



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

January 2026 Newsletter

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



Do you know where the work of the MHPN takes place? We're headquartered in a "Comfort Station" built in 1914-1915 for passengers waiting for the interurban trains that ran through Lansing. Located in Old Town Lansing, a Michigan Main Street downtown listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was acquired and restored by MHPN in 2011-2013. Photo: Mark Rodman.

If you missed the Year-End Appeal, please know you still can give! We're still counting!

MHPN's board and staff wish you the happiest New Year! We lift a glass of bubbly to all of us for safeguarding and celebrating our cultural resources in 2025. Even though the clock already struck midnight on December 31, we invite you to make a "year-end" gift to continue our work together.

Will you help? [Visit our website's donation page to make an online gift](#). Choose "Year-End Solicitation" as your designation. Or send your check made payable to "MHPN" at 313 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. Don't consider this one more year-end gift. Consider it your first investment in 2026!



*The 2026 annual conference is focused on the Detroit Metro Area that includes over 200 cities surrounding Detroit. Pictured here is Downtown Berkley, but other cities will come up during in-seat sessions and tours – Southfield, the Grosse Pointes, Huntington Woods, Ferndale, Dearborn, Royal Oak, and others.
Photo: Oakland County.*

Have you considered becoming a 2026 conference sponsor? Both businesses and individuals are welcome! Let us hear from you by January 14!

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is still seeking sponsors for its 46th annual statewide preservation conference! The conference will be held in Grosse Pointe Shores, May 7-9, 2026, headquartered at the stunning Visitor Center at Ford House, the National Historic Landmark residence of Edsel and Eleanor Ford. This year's theme is "Resilient by Design."

WHY SUPPORT US? There are various discounts and special invitations extended to sponsors. If you're a business, however, the greatest return on your investment is that the conference inspires and educates buyers for the services, products, and properties you offer. Whether you're an individual or a business, participants note your support of the largest annual gathering of those involved in Michigan's historic preservation activities.

Please take a moment and [visit the conference landing page](#). Choose from among the Giving Opportunities, request invoicing later if desired, and mail, email, or fax your Sponsorship Form to the MHPN. Or to give online, [click on our online donation form](#) and choose "Annual Conference" as your designation. At check out, write in what you would like to sponsor. Either way, we must hear from you by Wednesday, January 14, 2026, to include you in the brochure.

Thank you for considering our request!


Conference hotels are now taking reservations

Conference rates have been arranged at two hotels for arrival on Tuesday, May 5, through Sunday, May 10. Consider coming before the conference starts, or staying afterwards, to make it a Detroit Metro Area Weekend. Registrations can be made by phone by asking for the "Michigan Historic Preservation Network" block of rooms.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
45800 Market Place Boulevard
Chesterfield, Michigan 48051
Located at I-94 at M-5, 16 miles north of Ford House (20 minutes)
Phone for Reservations: 586-267-5300
\$99 + tax and fees per night
Cutoff Date: Monday, April 21, 2026

Holiday Inn Express GM Tech Center
11500 East Eleven Mile Road
Warren, Michigan 48089
Located on East Eleven Mile Road at Hoover, 10 miles northwest of Ford House (15 minutes)
Phone for Reservations: 586-754-0376
\$114-\$124 + tax and fees per night
Cutoff Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026





This photo of the Kalamazoo City Hall's stunning interior will be part of the Friday session, "Funding Community Resilience through Unorthodox Means," presented by Pamela O'Connor, Luis Peña, and Carla Fernández-Soto. They will discuss the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission's work with a Community Foundation Fund to make preservation-based gifts and grants at the local level. Photo: Pameal O'Connor.

Attending MHPN's 46th Annual Conference? Track I Sessions may interest you!

The MHPN's 46th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference brings together preservation projects and people from around metro Detroit and the state. One of the best ways to begin thinking about attending is to read about the presentations and tours, all of which are organized into tracks.

Last month we introduced you to our 2026 Keynote Speaker, Kiana Wenzell, Co-Executive Director of Design Core Detroit. This month, we move to Track 1: Theme –"Resilient by Design," exploring what we're doing to insulate our work from challenges to the preservation field right now.

Here's what's being presented in Track 1:

Thursday, May 7:

1:15–2:30 p.m. – "Masterpiece(s): the Rediscovery of a Mid-century Mural by Alexander Girard" (Grosse Pointe)

2:45–3:45 p.m. – "Comeback Communities: How the Main Street Approach Has Worked in Michigan" (Oakland County)

4–5 p.m. – "Go Big & Go Home: St. Mary's Academy Adaptive Reuse" (Monroe)

Friday, May 16:

10:30–11:45 a.m. – "Reimagining Old Strategies for New Goals: From Selma to Greenfield Village" (Dearborn)

2:30–3:30 p.m. – "Funding Community Resilience through Unorthodox Means" (Kalamazoo)

3:45–5 p.m. – "Holland's Washington Square: Resilient in name, form, and spirit" (Holland)

In the months leading up to the conference, we'll discuss Track 2: Information, Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills, Track 4: Tours, and some special features, including a plenary session to get us thinking and talking, sessions presented by Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office, a Saturday morning program looking at preservation projects around Ford House's property, and three Saturday morning meet-up tours around Detroit – Marygrove College Campus, Detroit Athletic Club, and Hamtramck Stadium.

For the complete abstracts describing these presentations and providing the names and bios of presenters, visit the [MHPN's conference landing page later in January](#). The complete conference brochure will be available late-February, which is when registration will open online.



Track 1 is sponsored by BlackBerry Window & Door Systems, Kalamazoo

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

Webinar: Historic Preservation Overview **January 15, 2026** **9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

This webinar provides an introduction to the legal framework governing the designation of historic properties. It also offers an overview of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as a review of historic residential architectural styles and associated terminology.

Registration Opens Soon

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 here.](#)



Pathways of Patriotism exhibit is now open at the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society

The Jackson County Michigan Historical Society is proud to announce the opening of “Pathways of Patriotism: Exploring Jackson County’s Revolutionary Roots,” a major America250 exhibit commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. The exhibit opened on December 16 inside the historic Jackson Amtrak Station—America’s oldest continuously operating passenger station. This new exhibit highlights how the founding ideals of liberty, representation, and civic responsibility—first ignited during the American Revolution—have echoed across Jackson County’s history. Through the stories of Revolutionary War veterans, abolitionists, civic leaders, immigrant communities, and local movements for democracy and civil rights, Pathways of Patriotism connects the region’s past to the nation’s evolving commitment to freedom.

A lineup of local, state, and federal dignitaries will deliver remarks at the opening ceremony, marking the beginning of Jackson County’s contributions to the national America250 celebration. Their participation underscores the historical significance of this exhibit and its role in honoring the county’s deep ties to American civic heritage. Following the remarks, a ribbon-cutting ceremony organized by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce will take place.

The exhibit will remain on display at the Jackson Amtrak Station, located at 501 E. Michigan Avenue, through December 2026, serving as a centerpiece for Jackson County’s America250 programming. For more information about this initiative or to learn more about the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society, please visit myjacksonhistorical.org.

The new application period for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant program is now open through Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT.

For communities with populations of 50,000 or less, the program provides grants of up to \$50,000 to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities! [Learn more here.](#)



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