

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK
46th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference
May 7-9, 2026
Ford House Visitor Center
Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Compiled Abstracts in the order of presentation; all information; tours in green:
Current to: 2026-02-16

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 – 10:30 AM – 12:00 NOON:

2026 MHPN Annual Statewide Preservation Conference
“Resilient by Design”

TRACK: Special Event
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

MODERATOR: Melissa Milton-Pung, President, MHPN

Title:

2026 Plenary: An All-Conference Panel Discussion
“What Does Resiliency Look Like?”

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (123 words; 100-word limit)

What times these have been. Whereas it was a period of optimism for the preservation community when we last gathered for our annual conference in Detroit in 2016, the recent past has demanded that we act in opposition to efforts to dismantle national, state, and local preservation programs. We are struggling to insulate our preservation efforts from funding claw-backs, financial and political shifts, the rewriting of history, the draining of talent pipelines, climate change, and on and on. The question now is: What are all of us doing to insulate the work we do from this constant barrage of challenges? To be resilient looks less and less like just returning to what we had, and more like being aggressive about shaping what's next.

Summary Statement: (256 words; 300-word limit)

What times these have been. Whereas it was a time of optimism for the preservation community when we last gathered in Detroit in 2016, this past year has demanded that we act in opposition to efforts to dismantle national, state, and local preservation programs.

The greatest damage started with starving preservation activities of their funds, some to the point of elimination. It began at the top. Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Federal Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service served as the cornerstone in providing technical assistance and legal protections to preserve historic places. It listed properties and archaeological sites on the National

Register of Historic Places, processed projects applying for historic tax credits, and reviewed federally-funded undertakings to avoid harm to cultural resources. With cuts to the Historic Preservation Fund, however, the National Park Service eliminated staff and also cut financial assistance to the State Historic Preservation Offices. They too lost staff and programs, stalling their support of local-level initiatives by discouraging private investment, halting programs to recognize the contributions of underrepresented communities, dismissing smart climate policies, and so much more. Decades of evidence was collected by the preservation community to prove the value of keeping older buildings in use, but arguments fell on deaf ears.

The question now is: What are all of us doing to insulate the work we do from this constant barrage of existential challenges? To be resilient looks less and less like just bouncing back, and more like being aggressive about shaping what's next.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe the technical assistance and legal protections being lost at the Federal level as Historic Preservation Fund monies are cut.
- Demonstrate how the loss of Federal Historic Preservation Fund monies stifles a State Historic Preservation Office’s ability to be an economic engine for communities throughout the state.
- Discuss how the loss of support from the State Historic Preservation Office translates locally into the discouragement of private investment, the involvement of underrepresented communities, and smart climate policies.
- Compare the possible outcomes if the choice today is to work toward bouncing back from the current existential threats instead of being aggressive about shaping what comes next.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (150-word limit)

NAME: Janese Chapman
TITLE: Director
AFFIL: Detroit City Council, Historic Designation Advisory Board, Legislative Policy Division
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (152 words; 150-word limit)

For over 40 years, Janese Chapman has led the effort to protect and promote the historic places of Detroit as an historian and director of the city's Historic Designation Advisory Board. Janese graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master of History degree and served as a community Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before accepting a position with the City of Detroit in 1980. Since then, she has overseen the designation of hundreds of historic resources as local historic districts. Janese has championed identification and protection of the city's Black history. She has worked to ensure that all Detroiters – especially young people - feel included in the preservation of the city's heritage. Under her leadership, the Historic Designation Advisory Board has secured numerous national grants to fund historic surveys and designations. Janese is an emeriti leader of the MHPN, serving on the board of directors from 1996 to 2005.

NAME: Kate Knight
TITLE: Executive Director
AFFIL: Northville Downtown Development Authority
CITY: Northville, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (143 words; 150-word limit)

Kate Knight joined the City of Northville staff in 2025 as Executive Director of the Downtown Development Association, following her work as the the DDA Director for the City of Farmington. With more than a decade of downtown development leadership experience, she was returning home to lead downtown efforts in the city she has loved since planting roots with her family in 2002. Recent accolades in peer communities include leading Downtown Farmington to Great American Main Street national semi-finalist status in 2024 and achieving Michigan Downtown Association's 2024 Organization of the Year. Knight was Oakland County's inaugural Bret Rasegan Main Street Oakland County Leader in 2025. She is a frequent speaker and passionate advocate for downtown revitalization. Kate holds a 1996 BA in Design from Michigan State University and a 2004 Master of Urban Planning from Wayne State University, specializing in Community Development.

