation.

The 1772 Foundation, based in Newport, RI, a national leader in the field of historic properties redevelopment programs, awarded grants totaling \$998,000 at its recent quarterly meeting. Executive Director Mary Anthony said, "The programs have an important role to play in stimulating local economic development. Their successes influence others

to move to and invest in the neighborhoods in which they are active."

The first phase of the PDP, held in spring of 2014, began with three neighborhood workshops for local property owners on caring for older homes. Workshop topics were determined through meetings with local community members and included: Weatherization, Older Building Maintenance, and Masonry Repair.

Phase II, titled "My Neighborhood, My Heritage," launched in the fall of 2014 with a neighborhood walk through Jefferson-Chalmers with young people ages 12-18 exploring the area through the lens of a camera with the aim to learn what is important to local youth while teaching and discussing current and historic neighborhood trends.

"My Neighborhood, My Heritage" culminated in a pop-up exhibition in October with opportunities for community visioning and learning. Events included display of the local youths' photography, a historical photo exhibit, a lecture on current Jefferson-Chalmers challenges and opportunities, and presentations by local neighborhood and citywide organizations for residents about involvement possibilities.

Ongoing local partners in the Preservation Demonstration Project include Jefferson East, Inc., Hope Community Outreach and Development, and Creekside CDC as well as city- and state-wide partners Preservation Detroit, Detroit Future City, Detroit Historic District Advisory Board, and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. *

Make it a Midland Weekend!

By Scott Slagor

Will you be attending the annual preservation conference May 13-16 this year? When you are booking your hotel room, add some extra nights and “Make it a Midland Weekend!” The city offers unlimited activities to fit any type of recreation, whether you’re into the outdoors, cultural experiences, or sight-seeing, Midland has something for you!

Early springtime is one of the best seasons for experiencing Michigan’s outdoor paradise, and Midland is a great place to do it. The area has numerous city and county parks, each offering something different to its patrons. The largest of these is the City Forest, a 520-acre park with meticulously marked trails for hiking and biking. Another great outdoor experience can be found at the Chippewa Nature Center, which in addition to trails offers programmed events and reconstructed buildings that interpret area life in the 1870s. For a more landscaped outdoor experience, check



This May, why don't you...drive around looking at Midland's historic architecture (courtesy of Elaine Robinson)....

out the Dow Gardens, which during May will have its more than 20,000 tulip and daffodil bulbs blooming. The gardens feature attractions for patrons of all ages, and a 40-acre forest with two miles of trails.

The Midland Center for the Arts would be a great place to wind down after a stimulating conference week. See a play at the Center’s theater, or visit the galleries of the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, which will have an exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci that weekend. If the conference has inspired you to learn more about Midland, the Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center is worth a stop. Usually the buildings are closed on weekends; however, on Saturday, May, 16, the Heritage Park will be open for a “Hands-on History Day” with a family focused drop-in program. If you missed the conference tour of the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, you could reserve a spot on a public tour over the weekend. The modernist dwelling is stirringly beautiful, and the tour is very informative.



...marvel at Midland's unusual “Tridge” spanning the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers (courtesy of Phil Squattrito)...

Maybe you were too busy attending conference sessions to really get out and see the city. Take some time to wander the shops and restaurants in downtown Midland. On Saturday, May 16th, the Midland Area Farmers Market will be open from 7:00am to 12:00 pm. Near the farmers market is an architecturally appealing three-way bridge, known as the Tridge, which crosses from downtown to parklands at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers. If you missed an opportunity to participate in the other conference tours, take a day to roam and see the many architectural gems of Midland. In the coming weeks, watch for the MHPN #michiganplacesmatter Blog that will highlight some of the city’s architecture. ✨



...or visit the Midland Center for the Arts (courtesy of Jake Novak).

2015 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. This year, we bid farewell to two long-standing board members. Melissa Milton-Pung is completing her tenth consecutive year of service (three three-year terms plus an additional year as Immediate Past President), and Randy Case is departing after the end of his third three-year term. Their steady presence and leadership on the board will be missed but we anticipate they will continue their close relationships with the organization as emeriti board members.

The current slate of officers has agreed to stand for re-election this year, including Ruth E. Mills, President; David Varney, Vice-President; Kathrine Kolokithas, Secretary, and Denise McGeen, Treasurer.

The nominating committee is pleased to announce that ten board members have agreed to stand for re-election. These individuals are Richard Hosey (Detroit) and Ruth E. Mills (Ypsilanti) for their third three-year terms, and Robin Adair (Ann Arbor), Christine Bowman (Jonesville), Ron Campbell (Flint), Tim Hunnicutt (Dewitt), Denise McGeen (Detroit), Karen Nagher (Canton), Gary Rentrop (Bloomfield Hills), and Gregory Saxton (Midland) for a second three-year term.

Finally, we are pleased that emerita board member Janet Kreger has agreed to stand for a new term on the board. Janet stepped down at the end of her third three-year term in 2013 but is ready to rejoin the board in an official capacity after working as a full-time volunteer for MHPN the past several years. Janet holds a BA'72 in American History from the University of Michigan and an MS'76 in Historic Preservation from Columbia University. She retired in 2011 after 24 years as an executive manager for major and planned gift fundraising at the University of Michigan and then Michigan State University, a second career that followed 12 years with Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office as an architectural historian and preservationist. She now volunteers full-time with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, which she helped found in 1981 and for which she has twice served as president during her 28 years on the board of directors. She is an Honorary Affiliate Member of the American Institute of Architects/Michigan Chapter (1999), is the recipient of the MHPN's "Lifetime Achievement Award" (2005), and was named the Historical Society of Michigan's "2012 Distinguished Volunteer." *



Janet Kreger (courtesy of Herself).

Proposed Bylaw Changes for 2015

This year, the Board of Directors is proposing several changes to the bylaws to clarify the roles and relationships of the board, executive director, and staff. These changes reflect the growing size of our staff and the increasing responsibility of the Executive Director. These individual sections are provided below, as required by Article XI of the Bylaws. The approval of the changes will occur at the Annual Meeting, held this year at the Annual Conference, May 14, 2015.

In the text below, language being removed is indicated a ~~strikeout~~, while proposed new language is in *italics*.

The proposed new bylaws will read:

Article VI: Officers and Duties

1. The officers of the MHPN shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for one-year (1-year) terms. The Immediate Past President is also an officer, but shall not need to stand for election. Continuous service in any one of these offices by any one person is limited to five (5), one-year (1-year) terms.

2. The duties of officers are more fully defined and regularly updated in their position descriptions maintained as part of the MHPN's governance plan, but in general shall be as follows:

- a. The President is the presiding officer of the Corporation, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and members of the MHPN, shall provide ~~day-to-day~~ supervision of the ~~employees~~ *Executive Director*, and shall appoint committee chairs and co-chairs. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all appointed standing committees and shall perform such duties as are customary to the office of President.

Article IX: Employees.

The Corporation shall retain such employees as shall be deemed advisable by the Board of Directors. ~~The Board of Directors shall establish the compensation and job description of all employees.~~ *The Executive Director shall have power to appoint or discharge employees, agents, or independent contractors, to determine their duties, and to fix their compensation within the board-approved budget parameters.* The ~~President~~ *Executive Director* shall supervise the activities of the employees in accordance with the *Employee Manual*, policies and instructions of the Board of Directors. *



Michigan Historic Preservation Network

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For Individuals and Households:

- \$45 Basic Membership
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- \$80 Organization/ Institution/
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- \$140 Historic Resource Council
- \$150 Historic District Commission or
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