



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

February 2026 Newsletter

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

MHPN is accepting nominations for the 2026 annual conference awards program

Each year at the annual preservation Conference, MHPN recognizes outstanding contributions to historic preservation in the State of Michigan. We welcome your nominations in seven categories: Building, Tax Credit, Cultural Landscape, Preservation Gem, Citizen, Community, and Government/Institution.

On the evening of Friday, May 8, join MHPN in Grosse Pointe Shores at the Visitor Center at Ford House to celebrate the best of historic preservation in Michigan at the festive awards ceremony. Gather with colleagues, friends, and fellow award-winners for drinks and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the ceremony.

[Visit MHPN's website to learn more.](#)



This historic photo of a Chaldean Market in Detroit is from one of the diverse neighborhoods discussed in the Thursday session, "Telling the Story of Detroit's Diverse Communities." Photo: Provided by the Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board

Attending MHPN's 46th Annual Conference? Track 2 Sessions may interest you!

The MHPN's 46th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference is May 7 through May 9 at the Visitor Center of Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. 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 Track 1. This month, we take a look at Track 2: Information – "What You Need to Know." This track is designed to support your preservation work.

Here's what's being presented in Track 2:

Thursday, May 7

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. "Telling the Story of Detroit's Diverse Communities: Grant Management & Implementation." Learn about grant-funded projects which captured underrepresented community history from Detroit's Historic Designation Advisory Board, Quinn Evans, and Loggia Preservation. This panel discussion covers grant management, working with diverse community members, producing context reports, understanding project challenges, and more!

Friday, May 8

8 – 9 a.m. – "Building a Resilient Career Pipeline: Michigan Tech's Virtual Cultural Resources Career Fair." In 2025, Michigan Technological University's Department of Social Sciences and Office of Career Services created

a free, virtual career fair. Co-sponsored by the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA), the fair was opened to current students and alumni from more than 50 colleges and universities nationwide, with equally diverse employers. (Note: This year's virtual career fair is March 18. Learn more in *Preservation News You Can Use* at the end of this newsletter.)

8 – 9 a.m. – “From Blueprints to Bytes: Digital Twins and Historic Building Information Management.” For custodians of revered historic places, stewardship is a complex endeavor. The long histories of these facilities are dispersed across decades worth of documents, media, artifacts, and institutional memories. “Digital Twin” technology allows these stewards to synthesize information about their multi-layered past to make informed decisions.

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. & 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. – “Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects: 101: Introduction” and “201: Intermediate” (Two-part workshop). Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. “101” provides a working knowledge of some basic incentives by considering several local projects. For those with a basic knowledge of project development, “201” presents examples of actual deal structuring and how you can work with state and federal government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants who can bring incentives to your project. Time is made available for questions. (*A la carte tickets available.*)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. – “What Warrants Rescue: Dilemmas in Mid-Century Preservation.” Mid-century design produced many of our most recognizable domestic and commercial architectural treasures. These buildings also produce a wealth of questions for preservationists who are now faced with pressure to assess their historical significance using guidance that does not always easily apply. Case studies are used to frame the questions.

3:45 – 5 p.m. – “Our Stewardship Imperative: Adapt!” Preservation planning and project execution must now include actively reviewing climate risks and incorporating resiliency measures into thoughtful recommendations and design strategies. This session explores a practical roadmap for assessing resource vulnerability and taking adaptive action.

In the months leading up to the conference, we'll discuss Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills; and Track 4: Tours; and special features, including a plenary session to get us thinking and talking, a performance of The Albert Kahn Sonata paired with striking footage of buildings by Kahn, sessions presented by Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office, a Saturday morning workshop looking at preservation projects around the Ford House 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 website](#) in mid-February. The complete conference brochure will be available at the end of February, which is when registration will open.

Track 2 is sponsored by Quinn Evans, Ann Arbor





Participants in Saturday's workshop will tour the Ford House property, meeting craftspeople currently working on preservation projects. Top left: Rebecca Torsell, Ford House; top right: Kevin Ellwood, Merry Go Round Stained Glass, Inc.; bottom left: Simon Leverett, Leverett Masonry Consulting; bottom right: Matt Trupiano Fred's Key Shop.

Terrific conference programs are planned for Saturday, May 9. Plan on staying!

Make a weekend of it in metro Detroit during the 46th annual preservation conference. After the presentations on Thursday and Friday, Enjoy the morning workshop, "Ford House's Preservation Philosophy Applied: A Look into Lime Mortars, Leaded Glass Windows, and Historic Locks and Hardware," on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon, with breakfast from 8:30 to 9 a.m. Spend the morning visiting preservation projects around the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate (Ford House), which was the Grosse Pointe Shores home of Edsel and Eleanor Ford and their four children. The 87-acre property was designed by architect Albert Kahn and landscape architect Jens Jensen in 1926 and was constructed between 1927 and 1928. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and was named a National Historic Landmark in 2016. The preservation of Ford House relies on the assistance of master craftspeople to employ the highest quality and standards. This walking workshop entails a review of historic materials and case studies pertaining to lime mortars, leaded-glass windows, and locks and hardware.

