This is your August Recess Advocacy Action Alert! It’s the time each summer when State Senators and Representatives and members of Michigan’s Congressional Delegation are in their home districts holding shirt-sleeve meetings at coffee shops, block clubs, and farmers’ markets. Many of us relish these casual gatherings. Others are interested in giving them a try. No matter which, know our voices influence our elected officials. Our advocacy for historic preservation has an impact.

With your State Senators and Representatives, talk about the rollout of Michigan’s State Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Whether or not they voted for the credit in 2020, express appreciation for having this powerful revitalization tool returned to help income-producing properties and private residences throughout the state. Don’t hesitate to then share the magnitude of demand. After applications opened at 9AM on June 15, the commercial credit closed within hours and the residential credit closed in just 13 days. It won’t be lost on them when you say you look forward to their support for raising the credit caps as soon as possible.

With your Congressional Delegates, ask them to support the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 2294 / S. 2266) – aka “HTC-GO.” Over the past 46 years, since passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the HTC has been the single-most transformative tool preservationists have ever had. If passed, HTC-GO will enhance the credit by enabling projects to address diminished post-pandemic financing and skyrocketing construction costs.
Where to begin? If you need contact information, enter your address at these portals: State Senator; State Representative; and Congressional Delegates. Go to their websites to find constituent meetings. If you’re uneasy, know that your officials aren’t cross-examining you for encyclopedic knowledge of the issues. Give local examples of preservation successes or challenges so they simply see how their voting affects you.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Kreger,
President

---

**Former Michigan SHPO, Author, and Preservationist, Kathryn Bishop (Eckert) Omoto Passes Away**

Kathryn Bishop Omoto was an accomplished architectural historian and historic preservationist who studied buildings and cultural landscapes throughout Michigan and assisted its communities with preservation activities. Born and raised in Detroit but now living in Leland, she was Michigan’s State Historic Preservation Officer between the late 1970s and 1997 and a former advisor to the Midwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Kathryn was a founding member of Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear, the Keweenaw National Historical Park Commission, Friends of the Michigan State Capitol, and the Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians; she was a long-time board member of Fishtown Preservation Inc., the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Americana Foundation. Kathryn nurtured the MHPN in its earliest years, the organization having been founded by members of her staff and others from around the state in 1981. After her retirement as SHPO, she served on the MHPN Board from 1998-2004 and also as a member of the State Historic Preservation Review Board from 2000-2002.

Kathryn was also a well-known author on Michigan architecture, with *The Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region, Buildings of Michigan*, and *The Campus Guide:*
Cranbrook, all focusing on state and regional architecture. And was recipient of awards from the Michigan and Detroit Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, and Preservation Wayne. She was also named a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians in 2012.

After sharing the news of Kathryn's passing, there were many messages of condolences from friends and former colleagues:

She was wonderful to work with. As well as her impeccable scholarship, Kathryn respected accuracy of information, salient points, and deadlines, and she understood how to write about a building to make it significant, interesting, and accessible to every reader. Karen Kingsley (Retired) Editor-in-Chief, Buildings of the United States, Society of Architectural Historians

I always liked her quiet, calm voice of expertise and deep knowledge of building history. Elisabeth Knibbe

... she influenced generations of student and colleagues as a passionate and dedicated educator. I also had the pleasure of working her husband Dr. Omoto for many years. Together they were great advocates for our state. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Ph.D.

Kathryn was truly a preservation influencer for years. Her office was always a safe place for a calm, & thoughtful conversation with anyone one of you-so helpful as Detroit was getting its preservation legs! Kathy Wendler

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network cordially invites you to its 28th Annual Fall Benefit

Durant-Dort Factory One
303 West Water Street, Flint, MI 48503
Friday, October 7, 2022

6:00 PM – 9:45 PM

RSVP by Noon, Friday, September 23, 2022

The evening includes light dinner fare and beverages, complimentary wine and beer, live and silent auctions, tours, awards, and more!

$120 per person, $90 for government employees/officials and seniors (60+), $70 for students. A portion of your payment is a gift to the MHPN, a 501(c) 3 organization.

Registered guests may join a pre-event tour of the

Durant-Dort Carriage Company Office

the birthplace of General Motors, a National Historic Landmark located across the street from Factory One, from

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

To register for this great evening, be an event sponsor, or donate an item to our auctions, click here.

Business informal dress.

We look forward to seeing you in Flint!

Detroit Land Bank publishes RFP for development of the Sarah E. Ray House

Sarah is an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement who
of the Boblo boat for denying her a seat in 1945. She spent her life advocating for civil rights, youth empowerment, and racial unity. You can read more about Sarah in this great piece from Bridge Detroit.

The RFP is open through **August 19th** and invites organizations, individuals, and firms to submit creative ideas to restore and/or reimagine Sarah’s home and the adjacent lot, formerly the site of Sarah’s nonprofit, the Action House. The Land Bank will sell the property for as low as $1 to the applicant with the best idea to preserve Sarah’s legacy and make it accessible to the public.

[Click here for more information](#).
Authenticity”

(Working Title)

Wednesday, May 10 - Saturday, May 13, 2023

Mission Point Resort

Mackinac Island, Michigan

Deadline:  Sunday, September 25, 2022, 11:59 PM

For information on how submit an abstract, click here.
Older and historic houses can be very energy efficient, but need to be insulated and weatherized carefully with their special needs and unique materials in mind. Come join us for this free educational workshop and learn how to help your older home perform at its best while reducing energy costs and still respecting its historic character.

Event sponsored by City of Grand Rapids Planning/Historic Preservation Department; Michigan Historic Preservation Network and in part through an award from the Michigan Arts and Cultural Council.
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!

August 18, 2022, 1 p.m. Project We Hope, Dream & Believe - Malcolm X House

*Did you miss a webinar? Past Workshop Recordings are available!*
Preservation In the News


"State awards historic preservation grant to Niles," The Herald Palladium, August 5, 2022.

"Downtown Alpena’s latest placemaking project transforms an alley and turns it into a destination," Rural Innovation Exchange, by MJ Galbraith, August 4, 2022.

"Peninsula Township OKs preservation millage," Traverse City Record-Eagle, by William T. Perkins, August 3, 2022.


"Meadow Brook Hall to add $2.7M Visitor Center to historic estate," The Detroit News, by Myesha Johnson, August 2, 2022.

"3 Michigan communities to receive preservation grants to protect historical assets," ClickonDetroit, by Elizabeth Washington, August 1, 2022.


---

Preservation Calendar

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


November 7-12, 2022: Conference - The Association for Preservation Technology International (APTi) "Detroit Looking Back, Driving Forward" conference. Detroit, Michigan..