



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

September 2025 Newsletter

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



Upper left: The Four Star Theatre grand opening in 1938. Upper right: The theatre in 1946. Bottom right: The theatre is undergoing extensive restoration. Historical photos are courtesy of the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Registration for MHPN's 31st annual Fall Benefit now open

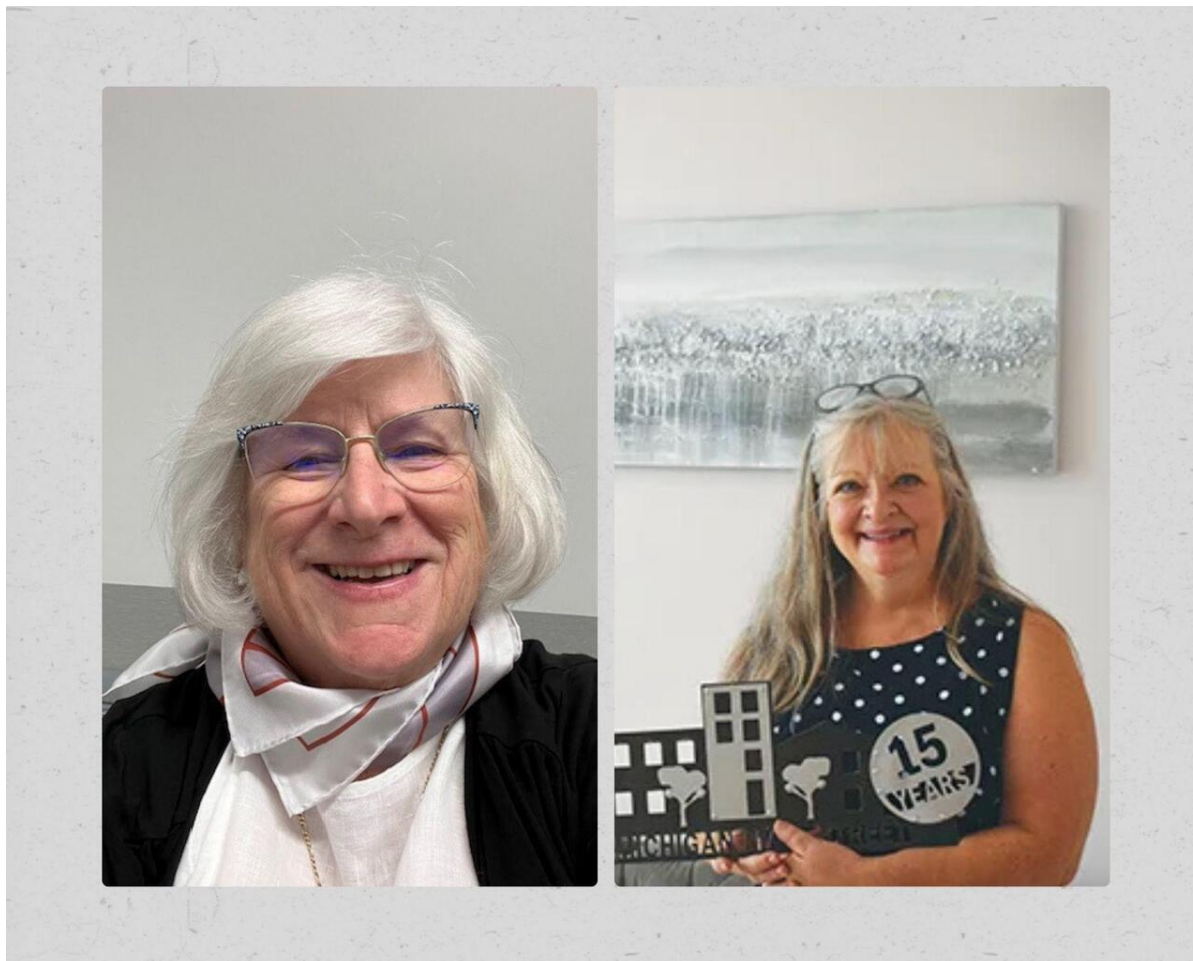
MHPN's annual Fall Benefit will be held on Saturday, October 4 at the Four Star Theatre in Grand Rapids. From 5 to 8:30 p.m., enjoy a strolling dinner, complimentary beer & wine, tours, an awards ceremony, and more!