NAME: Dave Blaszkiewicz
TITLE: President and CEO
AFFIL: Invest Detroit
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (153 words; 150-word limit)

David Blaszkiewicz serves as president and chief executive officer of Invest Detroit, a nonprofit organization and certified community development financial institution that uses strategic lending and investment to catalyze economic growth in Detroit. With more than 25 years of experience, Dave manages implementation of collaborative economic growth strategies and leads the organization's efforts to strengthen relationships with the public, private, and philanthropic sectors through real estate development, small business support, and venture investment. He served a dual role as president and CEO of the Downtown Detroit Partnership, was co-creator and president of the Detroit Investment Fund - now a part of Invest Detroit, and was director of finance for Detroit Renaissance - now Business Leaders for Michigan. In 2010, the mayor of Detroit appointed Dave to the Downtown Development Authority board. He has a 1993 BBA from Wayne State University and a 1998 MBA from Michigan State University, Eli Broad College of Business.

NAME: Ryan Schumaker
TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (126 words; 150-word limit)

Ryan Schumaker has served as the State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Michigan since September of 2023. In this role, he is responsible for the administration of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in identification, evaluation, and nomination of eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, creating and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan, providing technical assistance on preservation matters, and working with local governments to develop local historic preservation programs. Prior to his role at SHPO, he worked as a consultant and for the City of Detroit as Deputy Director and Grant Coordinator for the Historic Designation Advisory Board, where he successfully applied for and was awarded three National Park Service grants to document and preserve the history of underrepresented communities.

NAME: John Gallagher
TITLE: Author and Contributing Columnist
AFFIL: Detroit Free Press
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (160 words; 150-word limit)

Beginning with his first job in 1974 in Chicago, John Gallagher has chronicled major news stories. He covered architecture and urban affairs for thirty-two years for the *Detroit Free Press*, retiring in 2019. John's career intersected notable events, including the troubled administration of Kwame Kilpatrick as Mayor of Detroit, newspaper strikes, the federal bailout of automotive companies, the bankruptcy of Detroit, and the Grand Bargain struck to save the city—noting the important roles nonprofits and private companies play in city politics. The author of multiple books, John reported on these challenges in Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City, his experience and advice also inspiring hope and underscoring the surprising reinvention of Rust Belt cities. In 2002, John and Eric Hill co-authored AIA Detroit: The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture. A friend of the MHPN, John received the MHPN's Citizen Award in 2018. He is a 2017 inductee into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 – 12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM:

TRACK: Special Event
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

MODERATOR: Heidi Pfannes

The Albert Kahn Sonata: Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (344 characters-and-spaces; 350-limit)

Experience The Albert Kahn Sonata, a 22-minute film by John Mark Hanson with music by Dr. Michael Kropf, pairing original piano compositions with striking footage of Detroit's Fisher Building, Belle Isle Aquarium, and Packard Plant. Stay for a panel discussion on Kahn's lasting impact on architecture, design, and Detroit's cultural resilience.

Summary: (1,994 characters-and-spaces; 2,000-limit)

The Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation (AKLF), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded in 2020, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the life, work, and impact of Albert Kahn, Detroit's most iconic 20th-century architect. AKLF shares Kahn's legacy through exhibits, lectures, tours, educational programs, research services, and a robust website. In 2022, the foundation mounted a successful exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum and received a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.

As a Jewish immigrant in the late 1800s, Kahn became one of the world's most prolific architects, credited with nearly 20,000 projects. His Detroit landmarks include the Art Deco Fisher Building and the Belle Isle Aquarium. He also pioneered the use of reinforced concrete, revolutionizing industrial design as seen in the Packard Automotive Plant.

AKLF partnered with composer Dr. Michael Kropf and filmmaker John Hanson to create The Albert Kahn Sonata, a 22-minute multimedia work pairing original piano compositions with video of Kahn's buildings. Structured as a three-movement sonata, it features the Fisher Building, Belle Isle Aquarium, and Packard Plant—mirroring Kahn's passion for music and innovation.

The piece premiered on September 6, 2024 in the Fisher Building lobby, performed by pianist Forrest Howell before a sold-out audience of 200. A film version, combining Hansen's visuals with live and studio recordings, will travel to film festivals and conferences across the country.

The project's impact is wide-reaching by bringing unique artistic experience to an accessible public space, supporting local artists, and celebrating Detroit's cultural heritage. Beyond Michigan, the film will build awareness of Kahn's global influence and immigrant story. After the screening, audiences will engage in a panel discussion on Kahn's innovations, business aptitude, response to financial and technological challenges, worldwide impact, and how he continues to inspire new generations.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain why Detroit was the epicenter of architectural innovation during the first half of the 20th century.

- Recognize key Kahn buildings in Detroit and their role in the city's growth.
- Demonstrate the role of Kahn buildings in Detroit's city growth and recognition as a global center of excellent design.
- Understand how film and music can highlight historic architecture.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: John Hanson
 TITLE: College Instructor/Film-maker
 AFFIL: Detroit School of Digital Technology (DSDT)
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (538 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

John Hanson is a Detroit filmmaker and digital marketing instructor at DSDT College. He has created several mini documentaries on the arts and music, produced more than a dozen studio albums as a music producer, and photographed and produced the hardcover photography book *Grandmothers of America*. His films drift between history, sound, and memory, lifting up stories that celebrate architecture, culture, and creative spirit. He is drawn to moments where the human-made and the natural world overlap, creating quiet spaces of reflection.

