



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

October 2025 Newsletter

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



Notes from the MHPN board retreat

The MHPN's Full Board and Staff met for our Annual Retreat on September 12-13 in Lansing. Friends, committee members, and partners are always welcome to attend this yearly event. We know the sacrifice it takes to step away from work and home for nearly two full days -- but it's so worth it.

Thank you to:

Our staff -- Brenda, Cindy, and Xiaohan -- for their daily dedication to the MHPN.

To those who retreated with us to focus exclusively on carrying out the mission and future work of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (and had fun in the process).

To those who sent their ideas and encouragement, even if they could not attend with us.

And, finally, to our hosts, the Michigan Municipal League and the Christman Company, for providing such comfortable and professional spaces for our meetings.

Why do we meet annually? It's good to track our data, celebrate our wins, and set new goals. A few years ago, we started the work of measuring MHPN progress and direction with a strategic planning method that pretty much everyone loved. However, our free-floating discussions were arguably the most engaging. This year was a similar format – we discussed what drives us, what exists beyond our service to the Network, and what provides grounding to our whole selves.

We also marked our significant progress in streamlining the MHPN's operations and celebrated a big win by migrating to the Whova software for conference management. This freed up a lot of staff bandwidth -- which helped us get the full picture of the MHPN's daily work. We re-measured and re-weighted our priorities, objectives, actions, activities, and outcomes, then reset our intentions for the 2025-2026 year. No surprise, Fund Development and Advocacy are emerging as our next areas of focus.

In our experience, this is the special sauce of our Network: the banking of career-spanning friendships that add good to the world (and that might land a great project now or in the future). We fueled this strengthening of social bonds with snacks, good Wi-Fi, and awesome side conversations that helped us get to know our colleagues and fellow MHPN-ers, or tend connections we've held over many years.

The proceeds from this year's Retreat will be shared in forthcoming Board Meeting packets. We are excited about what's next. If the promise of nerdy fun with fellow preservationists hasn't clinched the deal for you yet, perhaps knowing that we need you will entice you to join us in September 2026. Want to get involved in a committee or volunteer role? Reach out to [Xiaohan](#) and be part of our success!



Melissa Milton-Pung
MHPN President



Still Want to Attend the Annual Fall Benefit in Grand Rapids?

While formal registration is now closed for the MHPN's Annual Fall Benefit in Grand Rapids, walk-ins are welcome! The food and drink will be plentiful, the networking will be lively, and the Four Star Theatre has ample space, so please consider attending.

The party is on Saturday, October 4, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and includes a strolling dinner of great Mexican food from the theatre's own Burton Heights Neighborhood, complimentary beer & wine, auction, tours, and awards ceremony! Tickets are \$110 per person, \$80 for government employees/officials & seniors (60+), and \$60 for students.

[Visit the Fall Benefit page on our website for the details you need to join us this Saturday!](#)

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors

\$2,500 or More

Bay View Handworks, Michigan
The Christman Company Historic Preservation Group - Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids
Four Star Theatre, Grand Rapids
Kidorf Preservation Consulting, Detroit
RAM Construction Services, Livonia



Historic Preservation Group



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\$1,000 - \$2,499

Pinnacle Construction Group, Grand Rapids
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Peter J. Kulick
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Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., Bingham Farms



Janet L. Kreger



Up to \$249

Caryl and Michael Burke, Dexter; Kathy and Don Duquette, Ann Arbor; Edison Brokers + Co, East Grand Rapids; Sharon Ferraro, Kalamazoo

This list is current to September 24, 2025. Every effort is made to ensure all sponsors are included. If there are omissions or errors, we sincerely apologize. Corrections are made on event signage.



2026 annual conference registration opens in February

MHPN’s next big event is the 46th annual conference titled, “Resilient by Design.” The conference takes place May 7 through May 9, 2026, at the [Edsel & Eleanor Ford House \(a National Historic Landmark\) Visitor Center](#) in Grosse Pointe Shores.

For the latest updates, visit our [annual conference webpage](#). MHPN will have a great line-up of sessions and events, including a Modernism in Southfield tour!

ADVOCACY ALERT



Movement on our two House Bills has come to a halt while the Legislature deals with the State's budget. MHPN members, friends, and partners, however, are using the time to reach out to their elected officials in Lansing to let them know of their support for lifting the current \$5M annual credit cap on the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

Communities are getting their Resolutions passed by their city councils and individuals are writing their constituent letters. The MHPN also has been at work, writing to every community in the state that participates in the Michigan Main Street Program, is a Certified Local Government, or has an Historic District Commission. These communities are among those that utilize the tax credits the most, and are most outspoken about the program's \$5M annual cap. The request is that all of them ask their City Councils to pass a supportive Resolution, as well as approve Resolutions from their own Boards and partners.