Tickets are \$110 per person, \$80 for government employees/officials & seniors (60+), and \$60 for students. Business informal dress is suggested. This is a barrier free venue. Free street parking and parking lots nearby. Come and see the rebirth of a neighborhood mainstay!

Please register by Sunday, September 21.

Proceeds from the benefit help to support the ongoing operations of our organization and to facilitate preservation in Michigan.

REGISTER FOR THE FALL BENEFIT



MHPN's Fall Benefit 2025 Lifetime Achievement honorees. L to R: Janet Brashler and Lisa Croteau

MHPN announces the Fall Benefit Lifetime Achievement recipients

MHPN is pleased to honor two individuals at its 31st annual Fall Benefit! The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by consensus of the Network's senior leadership to those who have worked throughout their careers to promote historic preservation in the State of Michigan.

Janet Brashler, Ph.D.

Professor and Curator Emerita, Grand Valley State University

A Leader in Michigan's Archaeological Community

Janet Brashler's dedication and contributions to Michigan archaeology over more than four decades cannot be overstated. Following work for the U.S. Forest Service in Michigan and West Virginia, Jan taught and conducted research at Grand Valley State University from 1990-2018, serving as a Professor and Curator of Anthropology. She is a respected expert on Precontact Native American ceramics and the rich cultural heritage of the Grand River watershed. Establishing good relationships between the archaeological and tribal communities is at the heart of her work. Jan has taught numerous field schools, has too many successful students to name, and has influenced many of her colleagues' research.

Lisa Croteau
Director, Niles Main Street

A Leader in the City of Niles and the Michigan Main Street Program

Always committed to public service, Lisa became the Niles Downtown Development Authority Manager in 2000. She recognized the importance of its historic buildings and, in 2001, successfully applied to the LISC National Main Street Program; in 2005, Lisa got Niles into the second cohort of the Michigan Main Street Program. Downtown Niles has benefited from Lisa’s skilled and uninterrupted efforts. She joined other preservationists to have the downtown listed on the National Register in 2007. Lisa was an early advocate of the “green” and sustainable potential of historic buildings. As the longest serving Michigan Main Street Manager, her promotion of preservation as foundational to the program has been of inestimable value.

Fall Benefit sponsorship opportunities

The goal of the MHPN’s Fall Benefit is to raise funds to promote preservation in our state through our programs and advocacy. Your sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to the work we do together. Please respond by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 19,

All sponsors are invited to have space in our online Virtual Vendors’ Showroom. The MHPN is a 501(c)(3) organization for which your gift may be tax deductible!

For more information, contact Janet Kreger, Fundraising Coordinator: kregerj1981@att.net or 734-546-9991 or [tap this link to see a list of sponsorship categories](#).

SPONSOR THE FALL BENEFIT





Cultural Advocacy Network OF MICHIGAN



From the Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan

On Wednesday, August 27, the Michigan House of Representatives passed a budget that **completely eliminates funding for arts and culture**. This devastating proposal would decimate Michigan's creative sector, threatening thousands of jobs, weakening local economies, and stripping communities of the programs and cultural resources they rely on.

The House budget is over \$5 billion smaller than the version passed by the Senate and includes dangerous cuts—phantom jobs and the **zeroing out of Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) grants**.

If this budget moves forward, the impact will be catastrophic: Thousands of jobs lost across the state; economic instability for communities where arts and culture drive tourism, small businesses, and local investment; and loss of access to programs that support education, historic preservation, creative therapies, and cultural institutions statewide.

Why This Matters Now

The House, Senate, and Governor must agree on a budget before October 1 to avoid a government shutdown. Negotiations are happening right now, and this is our moment to act.

Take Action Today

We need every advocate to send a loud, clear message that cutting arts and culture is unacceptable. Here's what you can do:

Contact Your Legislators (House, Senate, and Governor Whitmer's Office):

Call, email, and schedule meetings with your representatives. Share your story—explain how these cuts would affect your organization, your community, and Michigan’s future.

