



# MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

November 2025 Newsletter

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

## Thank you for attending MHPN's Fall Benefit!



*Fall Benefit Photos. Top row (l to r): audience selfie (Melissa Milton-Pung); benefit auction (April Bryan); MHPN Executive Director Brenda Rigdon (April Bryan). Bottom Row (l to r): Lifetime Achievement Awardee Janet Brashler (April Bryan); Attendees (Melissa Milton-Pung); Lifetime Achievement Awardee Lisa Croteau (April Bryan)*

Thank you to all who attended MHPN's Fall Benefit at the Four Star Theatre in Grand Rapids on October 4! We are grateful for your attendance. Thank you, once again, to our sponsors. Our team and attendees had a

blast. Please join us next October!

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## **"Resilient by Design:" 2026 Annual Conference update**

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Abstracts have been chosen for the twenty-four in-seat sessions to be presented during MHPN's 46th Annual Conference May 7 through May 9, 2026. The range of choices is outstanding and come from around the state.

We hope you'll join us at the Visitor Center for the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores to hear all of the latest preservation news and take in the amazing sessions we have selected for you! Thank you to our Conference Committee for their time and dedication in planning this outstanding annual event!

For all your conference news, [visit our website](#)! Conference registration opens in February 2026.

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*MHPN board members and staff, shown here at a September meeting in Lansing, work throughout the year to maintain the organization's mission to support the sustainability and economic viability of Michigan's historic places through advocacy, education, and direct action. Please consider making a financial donation or a donation of your time and talents to MHPN. Photo: Melissa Milton-Pung*

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## **Annual Giving Reminders as we near the end of 2025**

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Please remember these important year-end days of giving! Shop Small Saturday is November 29. On this day, you're invited to shop your favorite downtown store, historic neighborhood retail spots, and farmers markets. Don't have a favorite or just want to try something new? [Click here for inspiration](#)!

Giving Tuesday is December 2. It's a reminder to give your time, talents, and gifts to the causes that mean the most to you. We hope you consider MHPN and join one of our committees or make an extra financial donation to help support our work.

Finally, at the close of December, we'll ask you to consider making an annual gift to MHPN. It's not your last gift of 2025, but rather your first investment in the work we'll do together in 2026. These past five years,

we've used your year-end gifts to "match" the support we receive from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Even though the Council's funding for pass-through grants is uncertain right now, we'll still need your help. Want to start giving early? [Donate online and check the year-end giving designation.](#)

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*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/>

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## Registration for MHPN's *Resource Directory* by November 21

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Each year, we publish our [Resource Directory](#). It is the source for developers, property owners, and municipalities in need of preservation-related services. Directory listings, or quarter-page, half-page, and full-page ads can be placed.

MHPN publishes over 2,000 copies of the directory annually. Throughout the state, MHPN staff and volunteers respond to inquiries from a wide range of individuals, businesses, and organizations. The directory is often referred to for solutions. This is an opportunity for you to directly reach a targeted audience.

The deadline to register is November 21. Click the link above to get started!

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# ADVOCACY ALERT



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## Update on Michigan HBs 4503 and 4504

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With the State budget passed, things are moving in Lansing. In September's issue of *NetworkNews*, we reported that our two House bills had come to a halt while the legislature worked on the State Budget. On September 25, however, the House, Senate, and Governor reached an agreement on the FY26 budget. On October 7, Governor Whitmer signed it.

### What does this mean for us?

Two packages of large economic development bills already are taking shape. We are again meeting one-on-one with legislators, asking that House Bills 4503 and 4504 be included.

### The point are we making?

While the big stimulus bills are important, they largely benefit specific projects in select parts of the state. On the other hand, if we get the annual cap raised on the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit, we can continue to offer an economic benefit to communities in every corner of the state. Both are important.

Our bills' sponsors, Rep. Joey Andrews (D - 38th House District) and Rep. Steve Frisbie (R - 44th House District), as well as Rep. Mike Hoadley (R - 99th House District), Chair of the House Economic Competitiveness Committee where our bills are assigned, have all voiced support, as have other legislators.

NOW IS THE TIME to get your resolutions passed by your city councils and to write your own constituent letters. [Visit the MHPN Advocacy webpage](#) for all of the information you need to be an effective advocate! Income-producing and residential property owners all over Michigan will thank you.

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# Thank you for your support

Hello!

As you may be aware, the budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor contained full funding for the Michigan History Center and archaeology (Cultural Resource Management) in the DNR!!!

We want to thank MHPN and all of the members who wrote to the governor and to legislators and expressed support for the history center and its archaeology program. We appreciate your advocacy and so do the folks at the history center. State employees cannot lobby for their programs, so citizens like all of us must stand up.

Now on to state tax credit advocacy!!!

We wish you all the very best,

With gratitude,

Dean Anderson and Laura Ashlee

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## Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

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### **Webinar - This Used to be Normal: Pattern Book Homes for 21st Century Michigan**

**AICP: CM 1; AIA: 1 LU|HSW**

**November 13, 1 p.m.**

The Pattern Book Homes Project, led by the Michigan Municipal League and funded by MEDC, creates new infill housing in Michigan neighborhoods. Designed to reflect historic patterns and help retain urban fabric, they are reviving housing styles from beloved catalogues such as Sears, Montgomery Ward, and Michigan's own Aladdin Homes. Our speaker will be Melissa Milton-Pung, Program Manager, Policy Research Labs. Michigan Municipal League.

**REGISTER**

*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](mailto:info@mhpn.org).*





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### Preservation News You Can Use!

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**REMINDER!** If you have an application open for a 2025 State Historic Tax Credit project but have not yet received your pre-approval, time is ticking!

You are encouraged to finalize your application as soon as possible while credits are still available (note deadlines below).

Completed Part 2 applications must be received at our office no later than November 26, 2025, to be considered for 2025 credits. Be sure to carefully review submittal instructions! Applications can still be completed after the November 26th deadline; however, application materials received after that date will be held until January and reviewed in order along with new applications being received on a first come, first served basis for 2026 credits.

Note that under the state statute and program rules, Part 3 applications are due within 12 months of the return to service date. We strongly encourage applicants to complete and submit their Part 3 documentation as soon as possible after the return to service. If it has been more than a year since a project was completed, the project is no longer eligible for the credit.

[Click here to find program instructions, applications, FAQ's, deadlines, and more.](#)

**FINAL REMINDER!** Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant applications for the FY2026 are being accepted until Friday, November 21, 2025. Up to \$60,000 can be awarded for project planning or bricks-and-mortar lighthouse repair and rehabilitation projects.

YOU can help preserve Michigan's lighthouses! By selecting a SAVE OUR LIGHTS license plate for your vehicle, a portion of your plate fee directly supports the MLAP grant program. The more plates on cars, the more grants we can fund!

[Click here for grant application materials and for a link to get the license plate.](#)

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