NAME : Jacob Jones
 TITLE: Founding Principal
 AFFIL: Working History
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (491 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Jacob Jones is a Detroit-based historian and writer with more than a decade of experience interpreting Michigan's built environment through tours and public programming. His work has been featured by the New York Times, CNN, the BBC, and NPR. He writes a monthly history column for Model D Media, recently produced his first documentary, and serves as a program manager for the University of Michigan's Inclusive History Project, while restoring his 1912 home in Detroit's historic North End.

NAME: Michael Smith
 TITLE: Board of Directors
 AFFIL: Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation
 CITY: Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (772 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Michael G Smith is an architectural historian and the author of two books on Detroit architecture, *Designing Detroit; Wirt Rowland and the Rise of Modern American Architecture* and *Concrete Century; Julius Kahn and the Construction Revolution*. Both books describe Detroit's central role in the design and technology innovations of the early 20th century. Working with local developers such as Bedrock, Hosey Development, and Greatwater Capital Smith helps them to emphasize the historical aspects of their projects. He has written successful National Register of Historic Places nominations and assisted in the

renovation of historic buildings. Smith is a founding director of the Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation and a director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

NAME : Heidi Pfannes
TITLE: President
AFFIL: Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation
CITY: Saline, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (756 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Heidi was one of the leading members to launch the Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation, serving as President since its inception. Heidi served 11 years at Albert Kahn Associates as the Director of Business Development and Interim Archivist. Now, working in Kalamazoo for Miller Davis Construction, she is continuing to tell the story of the impact of Albert Kahn's work across the state, nation, and world. Heidi began her career as an interior designer and worked her way up to become Director of Business Development and Marketing, all the while appreciating the impact of the built environment on people's lives. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to civic roles at both board and committee levels.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 – 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM:

TRACK: Track 1 - Theme
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

MODERATOR: Tiffany Dziurman

Masterpiece(s): the Rediscovery of a Midcentury Mural by Alexander Girard

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (382 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

This talk traces the history of an abstract wood mural, created in 1952 by Alexander Girard – one of a circle of modern architects and designers active in Detroit at midcentury -- for his home in Grosse Pointe, MI. Believed lost after the home's demolition, the more than 200 pieces of the fourteen-foot-high by twenty-foot-wide mural were rediscovered in 2018 and restored in 2023.

Summary: (1,459 character-and-space; 2,000 limit)

Alexander Girard was one of a circle of modern architects and designers working in Detroit at midcentury. During the summer of 1952, Girard created an abstract wood mural for the exterior dining porch of his home in Grosse Pointe, MI. Upon completion, the mural was celebrated in national publications as a modernist masterpiece. After his move to Santa Fe, NM in 1953, the Girard home had a series of owners and was eventually demolished. The mural was believed lost. In 2018, Art Historian Deborah Lubera Kawsyky met the property's new owner, Mary Roby, and learned that she had saved the mural's 200-plus individual pieces. In 2019, Building Arts & Conservation joined the project and began the process of restoring and conserving the mural. Project-planning and overall work involved extensive

research, and documentation, as well as repair, cleaning, and stabilization of individual pieces. At this point, the entire project team came together to determine how the mural could best be exhibited. A unique framework was fabricated that both restored the look, feel and context of Girard's original creation, yet also allowed for it to be assembled, disassembled, and transported for future exhibitions. Please note that this presentation ties in closely with the home tour "Grosse Pointe Modern: Exploring Three Residential Masterpieces" happening on Friday May 8, which includes a home designed by Alexander Girard.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

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- Identify midcentury Detroit as a wellspring of modern design and elucidate the close connections between then Detroit-based designers such as Alexander Girard, Minoru Yamasaki, Eero Saarinen, and Charles & Ray Eames.
- Discuss the early career of midcentury modern polymath designer Alexander Girard, with particular focus on how his Detroit period (1937-53) served as a springboard for the (more well-known) work he later did from his home base of Santa Fe, NM.
- Discuss the approach to conservation taken by fine-arts craftspeople when working with a unique, multi-piece work of art.
- Summarize the extensive – and wholly original -- process of analyzing both the repair of the original mural components and the conception of a unique framework for the restored mural.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio:

NAME: Deborah Kawsy
TITLE: Associate Professor of Art History
AFFIL: Madonna University, Livonia MI
CITY: Plymouth, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (976 character-and-space; 1,000 Limit)

Deborah Lubera Kawsy, Ph.D. is an art/architectural historian and a Detroit native, with a bachelor's degree in art history from Smith College and an MFA and Ph.D. from Princeton University. She is an Associate Professor at Madonna University in Livonia, MI, and also teaches at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is board president of Docomomo Michigan, which has organized events devoted to Minoru Yamasaki and the legacy of Detroit's African American architects. She has given lectures both within and beyond Metro Detroit on midcentury modern icons Alexander Girard and Ruth Adler Schnee and on Detroit artists Artis Lane and Hubert Massey. Kawsy's 2018 book, *Alexander Girard Architect: Creating Midcentury Modern Masterpieces*, is the first comprehensive study of Alexander Girard's Michigan period. She is also project curator for the restoration and exhibition of a

newly-rediscovered Alexander Girard wood collage mural, currently on loan to General Motors.