Governor's Office Contact: Jen Flood | State Budget Office Director
Phone: 517-335-3420
Email: FloodJ3@michigan.gov

For your convenience, the following templates and links are available to help get your started:

[Email template](#)

[Phone script](#)



Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Visitor Center. Photo: fordhouse.org.

Final call for 2026 conference abstracts!

Since our annual conference in Sault Ste. Marie, we’ve been inviting you to think about submitting an abstract for our 46th annual conference in metro Detroit.

With the working title of “Resilient by Design,” the conference will be held Thursday, May 7 through Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the [Edsel & Eleanor Ford House \(a National Historic Landmark\) Visitor Center](#) in Grosse Pointe Shores. We are seeking 24 sessions related to the program’s three tracks: theme, information, and applied skills and case studies.

New this year is the [Abstract Submission Portal](#), an online submission system through the Whova mobile and desktop app. If you are already using the Whova app, your current login and account information is all that is needed. New users will open new accounts.

The abstract submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 21. (NOTE: conference registration opens February 2026).

Not sure if a session idea of yours will be a good fit? Contact Janet Kreger at kregerj1981@att.net.

starting at \$200



BE PART OF MHPN'S 27th

HISTORIC RESOURCE COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Don't miss out on a great marketing opportunity! Deadline: November 21, 2025

mhpn.org/historic-resource-council-directory/

Registration for MHPN's Historic Resource Council Directory opens October 8

Each year, our Historic Resource Council publishes a [directory of preservation professionals](#). It is the source for developers, property owners, and municipalities in need of preservation-related services. Quarter-page, half-page, and full-page ads can be placed.

MICHIGAN Archaeology Day



Robert Campbell

Attend a special presentation
The Edmund Fitzgerald Investigations
by shipwreck historian Ric Mixer
and pick up a free poster!

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2025
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MICHIGAN HISTORY
CENTER

702 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48915

Have you ever WONDERED
what it's like to be an archaeologist?

Here's your chance to talk with
archaeologists and discover surprising
facts spanning 14,000 years of
Michigan history!

- Demonstrations ● Kids' activities
- Scavenger hunt
- Artifact displays ● Family fun
- Bring an artifact to show our experts!

FUN FOR ALL AGES.
ADMISSION IS FREE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
MICHIGAN.GOV/MUSEUM



Coming Up: October is Archaeology Month

Archaeology is much more than just digging or diving—it is cooperative research, analysis, reporting, curation, stewardship, education, and public outreach. October is Archaeology Month in Michigan and October 18 is Archaeology Day! Learn more about the history and pre-history of the place we call home with a [full calendar of public events scheduled across the state](#).



The bills are co-sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews, D-38th House District.

Fact sheet for Michigan House Bills 4503 and 4504 now available

House Bills 4503 and 4504 were enrolled in May, co-sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews (D - 38th House District) and Rep. Steve Frisbie (R - 44th House District). The most significant proposal remains -- increasing the current \$5M annual credit cap to \$100M to better reflect the demand for the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit. There are other proposed enhancements that will give more projects access to the credits.

[Visit MHPN's Advocacy page](#) for a new fact sheet you can send with your correspondence, provide your city council members, or hand to your legislators when meeting. Please don't hesitate to talk with your state legislators to let them know you support our House Bills. They expand the usefulness of the credits for both income-producing and residential properties in every part of the state.

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

Advanced Cemetery Preservation Workshop
Glenwood Historical Cemetery and Arboretum, Flint, MI
September 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
\$95 per participant (includes all materials and safety gear)
Register by September 5

MHPN invites you to an advanced, full-day training in cemetery preservation on the historic grounds of Glenwood Historical Cemetery and Arboretum in Flint. Designed for caretakers, advanced volunteers, and preservation professionals, this workshop offers in-depth instruction on the ethical, material, and technical aspects of gravestone conservation in Michigan.

Led by Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Suzy Ferguson, and Melanie Purkis, the workshop features a mix of expert presentations, live demonstrations, and supervised hands-on cleaning practice.

