A Note from MHPN's President...

June was a great month that left us exhilarated. June was a tough month that left us reeling. Much has happened.

It was mid-June when we began receiving photos and videos from our 42nd annual conference in Holly. Honestly, we had no idea how many would come to our first in-person conference in two years. To our delight, we had 298 in-person and virtual participants, that number reaching over 350 with event guests. We extend our thanks to Holly for hosting us.

Also in June, the 43rd annual conference finished taking shape for 2023. We’ll be back on Mackinac Island where, in 2007, we first discussed historic preservation and tourism. Now 16 years later, the economic value of “heritage tourism” is unquestioned. We’ll discuss the pressures that success has brought to Michigan communities as they balance authenticity and profitability. Note the Call for Abstracts below!

Unfortunately, the conferences became the backdrop for two sorrowful events. First, our former Executive Director, Mark Rodman, died on June 15. A conference champion, he saved our 40th anniversary celebrations as the pandemic closed-in. Then former MHPN board member, David Schon, died on June 23. DC-based and nationally-recognized as a leader in community development finance, David remained committed to Detroit and returned regularly to speak at our conferences. Memorials are below.

As if to tie-bar these tragedies, Holly suffered a terrible fire in historic Battle Alley on June 21. We mourned with our local partners. As we turn back to stewarding our state’s cultural properties, we know our work honors both good people and good buildings.

Sincerely,
Remembering Mark Rodman

Less than a year after Mark Rodman left MHPN as our Executive Director, he passed away. While his time with MHPN was brief, he was a remarkable leader, and will be greatly missed. For those of you who never got to know Mark very well, here is more about him, and his time at MHPN.

Newly arrived from Colorado, Mark set out to meet the MHPN board members and see the sights in Michigan. A prolific selfie-taker, some of our favorites are shared here.

Preservation Advocate
Passes Away

On June 23, 2022, Michigan lost a major preservation advocate, David Schon. Although he was a Washington, D.C. based attorney, David expanded his busy life to participate in Michigan Historic Preservation Network activities for several years and then serve on the board between 2004 and 2013. He attended meetings in person, never missed an annual board retreat, and was even known to bring champagne to a “mailing party” during which board members stuffed envelopes after a busy day of meetings. Professionally, David was a partner in Nixon Peabody’s tax credit finance and syndication group and co-chaired the historic tax credit team. His practice centered on real estate development and finance, with emphasis on historic preservation and community development. David was recognized as a national leader in community development finance and structured, negotiated, and closed transactions nationwide on behalf of investors and developers, many involving the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, New Markets Tax Credits, or Renewable Energy Tax Credit syndication. In spite of his national reputation, David retained strong ties to his Michigan beginnings, returning often. For nine years between 2008 and 2017 David shared his knowledge in one of the most popular sessions during the MHPN Annual Conference, Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects. He continued his involvement in the MHPN until his death. David will be missed in Detroit, Michigan, and beyond.

In keeping with his long association with the MHPN, David asked that memorial gifts be directed to the organization. His husband, Michael Leo Schon, is helping to determine how they will be used.

Photo courtesy of Mission Point Resort

CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network announces its
43rd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

“A FRAGILE BALANCE:
How Heritage Tourism Balances Profitability and Authenticity”

(Working Title)

Wednesday, May 10 - Saturday, May 13, 2023

Mission Point Resort

Mackinac Island, Michigan

You are invited to submit a session abstract to be considered for presentation. Please read the submission information here.

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

Abstracts are welcomed from Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas as well as from neighboring states and Canada, and may be submitted by individuals and panels in three program tracks.

Presenters, learn more here.

Sessions will be recorded but not live-streamed this year.

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 $100 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.

State Historic Preservation Tax Credits Program Closes in just 13 days!

Michigan’s new State Historic Preservation Tax Credit began at 9 am on June 15, 2022. The program provided state credits for both income producing properties and private residences, and was coordinated through the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). There were a limited amount of credits available for commercial and residential credits in a calendar year. The program, which operated on a first-come-first-served basis each year. Due to the high level of interest, the commercial credits program was closed to new applications on June 15th by 2:15 pm. Similarly, the residential credits program closed to applications on June 28 2022 at 5:00 pm.

But, the program will be back in 2023, so meanwhile, consider reaching out to your Michigan State Legislators to have the program cap raised!

Find your state representative here. and your state senator here.

Can a low-interest loan from MHPN help your project?

The MHPN has two low-interest loan programs that may be of interest to you.

The Predevelopment Loan Program provides up to $50,000 for projects rehabilitating historic buildings. The loan covers reasonable third-party costs that occur in the early stages and are necessary to make the project happen. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations and for-profit entities.

The Intervention Loan Program provides up to $15,000 for repairs to historic buildings. The aim is to stabilize properties threatened by major building system failures. Eligible applicants include non-profits, municipalities, DDAs, Land...
Banks, Community Development Corporations, and religious organizations.

Click here for more information. You may also contact the MHPN’s Historic Properties Coordinator at Xbaosmith@mhpn.org or 517-371-8080. Look for our webinar on these programs later this year!

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!

July 14, 2022, 1 p.m.: Designing Maintenance Access and Fall Protection (MAFP) for Inspection

July 21, 2022, 1 p.m.: Preservation on Main Street Charlevoix

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

Preservation In the News


"Neighbors work to preserve Detroit history brick by brick," ClickonDetroit, by Megan Woods and Brandon Carr, July 8, 2022.

"Bring Back Calumet looking to construct new roof for historic building," TV6, by Colin Jackson, July 8, 2022.


"Learn Michigan history along this ‘rail-trail’ that connects Livingston, Ingham and Jackson counties," ClickonDetroit, by Kayla Clarke, June 28, 2022.

"Free jazz concert in Kalamazoo is also a chance to talk about Stuart neighborhood plan," MLive, by Brad Devereaux, June 26, 2022.

"Historic Holly Hotel owners vow to rebuild after massive downtown fire," *Fox2 Detroit*, by Veronica Meadows and David Kome, June 23, 2022.

"5 firefighters hospitalized after battling fire in downtown Holly, investigation underway," *MLive*, by Joey Oliver, June 22, 2022.


"Ann Arbor historic commission rejects 3-story addition to Main Street building," *MLive*, by Ryan Staton, June 14, 2022.

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**Preservation Calendar**


September 14-17, 2022: Conference: Amerian Association for State and Local History, "Right Here, Right Now: The Power of Place," Buffalo, New York

