



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

August 28, 2025

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Governor's Office Contact:
Jen Flood | State Budget Office Director
Email: FloodJ3@michigan.gov

RE: Restore Michigan Arts and Culture Council Funding in the State Budget

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I'm the Executive Director of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), a state-wide non-profit that supports the sustainability and economic viability of Michigan's historic places through advocacy, education, and direct action. I am writing with deep concern about the Michigan House's recently passed budget proposal, which eliminates funding for the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC).

MACC provides more than \$11 million annually in grants that support arts and culture organizations in all 83 counties—organizations that educate our children, employ thousands of workers, preserve our history, and enrich the quality of life for every community.

Eliminating MACC funding would be devastating:

- Thousands of jobs would be lost.
- Local economies that rely on arts and culture for tourism and small business activity would suffer.
- Communities across Michigan would lose access to essential cultural programs and services.

The MHPN relies on MACC grants to support our staff salaries, educational outreach programs, and hands-on preservation workshops for homeowners and building trades professionals. As your constituents, the members of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network strongly urge you to stand against any proposal to eliminate MACC funding and support full and continued investment in Michigan's creative economy and cultural life.

Our communities depend on the arts—not only for education and inspiration, but also for economic stability and civic vitality. Please ensure that MACC remains fully funded in the final state budget.

Thank you for your service and for supporting Michigan's vibrant creative sector.

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Sincerely,

Brenda Rigdon

Brenda Rigdon
Executive Director

Board of Directors
Michigan Historic Preservation Network