



MICHIGAN HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION NETWORK

**2024 Annual Keynote Speaker Announced:  
Quentin L. Messer, Jr.  
CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and  
President and Chair of the Michigan Strategic Fund**



Photo Credit: Michigan Economic Development Corporation

**Mr. Messer's keynote address will be presented during the  
MHPN's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Preservation Conference  
Friday, May 10, 2024 – 12:45 PM–2:00 PM - Fetzer Center, WMU, Kalamazoo**

**"Historic Preservation as a Key Ingredient of Michigan Place-Making"**

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As Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and as President and Chair of the Michigan Strategic Fund, Quentin L. Messer, Jr. has very full days. He implements MEDC's core mission of fostering business development, providing access to capital, and enhancing Michigan's image. He sees all he does as building a strong and equitable economy for all Michiganders, a goal enhanced by elevating small business, recognizing the state's distinctive regions, and assuring community development based on place-making.

Mr. Messer comes to place-making as an economic development professional who sees historic preservation as a versatile economic tool. It is not lost on him that keeping older buildings in use helps meet the state's need for housing at all price-points, keeps downtown retail alive, builds walkable living and working environments that thrive as more people work remotely in both small communities and large cities, and, along the way, crafts unique spaces that are highly marketable. His perspective is an important one.

The Keynote Address is free and open to the public. Registration for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Preservation Conference opens late-February here: [www.mhpn.org/conference/](http://www.mhpn.org/conference/)



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**The Forty-Fourth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference is underwritten through the generous support of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.**

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