



## MHPN 2022 Preservation Awards

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network annually presents awards to outstanding projects, people, and organizations that exemplify historic preservation in Michigan. In 2022 ten awards were presented in five categories.

### *Lifetime Achievement Awards*



**Brian D. Conway**, Michigan and California. After earning degrees in architecture from the University of Michigan and the University of Florida, Brian Conway worked for the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office before joining the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as staff architect in 1980. In that position, he oversaw some of Michigan's early significant rehabilitations using the federal historic preservation tax credits. Brian was appointed State Historic Preservation Officer in 1998, and as leader of the SHPO, he built many partnerships among state and federal agencies, maintaining positive and productive relationships through his natural calm and diplomacy. Brian was an early supporter of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and was key to building a successful decades-long relationship between SHPO and the MHPN. Brian's personal passion for Modern architecture culminated in *Michigan Modern*, a comprehensive project of the SHPO to document and raise awareness of Michigan's pivotal role in the development of American Modernism. Brian closed out his forty-year career at the

Michigan SHPO in 2020, but he has remained active in the historic preservation community, recently joining the board of directors of Docomomo\_US/MI, the statewide chapter of Docomomo.

**Marcia Haynes**, Port Huron. Marcia moved to Port Huron when she was one year old. After earning a degree in history from Denison University in Ohio, she returned to Port Huron and eventually decided that the city needed its own museum. She talked the city council into giving the now-vacant Carnegie Library to create the Port Huron Museums, opened in 1968. Marcia led the effort to restore the Round Island Lighthouse in the Straits of Mackinac from 1968 to 1978. For decades, Marcia was devoted to preserving and promoting the history of Port Huron, from spearheading the city's Bicentennial commemoration, to raising money to support archaeological investigations of Thomas Edison's boyhood home, Fort Gratiot, and Fort St. Joseph, to leading yearly tours telling the history of the city through its cemetery. Marcia never retired from fighting for Port Huron's historic resources; in recent years she co-founded the Friends of the Pere Marquette Railroad Bridge, Inc. to combat plans to demolish the historic bridge. Over her more than fifty-year career, Marcia more than earned her title as the "bulldog of preservation" in Michigan. Marcia passed away at the age of 90, while she and her family were gathered together to watch the Awards Ceremony.





**Steven C. Jones**, Ann Arbor. A native of Iowa, Steve is a second-generation architect who earned a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Michigan in 1982. Steve joined Quinn Evans Architects in 1989. Beginning as a project architect, Steve's architectural talent and business acumen led him to senior leadership in the firm, where he became a principal, vice president, and chief operating officer. But it is Steve's passion for the nation's architectural heritage that is his greatest legacy. His skills as a preservation architect are exemplified by his long-term stewardship of the Michigan State Capitol, from the restoration of the Executive Wing beginning in 1989, through multiple exterior restoration projects, to the recent implementation of a historic building information

management system. Steve is also recognized for his decades-long relationship with the National Park Service which included such projects as the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, numerous buildings at Keweenaw National Historical Park, and the Visitor Center at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. Steve is an emeriti leader of the MHPN, having served three terms as a board member. He was instrumental in developing the MHPN's public policy program, and also led the awards committee for many years. Steve retired at the end of May.

**Karen Padnos**, Holland. Karen earned an undergraduate degree in Local and Regional Planning from Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL and a Masters in Urban Planning from Washington University in St. Louis. She was a planner for the City of Holland (the city's second person in that position) for over 30 years. In her years working in the Community and Neighborhood Services Department, Karen researched and wrote ordinances, staffed the Planning Commission for the first part of her tenure, and served as part time staff to the Historic District Commission throughout. Karen oversaw many changes during those years including a significant expansion of the Washington Boulevard Historic District in 2000/2001, which doubled the size of the district. Karen retired from the City of Holland in 2017 and now resides mostly in Holland. She serves on the operations committee of Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Karen's award was given in absentia.

**James A. Robertson**, East Lansing. A professional archaeologist, Jim's career spanned private consulting as well as academic, museum, and government agency settings across twelve states. Jim graduated from Michigan State University with a doctorate in 1987 and returned to Michigan in 1992 to join Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group (CCRG - now Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc.) as manager and principal investigator for complex projects involving both archaeological and architectural resources. In 2008 Jim became the Lead Archaeologist for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) where he managed the department's Archaeology Program and led MDOT's consultation with Michigan Indian Tribes.



Among his many accomplishments was the US-31/M-231 Holland to Grand Haven Archaeological Project, winner of a 2015 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation as well as a 2016 MHPN Government-Institution Award. Jim retired in January 2022, but all the people he so ably and generously served during his career are grateful for his knowledge, hard work, and dedication to archaeology and the preservation of Michigan's cultural resources.



## ***Building Award***

**415 Franklin** in Grand Rapids. The former Grand Rapids Christian High School was built in 1931 in the Lombard Romanesque Revival style with a 1947 Modern addition. After the school closed due to declining enrollment in 1972, the building housed Kent County offices until 2009 when it fell vacant. A coalition of local partners came together to rehabilitate the building leveraging a combination of historic rehabilitation and low income housing tax credits, among other sources. The rehabilitation transformed the building into a vibrant mixed-use space containing 40 units of affordable housing, non-profit offices, a worship space, and an early childhood center. Great care and attention to detail ensured that characteristic exterior and interior materials and features were preserved as the building was converted to a new use. Many health, safety, and efficiency measures were incorporated into the project. 415 Franklin highlights what can be accomplished when creative vision is combined with a passion for protecting a historically significant property.



