



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

December 2025 Newsletter

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

MHPN Announcement

MHPN's board of Directors once again wishes Brenda Rigdon all the best and a huge thank you for her work leading our organization for over two years. The board continues to work through this transition and will keep members updated.



*A look at the lobby of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Visitor Center in Grosse Pointe Shores, MI.
Photo: Courtesy of Fordhouse.org.*

Registration for the 46th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference opens February 2026

Conference theme: "Resilient by Design"
Thursday, May 7 – Saturday, May 9, 2026
Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Visitor Center, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

[Please visit the conference web page for updates.](#)

Thank you to our conference underwriters



**MICHIGAN
ECONOMIC**
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION







Kiana Wenzell to be the 2026 conference keynote speaker

Kiana Wenzell, co-executive director of Design Core Detroit, will be MHPN's Keynote Speaker at the 46th annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in metro Detroit. Her focus is "Remixing the City: Historic Preservation, Inclusive Design, and the Practice of Community Repair." To look at the philosophy behind "remixing," Kiana includes examples of architectural adaptation and public space renewal and resiliency, such as the revival of Michigan Central Station into an innovation campus, the transformation of The Congregation church into a thriving neighborhood hub, and projects like the Detroit Riverwalk, Dequindre Cut, and Dreamtroit, which foster accessibility and connection.

Design Core Detroit is the organization that stewards Detroit's UNESCO City of Design designation. With more than 20 years of leadership in Detroit's design ecosystem, Kiana co-directs the Detroit Month of Design and advances design-led strategies that drive community development, innovation, and equitable economic growth.

Kiana's Keynote Address will take place at the conference on Friday, May 8, from 12:45 p.m. to 2 p.m. The presentation is free and open to the public.

NOTE: Because Detroit figures prominently in the 2026 conference as a UNESCO City of Design, [take a moment and watch this video](#).

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Annual Giving Reminders as we near the end of 2025

This issue of *NetworkNews* arrives in your email just in time for Giving Tuesday on December 2. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and reminds you to offer your time, talents, and gifts to the causes that mean the most to you. We at MHPN would be proud to be one of them!

If you're too busy right now with the holiday hustle and bustle, please know that we'll be asking you to make a gift to MHPN at the close of the year. Over the past five years, we've used your year-end gifts to "match" the support we receive from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. The good news is we've just learned that MACC has again been funded by the State of Michigan. So, once again, we'll be applying for support!

There's a Donate button waiting to help you out! [Donate online and check the year-end giving designation.](#)

ADVOCACY ALERT



Now is the time to act! Email these legislators by December 19 in support of the preservation tax credit.

We are asking you to act because you are an MHPN partner who is working or volunteering in the preservation field. As the Michigan legislature works to develop a new economic development policy to replace SOAR, we have been actively advocating for the inclusion of House Bills 4503 and 4504 - legislation expanding the Historic Preservation Tax Credit to \$100M annually.

We know you can be an effective advocate of the Tax Credits because you can speak directly to their benefits. We believe your outreach to these key legislative leaders would be especially valuable in encouraging them to include their expansion:

Speaker Matt Hall (MattHall@house.mi.gov; 517-373-1784)

Representative Mike Hoadley (MikeHoadley@house.mi.gov; 517-373-1789)

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (senWBrinks@senate.michigan.gov; 517-373-1801 Senator Sam Singh (senSSingh@senate.michigan.gov; 517-373-3447

Will you take a moment to email or call these legislators by December 19 to say you support House Bills 4503 and 4504 as one of the most effective ways to bring economic development opportunities to all areas of the state? [Click here for more information, a sample text, or the contact information so you can cc your own Legislators.](#)

Thank you for your continued engagement in supporting policies that strengthen Michigan's communities and preserve our historic assets. Please don't hesitate to contact Janet Kreger via email at kregerj1981@att.net or phone at 734-546-9991 with questions.

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

Webinar: Energy Technology and Industrial Heritage: Opportunities for Adaptive Reuse and Place-Based Design Thinking
AICP: CM 1 #9321524
December 18, 1 p.m.

United States electric utilities will invest \$1.4 trillion dollars in new and updated energy infrastructure in the next five years. Led by Timothy Scarlett, Associate Professor at Michigan Technological University, this webinar will review some evolving energy technologies, with a focus on those that are suited for novel use in industrial heritage landscapes. Participants will learn about adaptive reuse and development opportunities using energy as an anchor around which redevelopment and remediation planning can occur. We will review example incentive programs states have created to capture a larger share of energy infrastructure investment, concluding with an outline of how historic preservation professionals are uniquely suited to coordinate these efforts.

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.

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



Preservation News You Can Use!



FY26 CLG Project Grant Applications Now Open! Due February 6, 2026

Applications for FY 2026 Certified Local Government (CLG) project grants are now available. Michigan communities that have entered into the [Certified Local Government \(CLG\) program](#) by the application deadline are eligible to apply for FY 2026 project grants from SHPO. Nonprofits and public entities within a CLG community can also partner with the CLG on an application. Funding is available in two categories: (1) pre-development and development projects and (2) planning, documentation, and education projects. [Learn more.](#)



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
**National Preservation
Lawyers Network**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced the creation of the National Preservation Lawyers Network. While the resources from the network will be officially launched in 2026, the Trust is seeking lawyers to join. This national network enables and empowers interested lawyers to provide representation to the American people in order to protect, preserve, and reuse the historic places in their communities. [Learn more.](#)



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