NAME: Ron Koenig
AFFIL: Owner and Architectural Conservator
TITLE: Building Arts & Conservation
CITY: Saline, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (992 character-and-space; 1,000 limit)

Ron Koenig is owner of Building Arts & Conservation. His degrees include BAs in History and English from the University of Detroit, and a MS in Architectural Conservation from the University of Pennsylvania. He has also studied at Corpus Christi College Oxford, The International Center for Conservation in Rome, and the Getty Conservation Institute. Ron began working on historic buildings in 1988, during the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol. From 1995 to 1997 he was Chief Conservator of American Architecture at The Henry Ford Museum. He has also conserved buildings such as the 1744 Belmont Mansion in Philadelphia, Frank Lloyd Wright's Avery-Coonley House (1908), The Adams House in Deadwood, SD (1892), as well as over twenty significant buildings by Albert Kahn. Ron is a member of the Saline Historic District Commission, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board of Directors, The Association for Preservation Technology, and the American Institute for Conservation.

TRACK: Track 2 - Information
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

MODERATOR: Ruth Mills

Telling the Story of Detroit's Diverse Communities: Grant Management & Implementation

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (331 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

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!

Summary: (1,988 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Fewer than 8% of National Register of Historic Places listings emphasize historic contributions of women, people of color, and other minority groups. This means the stories of immigrants, working class people, women, and other historically excluded communities are often left out. The Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, created in 2014, aims to diversify the National Register by telling the broader history of the American experience.

Since 2021, the Detroit City Council Historic District Advisory Board (HDAB) has received four Underrepresented Communities grants to highlight the histories of Detroit's diverse communities. The first project focused on Detroit's Eight Mile/Wyoming neighborhood, where Black Detroiters established generational wealth through home ownership. The second project focused on Detroit's Latinx communities, specifically their impact in Southwest Detroit. HDAB was awarded the first grant in the program's history to study Arab and Chaldean histories, which helped tell a long and diverse story of immigration and movement in Metro Detroit. Finally, HDAB has just begun a context study of Women's history to explore the important impacts women of all backgrounds have had on the city.

This session will discuss underrepresented community projects including how to successfully manage a National Park Service grant, how to meaningfully engage and work with community partners, and how to approach producing historic context reports and surveys for diverse communities. This panel includes HDAB historic planners and private preservation consultants who will share real life examples from these projects as they examine project methodology, community engagement efforts, challenges faced in writing the context studies, working through the NPS review process, and the anticipated use of these documents in the future.

We hope that this approach may serve as a useful tool for working with and documenting other underrepresented community histories.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

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- Explain the goals of the underrepresented communities grants from the National Park Service.
- Discuss different methods of soliciting public engagement and working with underrepresented communities.
- Discuss different methods for writing historic context studies.
- Describe potential difficulties faced when documenting underrepresented community histories.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Valerie Reiss
TITLE : Historian
AFFIL: Quinn Evans
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (838 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Valerie Reiss brings extensive experience in researching and developing architectural history survey reports, historic context reports, Historic Property Documentation, Historic Structure Reports, Cultural Landscape Reports, and related materials—primarily for public sector clients, including the National Park Service. Her expertise includes evaluating the eligibility and significance of historic-age resources such as buildings, structures, bridges, roads, railroads, and districts. Valerie is skilled at fostering collaboration among clients, subcontractors, and project teams to ensure seamless coordination and successful project delivery. She has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in American Studies with a focus in Historic Preservation from The George Washington University.

NAME: Ruth Mills
TITLE: Senior Historian
AFFIL: Quinn Evans
CITY: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (554 characters-and-words; 1,000 limit)

Ruth Mills is a historian, writer, and preservationist who connects historic buildings and landscapes with people, communities, and events through meticulous research and storytelling. She excels in preparing historic designation documentation, securing historic tax credits, and guiding the design of preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse projects. Ruth has led projects ranging from preserving iconic civic architecture to identifying and protecting culturally significant heritage sites, with a particular focus on serving diverse communities.

NAME: Ian Tomashik
TITLE: Historic Planner
AFFIL: Historic Designation Advisory Board
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (761 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Ian Tomashik is a lifelong historian and passionate advocate for historic preservation. His professional career has spanned the fields of architecture, architectural history, community activism, construction planning, and digital fabrication. Ian holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan (2017) and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University (2025). He joined the Historic Designation Advisory Board in 2023 and previously worked in cultural resource management with Chronicle Heritage in Dexter, MI. Ian operates a non-profit preservation organization named Preservation Dearborn in his hometown of Dearborn, Michigan, and is a longtime and active volunteer with the Dearborn Historical Museum.