## ***Special Jury Award***



The Special Jury Award is periodically presented to a noteworthy project that may not fit into the regular award categories. In 2022, the **Kalamazoo State Theatre**, a city icon, was recognized for long term stewardship. This 1927 landmark is significant for its masterful design by international movie palace architect John Eberson, and is largely intact inside and out, which makes it Michigan's--and possibly the Midwest's--best example of W.S. Butterfield's former chain of theaters. The State also represents a critical pivot in the theater entertainment industry, when the public's interest in vaudeville began to fade, and new spaces were needed to accommodate both vaudeville and cinema. The State was determined eligible for the

National Register in 1982, but the then-owners objected to the listing, and closed the theatre the same year. In 1985 the building's new owner, The Hinman Company, reopened the theatre, and it has remained under the company's stewardship ever since, serving as an economic driver for the Kalamazoo community. Since 2014, Executive Director Stephanie Hinman has implemented a series of projects to improve the artist and guest experience while maintaining the theatre's historic character. Ms. Hinman also spearheaded the effort to lift the previous objection to the building's historic designation, resulting in its listing in the National Register of Historic Places in November 2021. As Ms. Hinman has expressed regarding the importance of stewardship, "once it sinks in that there are more than 90 years of memories in this space, so does the realization that it is a great responsibility and opportunity to do what we can to keep the legacy in motion."



## ***Preservation Gem Awards***

The restoration of the **Aha Ship**, a 50-foot steel watercraft, Harbor Springs. The Aha was designed and built from 1891 to 1893 by Ephraim Shay, an inventor and one of Harbor Springs' most distinguished residents. The uniquely-designed boat was used primarily for recreational purposes, but on one notable occasion it guided a lost passenger steamship into harbor during a bad storm. Following Shay's death in 1916, the Aha was taken out of the water and moved among several locations, deteriorating along the way. It eventually found a home with the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society, where restoration of this one-of-a-kind artifact began in late 2019. The Historical Society partnered with the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway, where a team including students of the Institute salvaged and restored as much of the material as possible and accurately replicated missing or badly damaged elements. The restoration was completed by repainting the ship in its original deep blue color. The City of Harbor Springs offered to display the restored boat in Shay Park, once the location of Shay's machine shop and thus the birthplace of the Aha. The display was officially opened to the public in June 2021, attended by nearly 200 people.



**527 West South Street**, Kalamazoo. This beautiful house is located in the South Street Local Historic District, where many prominent Kalamazoo residents built high-style residences in the mid to late 1800s. 527 West South Street was built in 1866 by furniture dealer Edwin Carder in the Italianate style. A later owner, Dr. Edwin Van Deusen, remodeled the front with Georgian-Colonial elements, including the monumental two-story front porch. Over time the house experienced incremental changes, from the loss of window arches on the second floor to deterioration of exterior elements to interior floor plan modifications associated with its later use as a hospitality house for families of Kalamazoo hospital patients. The adaptive reuse program rehabilitated the house for use as offices, bringing the interior floor plan closer to its original configuration, while a carriage house at the rear of the property is now a recording studio. Deteriorated exterior materials were restored including the second-floor windows, column bases, corbels, and the semi-circular porch on the east side. A 1960s porch at the rear was replaced by a sympathetic yet modern addition to provide an accessible entrance and additional program space. The completed rehabilitation created a functional work environment that respects the historic integrity of the house and the local historic district.

## ***Tax Credit Award***

**Emerald Flats**, Grand Rapids. The historic Eastern Avenue School in Grand Rapids opened in 1929 as an elementary school. Designed by architect Henry H. Turner, it was a very early example of an accessible building intended to accommodate young survivors of the polio epidemic. The building featured large windows for air and sunlight and ramps to facilitate movement, as well as physiotherapy rooms and other medical resources. After the school closed in 2008, it sat vacant for several years until a unique group of collaborating partners acquired the building and gave it new life as a mixed-use and mixed income housing space renamed Emerald Flats. Using a combination of financing tools including federal historic tax credits, the team adapted the school for its new use while making minimal changes to its distinctive materials, features, and spaces. The completed building offers a mix of offices, housing, and community meeting space. By partnering with Oasis Community West Michigan, which seeks sustainable housing for young adults with disabilities, the project upholds the historic mission of the Eastern Avenue School for a new generation.

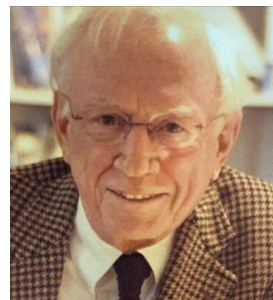


## ***In Memorium***

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network also recognized members of the state's preservation community who passed away since the 2021 awards ceremony:



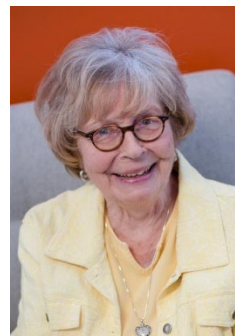
Victor Callewaert, Jr., Mackinac Island



Carl Luckenbach, Ann Arbor



Nathan Johnson, Detroit



Lynne Secory, Port Huron