A Note from MHPN's President...

This is my first message to you as the new President of the MHPN Board of Directors. I’m pleased to serve this coming year. We’re well-positioned to continue advocating for Michigan’s historic places, assisting the public, and growing our membership.

Many words of appreciation are in order…

I thank David Jackson for serving as President this past year as the continuing pandemic and the departure of key staff caused challenges. I express my thanks to our other officers – VP Marcus Ringnalda, Secretary Devan Anderson, and Treasurer Laura Steenwyk – for remaining another year. In turn, we express appreciation for our Board, and its newly-elected members, for the breadth and depth of talent they offer our efforts.

Our remaining staff members, Xiaohan Bao Smith and Cindy Bruntjens – together with the Board, our corps of emeriti leaders, and you – kept our work moving forward and we thank you all. Webinars and other community programs continued, as did the on-line publication of NetworkNews. We were confident enough by October to hold our 27th annual fall benefit in person. The current editions of the Historic Resource Council Directory and the Annual Report were completed in time for our 42nd annual statewide preservation conference just held in Holly both in-person and virtually.

Finally, this issue introduces you to the MHPN’s new Executive Director. Before you read about him, I’ll add one more word of thanks to a tireless Search Committee, the members of which are introduced below.

Are you ready to get back to full speed?
Sincerely,

Janet L. Kreger,
President

Introducing Chris Fraleigh, MHPN's Executive Director

The Members of the Search Committee are pleased to announce that Chris Fraleigh has been selected as the fourth Executive Director of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. We thank you for your patience, and your support, as we moved through the hiring process over the past 10 months in the toughest of hiring markets. Our Committee members included President David Jackson, VP Marcus Ringnalda, Secretary Devan Anderson, and Treasurer Laura Steenwyk, who were joined by Executive Committee members Mike Hambacher, Janet Kreger, Melissa Milton-Pung, and Elaine Robinson. Together, we introduce you to Chris.

Chris Fraleigh graduated from Michigan State University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. His initial career path, however, led him back to his family’s business, Fraleigh’s Nursery in the Ann Arbor area, where he had been working since he was fifteen. Over time, he oversaw every segment of the business from management of human resources and plant material, to consultations with customers and their landscape needs. He was Vice President of Operations at the time of his departure in 1999, having helped transform a family business into a financially-viable corporation.

What followed was a variety of involvements exploring what would come next, most of them in industry. Chris began focusing his perspective with an increased awareness on the role planning plays within urban environments that are well-functioning and livable. Paired with that was an understanding of the role historic preservation plays in assuring that well-planned environments can also be authentic and distinctive.

Chris acted upon these interests by returning to school at Eastern Michigan University in January of 2019 for a Master of Science in Regional and Urban Planning, a degree he will complete in 2022. While in the program, he gained planning experience by volunteering as a board member with the City of Ann Arbor’s Zoning Board of Appeals starting in November of 2019, currently...
serving as Vice Chair. He meanwhile completed a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation in December, 2021. His job search brought him to the attention of the MHPN, where his transferable skill set and passion for historic preservation made him a non-traditional but smart choice.

Coming June Headline Text: Michigan's New State Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Public Act 343 of 2020 was signed into law by Governor Whitmer on December 30, 2020 and established the new State Historic Preservation Tax Credit program ("State Credit program"). The State Credit program will help support place-based projects while promoting the preservation of Michigan’s historic resources. The State Credit program will accept its first applications starting June 15 at 9:00 a.m.

The following general requirements apply for State Credit program consideration:

1. A property must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district to be eligible for the State Credit.

2. The State Credit has a $5 million cap per calendar year, which will be divided as follows:

   $2 million for commercial projects with expenses of $2 million or greater.

   $2 million for commercial projects with expenses of less than $2 million.

   $1 million total for owner-occupied residential projects.

3. Credit reservations will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. A three-part online application is used to apply for the State Credit. It is similar to the parts used for the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, but is a completely independent and separate program and application.

The State Credit web application will launch on June 15 at 9:00 a.m. and will close once all tax credits have been allocated for 2022.

The following resources are available to help you prepare to submit an application:
We strongly recommend potential applicants review the New State Credit program FAQs to learn more details about the program. It is also recommended that potential applicants review the legislation, PA 343 of 2020, and associated rules, R 206.201 – R 206.212.

SHPO will host two overview webinars on June 13, followed by live Q&A. Each webinar will be recorded and published online on June 14:

Session 1: Commercial Tax Credit | 2-3 p.m.
Session 2: Residential Tax Credit | 5-6 p.m.

Click here to register for one or both sessions.

Questions about the new State Credit program? Many answers may be found in the New State Credit program FAQs. If you have additional questions, please email preservation@michigan.gov.

Fundraising for Stewards of Cultural Properties: Getting Started

The MHPN is the recipient of matching grant funds from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (formerly the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs). The support is designated for a variety of outreach activities, one of them being for a program to help communities just getting started with fundraising to benefit historic properties they steward. The basic skills taught include identifying prospective donors, cultivating them so they learn about your project, asking for support, and stewarding donors so they continue to support your work. The total cost is $200 for the four-hour program; scheduling can be weekdays or weekends, days or evenings. The grant covers travel expenses for the trainer, Janet Kreger, who is the former Director of Major, Planned, and Special Gifts at MSU. Contact her at kregerj1981@att.net.
Upcoming MHPN Workshops

MHPN's monthly webinars are free and open to everyone to register. Miss the live event? Recordings on our YouTube channel. Check out the line up below and register today!

June 30, 2022, 1 p.m.: Designing Maintenance Access and Fall Protection (MAFP) for Inspection

Did you miss a past webinar? Past Workshop Recordings are available!

Preservation In the News


"Efforts to save historic building at Orchard Beach State Park receive Governor's Award," Rural Innovation Exchange, by M J Galbraith, May 12 2022.

Preservation Calendar

May-September, 2022: Tour - Preservation Detroit Walking Tours, Detroit, Michigan.

June 24-25, 2022: Virtual Conference - Historical Society of Michigan, "73rd Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference"


July 17, 2022: Tour - Huntington Woods Backyard Tour, begins Huntington Woods Rec Center, 26325 Scotia Rd, Huntington Woods, Michigan 48070