NAME: Kelsey Maas
TITLE: Preservation Planner
AFFIL: Historic Designation Advisory Board
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (1,000 limit)

Kelsey Maas is a preservation planner and cultural heritage practitioner with a background in municipal, nonprofit, and university environments. Her past and current work includes managing a statewide easement program, advising Main Street America programs, managing federal and state preservation grants, GIS mapping, researching equity in planning, and advocating for an equitable and progressive preservation and planning field. She has a MA in World Heritage Studies from the Brandenburg University of Technology (Germany) and MUP in Urban Planning from Wayne State University.

NAME: Cassandra Talley
TITLE: Principal
AFFIL: Loggia Preservation
CITY: Southfield, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (1,000 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Cassandra has over twelve years of professional work experience that spans law, policy, and preservation. Cassandra is an experienced historic tax credit consultant, architectural historian, and preservation planner and is passionate about this work because it connects us to our past, illuminates our present, and informs our future. Cassandra holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Michigan, a Juris Doctor degree from Michigan State University School of Law, and a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Promoting the preservation profession from within, Cassandra is an active volunteer and serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and on the Board of Directors for Preservation Detroit. She is also an adjunct lecturer in Eastern Michigan University's graduate program in Historic Preservation. Before starting her career in historic preservation, Cassandra practiced law in metro Detroit.

TRACK: Track 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

MODERATOR: Bill Brown

Marygrove Campus Building Restoration

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(361 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Dating back to 1927, Detroit's Marygrove Campus is an exceptional collection of Gothic style buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Closed as a college in 2019, the 53-acre site reopened as a cradle-to-career educational center campus. A detailed condition assessment and skilled restoration have brought new life to this Detroit landmark.

Summary: (1,532 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Marygrove College at its current location on West McNichols Road in Detroit dates back to 1927. Designed by architect Oscar D. Bohlen of the firm D.A Bohlen & Sons, most original

buildings are of the gothic style, with the exception of the Power House and Immaculata buildings.

The college was a private Roman Catholic based college up until its closure in 2019, due to ongoing fiscal challenges and falling enrollment. Since 2018, the campus has been managed by the Marygrove Conservancy, a nonprofit that manages operations of the 53-acre campus and its many buildings that serve its academic, housing, and maintenance needs. The campus has reopened as a P-20 cradle-to-career educational campus and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2022.

Over the years the exterior masonry walls continued to deteriorate due to water intrusion and exposure to the elements. SmithGroup's involvement began soon after reopening in 2019 when the firm performed a detailed condition assessment for Beanstalk Real Estate Solutions to better understand existing conditions and needs of the Marygrove Conservancy. Restoration Documents were prepared following the assessment, and bids were solicited in the fall of 2020. The selection of RAM Construction Services as the skilled restoration contractor meant restoration could begin on this challenging but rewarding project which was managed by BDC Consulting.

This presentation showcases exterior façade restoration of a sampling of buildings and structures on campus.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Demonstrate a high-level understanding of the process involved in revitalizing an historic campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Identify deterioration and its root causes in mass masonry buildings.
- Explain the restoration process from the initial assessment to implementation of repairs.
- Summarize the importance of restoration to preserve historically significant buildings, while protecting the safety of the users at the campus.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how effective collaboration between architects, contractors, and conservancies leads to successful outcomes in historic preservation projects.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio:

NAME: Jerome Misiolek
TITLE: Principal/Senior Architectural Consultant
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (689 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

With a background in restoration, both as a contractor and currently a principal with a national architectural/engineering firm, Mr. Misiolak has been involved in projects as diverse as underground structures to high-rise buildings. He is an active member of the Masonry Institute of Michigan, past Chair of the Michigan Masonry Advisory Board, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants. Jerry is listed on the State Historic Preservation list of qualified consultants and has completed numerous State and Nationally registered buildings; examples include the Guardian Building and several on the Marygrove campus.

NAME: Juan Arias-Hernandez
TITLE: Architect II
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (967 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Juan Arias-Hernandez is part of the Building Technology Studio at SmithGroup and holds a Master of Architecture degree from University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). He also works as an adjunct professor and serves as the current Director of the Cooperative Education Program at UDM. He provides quality experience in the analysis of new and existing building enclosures. His expertise includes building condition assessments, enclosure evaluation, forensic investigations, and in-situ validation testing. Juan is a licensed Level 1 Thermographer and sUAV (Drone) pilot. With these tools, he helps conduct infrared thermal imaging surveys which help identify construction deficiencies by evaluating irregular heat loss patterns throughout the building enclosure including façade, fenestration, and roof systems. Juan has been a part of various building condition assessments of historic buildings, including the restoration of the Marygrove Campus and the Guardian Building.

