



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

February 2025 Newsletter

MHPN supports the sustainability and economic viability of Michigan's historic places through advocacy, education, and direct action.



Photo Credit - Michigan Municipal League

The 2025 Annual Conference Keynote Speaker is . . . Dan Gilmartin!

Dan is the executive director and CEO of the Michigan Municipal League. He will present his keynote address at the conference on Friday, May 16 from 12:45 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arts Center Auditorium at Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie.

In his address titled, "Historic Preservation and Building Thriving Communities," Dan will discuss how communities thrive when people and places are connected, and ways the community possesses the knowledge, resources, and the will necessary to support the well-being of all residents. Beyond economic strength, communities that succeed prioritize trust in neighbors, community leaders, and local governments. Building on ties between community members and the places they inhabit can help foster better access to resources and social networks. A thriving community inspires optimism among leaders, prioritizing trust and belonging in everyday municipal decisions, and helps Michigan places grow together for greater resilience.

On more than one occasion, Dan has spoken about what he sees through this lens. He emphasizes his

commitment to placemaking as an economic tool and the importance of historic preservation as a key component of placemaking. He sees that keeping older buildings in use helps meet the state's need for housing at all price points, is one of the easiest ways to effect climate action, 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 people value.

The Keynote Address is free and open to the public. The LSSU Arts Center is barrier-free. (Continuing Education: AICP: CM 1.25; AIA 1.25 LU|HSW)

Thank you to our Keynote Sponsors:

Quinn Evans, Ann Arbor
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Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board, Emeriti, Committees, and Staff, Michigan/U.S.
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Register for MHPN's 45th Annual Statewide Conference in Late February!

Registration for the 45th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference opens at the end of February:
www.mhpn.org/conference.

Conference theme: "Bringing Stories to Light"

Dates: Thursday, May 15 – Saturday, May 17, 2025

Location: Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Benefits: Continuing Education Credits, networking, learning new things, visiting a beautiful location in Michigan's upper peninsula!

Thank you to our conference underwriters!





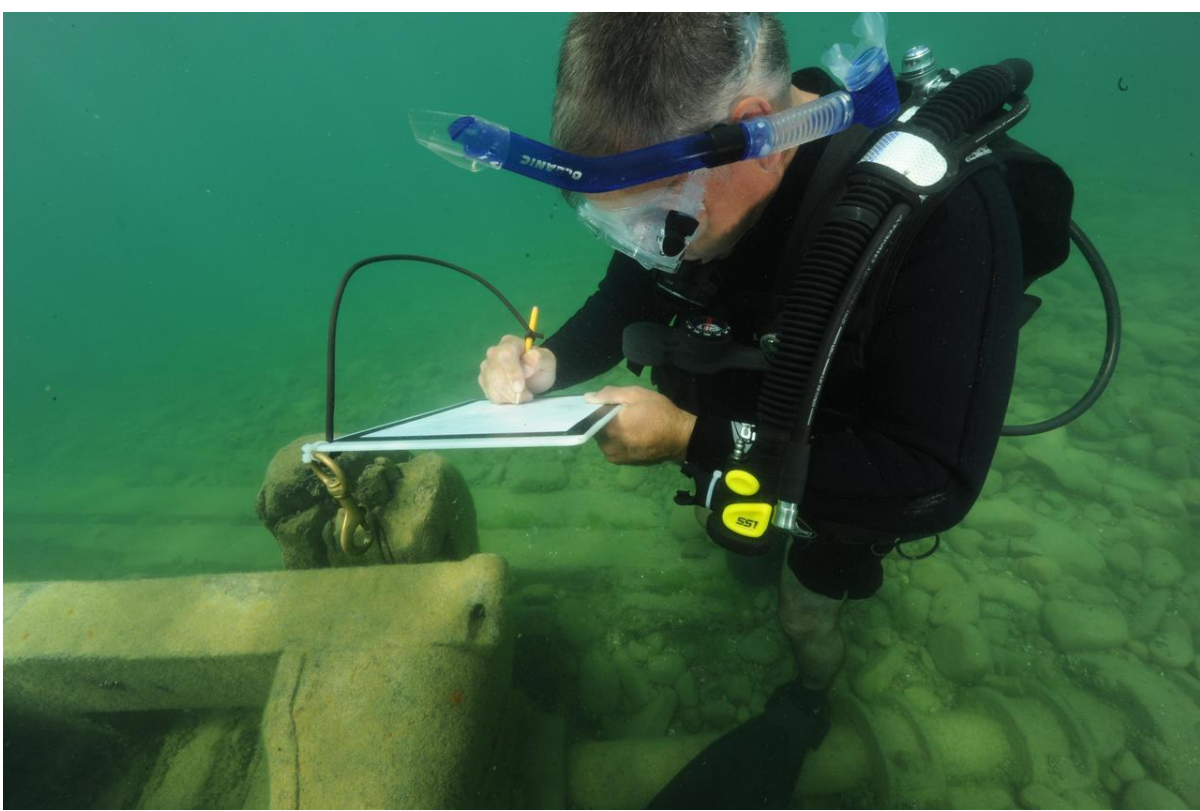
Downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Photo Credit - Janet Kreger

Attending MHPN's 45th Annual Conference? Learn more about the Track 2 sessions!

For the complete abstracts describing these presentations and the names and bios of presenters, visit the MHPN's conference landing page at: www.mhpn.org/conference. Conference attendees can mix-and-match track sessions and activities.