African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County Webinar September 18

This presentation explores the architectural, technical, and ethical considerations involved in the adaptive reuse of a residential structure built in 1824 for its new purpose as the home of the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County (AACHM). The case study approach will highlight practical methods and real challenges encountered in transforming this significant early 19th-century home into a facility that not only preserves the past but also invites community engagement with African American history in the region.

This workshop is eligible for continuing education credits: AIA: 1 LU; AICP: CM 1, Eq 1

Introduction to Timber Frame Engineering Workshop September 19-21

As part of MHPN's partnership with the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute, this workshop combines theory with hands-on practice, focusing on timber frame structures, joint design, and structural testing methods. Workshops are open to the public.

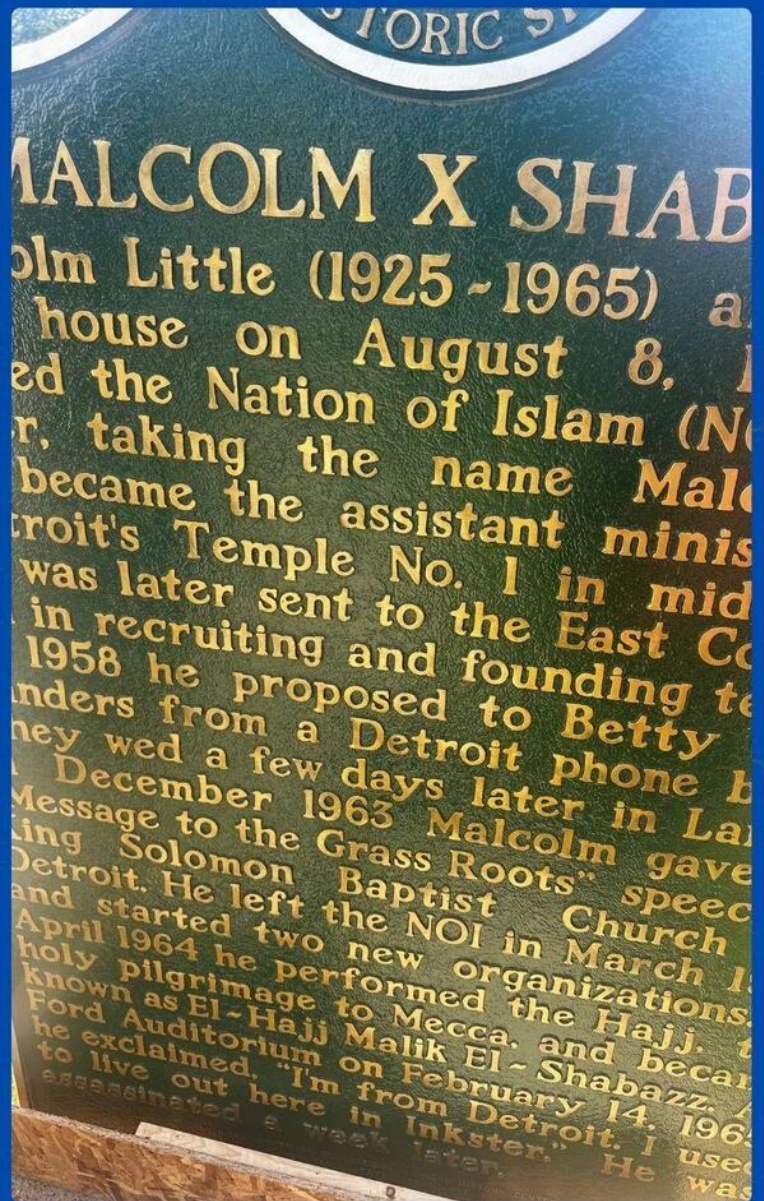
Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again? [View past webinar recordings](#). Do you have a great webinar idea you would like to explore with us? Let us know by emailing us at info@mhpn.org.

REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS



The MHPN's workshops are supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and National Endowment for the Arts.

PRESERVATION NEWS



Malcolm X residence and new historical marker. Photos courtesy of Aaron Sims.