NAME: Bill VanMarter
TITLE: Project Manager
AFFIL: RAM Construction Services
CITY: Livonia, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (686 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Bill VanMarter is Project Manager at RAM Construction Services. He brings over 40 years of experience in construction estimating, and project management, 11 of those with RAM. Bill holds a Bachelor of Architecture & Construction Management received in 1989 from Lawrence Technological University. Bill's career has ranged from doing 'as-built' drawings of portions of the Renaissance Center to Senior PM for the expansion of the Las Vegas Airport baggage handling building (6 different buildings) to PM for the restoration of the Book Building & Tower, the Buhl Building and of course projects at Marygrove. Bill has been involved in managing construction projects in several states.

NAME: Bill Brown
TITLE: Business Development Manager
AFFIL: RAM Construction Services
CITY: Livonia, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (597 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Bill Brown is a Business Development professional with 13 years of sales experience, including 3 years in the construction and infrastructure sector. At RAM Construction Services, Bill is responsible for strategic planning, which involves identifying new markets, opportunities, and partnerships. He takes the lead in business development activities, provides guidance to the business development team, and ensures effective client relationship management. Bill holds a Bachelor of Science in Media and Communication Technology, with a focus on Sales Communication, from Michigan State University.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK

DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026

TIME: 1:15 PM – 5:00 PM

TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Lis Knibbe

Mad Men Meet Southfield – A Bus and Walking Tour

Capacity: 50 participants

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (95 words; 100-word limit)

Southfield, Michigan, a post World War II boom town, grew rapidly in the 1950s and '60s as an inner-ring suburb of Detroit. With that growth came a unique collection of Mid-Century Modern commercial buildings, religious institutions, homes, and neighborhoods. The city bus tour includes a number of stops to tour several homes, commercial buildings, and churches and synagogues. Noteworthy is that quite a few of the buildings were designed by leading architects of the day including Minoru Yamasaki, Gunnar Birkerts, Percival Goodman, Louis Redstone, G. Bruce Boore, Victor Gruen, and lesser known but accomplished designers.

Summary: (175 words; 300-word limit):

For a number of years during the 1960s Southfield, an inner-ring suburb of Detroit, was Michigan's fastest growing city. As a result, Southfield has a large, amazing collection of Mid-Century Modern homes, neighborhoods, commercial buildings, schools, and religious institutions.

Southfield's growth included the world's first modern shopping mall, Northland Center, designed by Victor Gruen. The city hosted five Detroit home shows in the 1950s, including (a novelty at the time), an all-electric home. Freeways, a Cold War Nike missile base, spacious ranch and tri-level homes, bowling alleys, three television stations, and sprawling corporate office headquarters were endemic of the time and changed the way people lived.

The tour begins at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, a masterpiece of the Modern Movement, to a classic Mid-Century home, with its original interior décor, to Cranbrook Neighborhood and on to significant buildings along Southfield Road and Northwestern Highway. The tour will loop around Northland Center with several stops including Minoru Yamasaki's Reynolds

Aluminum building and through nationally registered Northland Gardens neighborhood to Ira Kaufman Funeral Home and Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Identify building materials that became commonplace with Mid-Century Modern homes and buildings.
- Identify unique building designs and shapes of the Modern Movement.
- Describe the characteristics of works by Modern Movement architects.
- Compare/Contrast Southfield’s Mid-Century Modern buildings & neighborhoods with other Michigan cities.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Kenson Siver
TITLE: Mayor
AFFIL: City of Southfield
CITY: Southfield, MI

Biographical statement: (148 words; 150-word limit)

Kenson Siver has been the mayor of the City of Southfield since 2015. A resident of Southfield for 58 years, he was a teacher and administrator in the Southfield Public Schools for 50 years. He has a passion for art and architecture and has written two books on Southfield. He began offering the annual Southfield Mid-Century Modern Architecture tour in 2011 to bring greater awareness and appreciation of the city’s unique collection of buildings and neighborhoods from this period. Working collaboratively with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and Quinn Evans Architects, Mayor Siver secured placement of two Southfield MCM neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places. In another collaboration, Mayor Siver, with the School of Architecture of Lawrence Technological University and the Southfield Planning Department, created Mid-Century Modern design guidelines for the city. MHPN honored Mayor Siver with its Citizen of the Year Award in 2021.

NAME: Darla Van Hoey
TITLE: President
AFFIL: Southfield Historical Society
CITY: Southfield, MI

Biographical Statement: (153 words; 150-word limit)

Darla Van Hoey, a 38-year teacher in the Troy School District, has had a lifetime interest in history. In the 1980s she and her husband were active in the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, including writing and editing *The Beacon*, its newsletter. Vacations focused on lighthouses and maritime museums. For the last decade Darla has volunteered with the Southfield Historical Society, Friends of the Southfield Public Library, the Southfield Parks and Garden Club, maintaining a board position in each. In 2024 Darla received the Greg Kennedy Community Service Award for dedicated service. Darla's passion for Southfield is evident in her leadership of the Southfield Historical Society. The organization has created events and activities telling of the Indigenous People of the Southfield area, planning Juneteenth programs, managing the Southfield Historical Museum and Mary Thompson Farmhouse, joining Martin Luther King, Jr. Inc. programs, and endorsing the naming and celebrating of Indigenous Peoples Day in Southfield.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The Ford House Education Department can accommodate the staffing of these tours with a maximum of 50 guests per hour slot with 1:10 tour associate to guest ratio.