Workshop presenters include Simon Leverett, Owner/Masonry Consultant, Leverett Masonry Consulting (Chicago, IL); Kevin Ellwood, Owner, Merry Go Round Stained Glass, Inc. (Clinton Twp); Matt Trupiano, Master

Locksmith/Inventor, Fred's Key Shop (Roseville); and Rebecca Torsell, Director of Historic Preservation, Ford House (Grosse Pointe Shores).

But wait! There's more!

Also on Saturday, MHPN has planned three meet-up tours including, "Behind-the-Scenes at the Detroit Athletic Club," "A First-Hand Look at Exterior Masonry Restoration at Marygrove," and "Hamtramck Stadium: Rooted in Major Negro Baseball League History." Tickets are available *a la carte* and open to the public. So bring your friends and family to participate in these exceptional opportunities to tour these historic sites.

Start planning now! MHPN has reserved a block of rooms at the conference hotels with conference rates through Sunday morning departure.

This Saturday Workshop is sponsored by D.C. Byers Company, Warren



Conference hotels are now taking reservations

Conference rates have been arranged at two hotels for Tuesday arrival, May 5, through Sunday check-out, 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; ask 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

Upcoming Webinars

Bridging Policy and Community: A Case Study in Resilient Preservation Governance
February 12, 1 - 2 p.m.
Credits: AIA: 1 LU

Speaker: Cheryl Donaldson, PhD Student at the University of Texas at Arlington – College of Architecture, Planning & Public Affairs will present a case study examining how the City of Arlington, Texas, advances historic preservation through coordinated action among its Planning Department, Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC), and City Council. Drawing from recent LPC meeting minutes and city planning processes, the session highlights the collaborative effort to establish a Landmark Preservation Overlay for Knapp Heritage Park.

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.](#)

Michigan SHPO Receives Historic Preservation Funds to Support Rural Communities

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Michigan Strategic Fund has been awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Historic Preservation Fund's FY2024 [Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program](#) administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced today.

Michigan's \$750,000 grant will be used to fund the Rural Heritage Partnership Program, through which the SHPO will provide funding to eligible applicants to complete repairs and improvements to qualified historic buildings in small, rural communities statewide. The goal of the program is to not only address immediate needs in these areas but also to promote long-term strategies that convey the importance of investing in our heritage assets as a meaningful component of economic development and community identity.

The Rural Heritage Partnership Program is anticipated to open applications in spring 2026, with full program guidelines available this winter. Eligible applicants are anticipated to include local units of government, non-profit organizations and public entities, who may also partner with private owners. Eligible properties will include commercial, industrial, civic, mixed-use and community-oriented properties in small, rural

communities statewide that have a population of 25,000 or fewer persons. Properties must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as part of a historic district. Interested parties can sign up for email updates from the SHPO [here](#).

The SHPO's grant is one of 10 that was awarded by the NPS this year to support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the country through the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program. Created in 2018, the program is named in honor of the late preservation leader Paul Bruhn, executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for nearly 40 years and provides funding to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Certified Local Governments, special district governments and nonprofits to create subgrant programs supporting historic preservation projects in rural communities.

This is Michigan's second award under the Paul Bruhn program, the first of which was received in 2021 and provided \$750,000 in funding for the Resilient Lakeshore Heritage Program, which supported historic preservation projects in communities along the Great Lakes.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Webinar: Advocating Successfully for State Historic Tax Credits

February 10, 1 p.m.

During this discussion, experts in state historic tax credits (HTC) from New York, Kansas, and Maine will share how they greatly improved their programs in 2025. Learn from their successes and ask the questions on your mind to help enhance your efforts in 2026. Successes ranged from encouraging legislators to expand HTC percentages in rural areas to lifting the census tract restriction if a historic rehabilitation creates affordable housing. Learn more about the latest innovations in preservation incentives and how to advocate for state historic tax credits.

Register

Redford Theatre announces RFP for window restoration

Calling all qualified firms for a grant-funded historic Redford Theatre window restoration project. A Request for Proposals is now open for experienced restoration contractors. This \$50,000 project will help preserve one of Detroit's historic landmarks for future generations. [View the RFP and submission details here](#).

Preservation Alert

The Palmer Park district in Detroit is threatened by disrepair. About 1/3 of the historic buildings in the district are considered by professionals in the field to be unsalvageable by disrepair. For more about the endangered historic properties in the Palmer Park district, [visit this link](#) for an opinion piece written by local historian Jacob Jones.

Save the Date: 2026 Virtual Career Fair

Meet job seekers from over 50 universities and colleges along with employers from over 35 companies and organizations nationwide (based on 2025 stats) at the Cultural Resources Management: Heritage and Preservation career fair on March 18, 2026. This virtual fair is specifically designed to help students studying for applied careers in cultural resources, including Anthropology and Archaeology, Geography, Sociology, Preservation, Architectural History, Planning, and allied fields. While CRM is a central part of the larger network of professionals working in heritage, preservation, compliance, management, and planning, most academic programs producing students for these careers are small and widely distributed throughout the country. On the other hand, many companies, agencies, and organizations that hire these students are often in different regions than the academic programs.

Employers are encouraged [to register](#) for this fair and be prepared to speak with students from a broad variety of institutions. When the website opens to job seekers to start registering, the seekers will see the list of companies who have registered. Organizers would like a sizable group of employers pre-registered so they encourage students and job seekers to register.



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