1898 Saginaw Post Office as seen in 1937. Credit: Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. From the session, "An Endless Story: Saving and Preserving Saginaw's Castle Building," to be presented on Thursday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Documenting tugboat remains in Lake Huron. credit: Luke Clyburn. From the session, "Underwater Archaeology, Past to Present: Hidden Stories Come to Light," the annual special topic workshop to be presented on Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. – Noon.

One of the best ways to think about attending is to take a look at the annual conference presentations and tours, all of which are organized into tracks. This month, we're looking at Track 2: Information: "What you need to know." The speakers present information about the laws, policies, and designations; programs with assistance, tax incentives, and economic benefits; as well as best practices and educational programs.

Here's what's being presented in Track 2:

Thursday, May 15:

Art Adorns the Paths of Life – For 80 years, Detroit's William Wright Company decorated and furnished hotels, churches, businesses, theaters, clubs, and Michigan's Capitol. In 2018, descendants of company foreman and designer Christian Weidemann gifted dozens of decorative ceiling and wall designs to our collection. Now, we want to share this unique resource with Michigan preservationists!

An Endless Story: Saving and Preserving Saginaw's Castle Building – Since 1898, Saginaw's Châteauesque post office has been a beloved landmark. In the 1930s and 1960s, it was saved by grassroots preservation efforts and today houses the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History. In this session, we explore the story of preservation efforts, how the building was adapted, and continuing preservation and interpretation efforts.

Friday, May 16:

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects: 101 Introduction – Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. So that you can discuss actual deal structuring for your project, this session gives attendees a working knowledge of some basic incentives. Several local projects are studied to see how their financing came together.

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects: 201 Intermediate – In this part two session, attendees will see examples of actual deal structuring to show how incentives work, how they function together, and how to work with state and federal government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants to bring incentives to a project. Attendees should have a basic knowledge of project development.

The Michigan Main Street Program: The Economic Impact of Downtown Management – When discussing Placemaking, the emphasis is often on "what" defines place and "why" it's important. What goes unanswered is "how" place is made. The Michigan Main Street program offers answers with the nationally-

recognized Main Street Four-Point Approach® that uses grassroots efforts and pride in historic buildings to create vibrant downtowns.

The State Historic Preservation Tax Credit: Introduction and Updates – The 25% State Historic Preservation Tax Credit was established to promote the preservation of Michigan’s historic resources. Eligible properties must be listed, either individually or as contributing to a district, in the National Register, the State Register, or locally designated. Owner-occupied residential and commercial projects may apply.

Saturday, May 17:

Underwater Archaeology, Past to Present: Hidden Stories Come to Light – Underwater archaeology and maritime heritage research have deep roots in Michigan. Nearly 50 years ago, a system of underwater preserves was established across the state to preserve and protect hundreds of shipwrecks scattered across the lake floor. Shipwrecks, though the most iconic, are not the only archaeological sites found underwater: Paleo landscapes, maritime infrastructure, and airplanes are also preserved in the fresh cold waters of the Great Lakes.

Thank you to our Track 2 sponsor, Kraemer Design Group, Detroit.

Nominations for MHPN's 2025 Michigan Historic Preservation Awards Close Soon

Each year at the annual conference, MHPN recognizes outstanding contributions to historic preservation in the State of Michigan by projects, individuals, and organizations. We welcome your nominations in seven categories: Building, Tax Credit, Cultural Landscape, Preservation Gem, Citizen, Community, and Government/Institution.

Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2025.

How to nominate:

- Download the nomination form from our website at: <http://www.mhpn.org/historic-preservation-awards>.
 - Review the nomination categories, requirements, and additional information on pages 1-3 of the nomination form.
 - Complete the nomination form on pages 4-5, including all required information. A checklist of materials is provided on the final page of the nomination form.
 - Upload the completed nomination form, description text, photographs, and optional supporting documents here: www.mhpn.org/historic-preservation-awards.
 - There is no fee to submit a nomination.
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Upcoming Webinar

What: From Advocacy to Adaptive-Use: Saving Sleeping Bear Heritage

Where: Online using your phone or computer

When: February 27, 1 p.m.

MHPN's monthly webinars are free and open to everyone. Registration is open! Click below to register.

Register

Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again or share it? Past webinar recordings are available on the MHPN’s YouTube Channel! [Workshop Recordings – Michigan Historic Preservation Network \(mhpn.org\)](#)
Do you have a great webinar idea you’d like to explore with us? Contact info@mhpn.org.



Preservation News You Can Use

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting applications for several preservation grants for those in your community:

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors (March 3): The purpose of the fund is to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation (March 3): The fund aims to save historic environments in order to foster an appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage and to preserve and revitalize the livability of the nation's communities.

For details, visit www.savingplaces.org.

The National Fund for Sacred Places grant program provides training, planning grants, technical assistance, capacity-building support, and capital grants up to \$500K to community-serving historic houses of worship across America. Applications are due March 3.

For details, visit www.fundforsacredplaces.org.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's next Preservation Leadership Forum webinar is on February 12: **"Navigating Congress and the Administration in 2025 and Beyond."**

During the webinar the National Trust's Government Relations team and colleagues from the National Trust Community Investment Corporation and Main Street America will examine the priorities of the incoming Trump Administration and Republican-controlled Congress and how to position historic preservation for success.

To join the webinar on Zoom, visit

https://savingplaces-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/7117362613727/WN_Zx5BIY5SSFqca0OeFo6zlw



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