Inside Ford House

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (736 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The tour of Ford House provides access to the formal rooms and private living spaces at the heart of the Ford family's estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the architecture of the Cotswold region. Built and furnished between 1926-1929, the Fords moved in 1928. The interior reflects Western European design influences. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms, introducing a Machine Age aesthetic. Featured are paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera, as well as classic European portraiture, modern sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. The interior has remained nearly unchanged since the family was in residence.

Summary: (2,197 characters-and-spaces; 2,000-limit):

The Guided Main Residence tour at Ford House takes you into the heart of the Ford family's historic estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England. With the exterior built between 1926-1927, the interior's 60 rooms were finished and furnished between 1927-1929. The Fords moved into their lakeside residence in 1928, where they raised their four children and welcomed guests into a home with rooms that felt intimate and comfortable.

Overall, the interior reflects Western European design influences in its handcrafted wood-, plaster-, and stonework. The Fords purchased architectural pieces including wall paneling, fireplaces, and a staircase from a variety of English manors to be included in the original construction. Like many families, Eleanor and Edsel Ford updated the house over time to reflect their evolving tastes. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer and Ford Motor Company collaborator Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms. Teague

introduced sleek, modern concepts rooted in the Machine Age aesthetic. In the 1950s, following Edsel's passing, Eleanor invited her close friend and interior decorator, Polly Jessup, to design new spaces that reflected her personal style. Jessup's updates showcased Eleanor's refined eye for fine art and antique furnishings.

Throughout the home, Edsel and Eleanor added paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera – whom Edsel had also commissioned for the *Detroit Industry* murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as classic European portraiture, modern-style sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. Wrought-iron doors by Philadelphia metalsmith Samuel Yellin - who also created grillwork gates for the Detroit Institute of Arts - open from the Main Hall to the loggia to frame views of Lake St. Clair.

The tour includes not only an opportunity to study the main rooms of the home – the library, dining room, and drawing room, but also the private living spaces that reveal a more personal side of the family's life. The home has remained nearly unchanged since Eleanor's passing in 1976.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss Ford House as an example of the residential work of Albert Kahn.
- Identify what makes Ford House an example of Tudor Revival styling inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England.
- Compare the juxtapositioning of Western European interior design influences with sleek, modern interior concepts rooted in a Machine Age aesthetic, as well as with a 1950s showcase of fine art and antique furnishings.
- Review the conservation challenges of maintaining the original features of a 100-year-old interior that is open to the public.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Jason Dake
TITLE: Director of Education
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (815 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Jason Dake is the Director of Education at Ford House, where he oversees all aspects of educational programming, manages staff, and develops a program of arts, humanities, and environmental education. Prior to this, Jason worked as Deputy Director of Museum Programs and Learning at Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City where he curated exhibitions and programs, and designed educational programming. Jason's earlier

experience includes working as Art Education Coordinator at Flint Institute of Arts and as a Program Assistant at AmeriCorps. Jason completed his BS in Education, with a focus on Art and History, from Central Michigan University, from 1999 to 2004. From 2010 to 2011, he pursued an MA in Arts Administration, specializing in Community Engagement and Technology at the University of Michigan-Flint.

NAME: Sabrina Reinhard
TITLE: Interpretation Manager
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (558 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Sabrina Reinhard is an experienced professional in the fields of education and visitor services, currently serving as Interpretation Manager at Ford House, following her start at Ford House in 2022 as a Tour & Education Associate. Previously, Sabrina was an educator at Meadow Brook Hall, a National Historic Landmark designed by William E. Kapp of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls in a Tudor Revival style for Matilda Dodge Wilson and built in 1929. Sabrina Reinhard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oakland University, earned between 2015 and 2019.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 – 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM:

TRACK: Track 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

MODERATOR: Joe Frost

Building Resilience with Building Cooperatively

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (347 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Building Cooperatively was conceived by a group of students in the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's 2018 Living Trades Academy. Our journey has made us an inclusive restoration cooperative that holds itself to developing and honoring ethical practices. We believe the historic trades can lead to Detroit's sustainable and resilient future.

Summary: (1,356 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Building Cooperatively is an organization that was started in 2018 after our members received formal training through the Living Trades Academy, a program presented by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network in Detroit: <https://www.mhpn.org/living-trades-academy/>

We believe our cooperative model is one that lifts up Detroiters that are otherwise excluded from industry trades. We also believe our work can be grown to help more Detroit workers earn a living wage. Through Building Cooperatively, and more organizations like it, Detroit

Homeowners will finally have the skilled assistance they need to properly care for their unique and deserving historic structures.