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). In addition to increasing the current annual cap, their bills propose other enhancements that will give more projects access to the credits. Find all the information you need to be an effective advocate on the [MHPN Advocacy page](#)! Income-producing and residential property owners in every part of the state will thank you!

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Eastern Michigan University announces new preservation class

Founded in 1979, Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Program is the largest of its kind in the country and is certified by the National Council for Preservation Education. A new course titled "Building Preservation Technology" is starting this school year. Ron Staley, the instructor, is a nationally-recognized construction executive, Fellow of the Association for Preservation Technology, and Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects-Michigan. Ron brings a wealth of expertise, having led high-profile restorations which include the Michigan State Capitol, the U.S. Capitol, and Detroit's newly-reopened Michigan Central Station.

Designed to meet industry demand, the new course continues EMU's interest in such technical training as first provided by early faculty members David Evans and Ilene Tyler, both Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and MHPN members. The course will equip students with technical skills, restoration methods, and material science to preserve structures built before 1975.

For over 30 years, Ron has also been involved with the MHPN, serving on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer, and regularly presenting at the annual conference. He established the MHPN's Construction Trades Council – now the Historic Resource Council – and compiled its first Annual Directory which continues to be the go-to resource to locate people and firms with experience in the renovation and restoration of historic buildings.

[Tap here for more information about the course.](#)

starting at \$200



BE PART OF MHPN'S 27th

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Don't miss out on a great marketing opportunity!

Deadline: November 21, 2025

<https://www.mhpn.org/resource-directory/>

Registration for MHPN's Resource Directory opens October 8

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

MHPN offers historic district commissioner training

MHPN offers workshop for Historic District Commissions. Whether the commission or commissioners are new or experienced, these workshops provide guidance and best practices to ensure your commission makes sound decisions with fair and thorough deliberations. Choose from the following training sessions:

- How to establish a local historic district
- Historic district commissioner training
- Historic district commissioner advanced training
- Local historic districts for property owners

Prior to the workshop, the trainer will request information specific to your community, so that your workshop will be tailored as much as possible to the special features and individual needs of your community. An experienced, professional preservationist facilitates these workshops. Historic District Commissions must be members of the MHPN (\$150), [click here](#) to become a member. In-person training, depending on the availability of a local trainer, is \$500. Zoom training is \$300. The training sessions typically run from 6 – 9 p.m. on weekdays. All training materials will be provided.

[Tap here to learn more and to register!](#)

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](https://michigan.gov/museum)



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! 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](#).

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

Webinar: The Historical Archaeology of Michigan October 16, 2025

This webinar features a discussion of *The Historical Archaeology of Michigan* by Dean L. Anderson, Michael S. Nassaney, and Krysta Ryzewski, a new volume in the University Press of Florida series the *American Experience in Archaeological Perspective*. The archaeological findings discussed in this book highlight Anishinaabe

peoples, settler colonialism, immigrants, agriculture, industry, and urbanization, and illustrate the distinct ways in which the American experience was lived in Michigan.

Workshop: Hands-on Masonry
October 18, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Richmond Park Pavilion, 963 Richmond NW Grand Rapids

This event is mostly hands-on with secondary element of lecture, teaching the basics of tuckpointing, mortar and plaster. \$100 registration fee. Contact: Rhonda Baker, City of Grand Rapids, at Rbaker@Grcity.Ua.

REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS

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.

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



Preservation News You Can Use!



Michigan Historic Preservation Plan Stakeholder Workshop
October 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is leading the effort to develop Michigan's next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, which will span the years 2027-2034. The plan is not meant for the SHPO alone but aims to identify broad goals and opportunities for all preservation champions to focus on. Throughout the summer, SHPO collected feedback from the public at regional and virtual meetings about their preservation goals and concerns. Preservation stakeholders are invited to gather on October 23 in East Lansing for a special workshop to learn about the data collected, review the prior plan's goals and outcomes, and share their own thoughts and vision for the future of historic preservation in our state.

Lunch is included. Please join us! The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, October 15. Please follow the link below to register for this invitation-only event. Can't attend on October 23? You can prepare written comments and submit them!

[Tap here for more details and to register.](#)



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