Former Malcolm X residence receives historical marker

Aaron Sims, MHPN board member and co-founder and executive director of Project We Hope Dream and Believe, recently shared the news that the one-time residence of Malcolm X at 4336 Williams St. in Inkster, MI, has received a State Historical Marker.

In 2017, Project We Hope Dream and Believe acquired the residence, which belonged to Malcolm brother, Wilfred Little, also an official in the Detroit-born Nation of Islam's Temple No. 1. Malcolm lived in the home after serving several years in prison and granted parole by the Massachusetts State Parole Board. Malcolm arrived at the home, where Wilfred, his wife Ruth, and their children lived, on August 8, 1952, and resided there into 1953.

MHPN congratulates Aaron and his team for this major accomplishment! To learn more about the Malcolm X Archaeological Project, visit pwhdab.org/MalcolmX/home.

A New Vision: The Graphic Art of Tim Lewis

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 4, 5-7 p.m.

Alden B. Dow Home & Studio, 315 Post Street, Midland, MI

[The Alden B. Dow Home & Studio](#) proudly presents *A New Vision: The Graphic Art of Tim Lewis*, an exhibition celebrating the extraordinary life, career, and craft of acclaimed graphic designer and illustrator Timothy Gale Lewis (1937-2017). A native of Midland, Lewis was shaped by a city defined by the arts, science, and creativity, a vision brought to life through the inspiring work of Alden B. Dow, F.A.I.A., Architect Laureate of Michigan. This retrospective exhibition highlights five decades of Lewis' work as a commercial artist and illustrator, showcasing original artwork and prints.



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

What do you think about historic preservation opportunities in Michigan? What threats do historic places face, and where can historic preservation champions focus their attention and resources in the years ahead? The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office is hosting a series of regional public workshops that will take place across Michigan during summer 2025 to allow citizens an opportunity to offer their ideas and input.

Regional Workshops

Monday, September 8: Upper Peninsula (Marquette)

Wednesday, September 10: Northern Lower Michigan (Petoskey)

Virtual Workshops

In order to accommodate individuals who couldn't attend one of the five regional meetings or prefer to participate from the convenience of home or work, one final virtual meeting remains. Registration is required to participate in the virtual meetings.

Thursday, September 25: 11:30 am-1 p.m.

[REGISTER](#)

Statewide SHPO survey for preservation practitioners

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is in the early stages of preparing the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, and they need your input. Please take a new survey which is targeted specifically towards historic preservation (and allied) professionals/volunteers who live and/or work in Michigan.

SHPO is interested in obtaining your ideas and vision for the future of historic preservation in Michigan. They also want to better understand who comprises the historic preservation workforce in the Great Lakes State as they consider current and future strategies to grow and enhance the profession. Some of this information has never been gathered before in a comprehensive format.

The results of the survey will inform the development of the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and will influence strategic direction for historic preservation over an eight-year period, from 2027-2034.

This survey is completely anonymous, has about twelve questions, and should take approximately five minutes to complete. Thank you!

[SURVEY](#)

Do you know a historic Black church seeking funding to strengthen its capital, staffing, and operations? To preserve and uplift these historic places and the neighborhoods they serve, the [African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund](#) established the Preserving Black Churches program, a \$60 million initiative backed by generous philanthropic support from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Preserving Black Churches grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and are intended to preserve historic houses of worship (those with active congregations or that are being repurposed for new uses within the community) and advance preservation activities including capital projects, programming and interpretation, capacity building, project planning, and endowment and financial sustainability. Eligible applicants include churches, public agencies, and 501c3 non-profits.

The application portal is now open. Please review [grant guidelines](#) for additional details. Applications are due September 12, 2025.



Union City Society for Historic Preservation carriage house dedication

On September 27, at 1 p.m., the Union City Society for Historic Preservation will hold a dedication ceremony for their new Walsh & Engle Carriage House, built to house their rare 1870s doctor's buggy. The carriage house is on the grounds of the Hammond House at 210 Charlotte St., Union City, MI. This local group of preservationists has done an outstanding job of protecting the community's historical resources. They recently announced a partnership with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe. [Tap here to learn more!](#)



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