We have seen through our work experience that it is possible, not only to preserve historic buildings, but also to make them more resilient through electrification and decarbonization. Working with homeowners to plan the future of their historic homes is essential, and our cooperative model encourages maintained relationships. This way, when it comes time to replace a heating system or water heater, we are able to assist with the proper preservation of key historic elements.

We would like to share our goals and ambitions going forward for how to take what we have learned in our years as a historic restoration cooperative and scale that to the needs of all of our neighborhoods.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe what it took for use to get started and to stay in operation through the pandemic and over the past 7 years.
- Summarize how the Co-owners of Building Cooperatively feel they could grow to best serve the region, not only through historic preservation and education but through sustainability and decarbonization.
- Demonstrate what cooperatives are, why they are important, and how Building Cooperatively can educate the public on this business model.
- Identify historic buildings in Building Cooperatively’s area of SE Michigan the historic buildings that deserve care and attention.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Jason Lindy
TITLE: Co-Founder, Co-Owner
AFFIL: Building Cooperatively
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (994 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Building Cooperatively is a worker-owned cooperative specializing in historic restoration and construction. Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park are primarily composed of homes nearing a century in age. There is huge unmet demand for those who can service these homes in ways that respect the history of residents who have lived in them. We believe that by offering our expertise and by training others these past several years, our business will

always be viable as a successful community enterprise. These homes are the homes of our neighbors and if your house looks good, our neighborhoods look good.

Building Cooperatively was conceived through a core group of students in a 2018 Living Trades Academy program taught by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Having multiple owners adds more institutional knowledge, accountability, and prolonged stewardship. We hold ourselves to honoring and developing ethical business practices and providing competitive living wages to Detroiters.

NAME: Fernando Perez
TITLE: Co-owner/Co-founder
AFFIL: Building Cooperatively
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (767 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Fernando grew up in Michigan and attended Wayne State University. He currently lives in Detroit with his two cats, Georgie and Stevie. He spent the COVID era in Madison, WI working at a housing cooperative and learned building decarbonization. He plans to spend his remaining years in Detroit working on historic buildings and painting. He is a co-owner/co-founder of Building Cooperatively, a business conceived by a core group of students in a 2018 Living Trades Academy program taught by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Having multiple owners adds more institutional knowledge, accountability, and prolonged stewardship. The group holds itself to honoring and developing ethical business practices and providing competitive living wages to Detroiters.

TRACK: TRACK - SHPO
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

MODERATOR: Ryan Schumaker, State Historic Preservation Officer, SHPO

Leveraging Community Preservation Grants for Survey and Planning, Part 1 – Certified Local Government Grants

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (329 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

During this session, SHPO Staff discuss CLG grants and how to best leverage them for survey and planning projects including examples and best practices. Many communities are grappling with the need to re-survey; we also discuss best practices for re-survey while others need assistance in getting started with a survey.

Summary: (1,509 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Leveraging Community Preservation Grants for Survey and Planning, Part 1 will pair well with the State Historic Preservation Office/Michigan Department of Transportation joint session by providing background information for communities wishing to leverage grants like the Certified Local Government Grant Program (CLG) to survey or re-survey their community. Attendees will learn why survey is a foundational planning tool, best practices for creating a Survey Plan, tackling a re-survey as well as applying for survey related grants.

As we pass the 60th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, many of the surveys completed in the 1970s and 1980s are in desperate need of updating but taking on a re-survey project can feel daunting for many communities. At the same time, other communities are trying to get the ball rolling with their first survey. This session will break down the steps needed to re-survey your community or complete a survey for the first time. We will discuss creating a survey plan, finding funding options, hiring a consultant and more. The CLG Program funds survey projects in CLG Communities every year and this can be a great way for a community struggling to find funding to complete a survey utilizing a consultant paid for by this reimbursement grant through SHPO and NPS but many communities struggle with getting started. This session will discuss scale and scope of surveys that work best for CLG grants and ways to phase a larger project for the best outcomes.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain best practices for survey including creation of a survey plan.
- Explain best practices for re-survey, including creation of a survey plan and dealing with legacy data.
- Explain best practices for applying for Certified Local Government Grants for Survey and identification projects.
- Describe the services the State Historic Preservation Office can offer to Certified Local Government communities and non-CLG Communities as relates to Survey.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Katie Kolokithas
TITLE: Survey Coordinator
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (566 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Katie Kolokithas is the Survey Coordinator for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and holds Master’s degrees in Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Katie previously worked as an Architectural Historian for three years for an environmental consulting firm. Since re-joining the SHPO in June 2017, she has worked to update and improve the survey program in the State of Michigan. She works with communities around the state to complete historic resource surveys as well as reviews surveys related to Section 106 compliance, grants and special projects.

NAME: Haley Schriber
TITLE: Community Preservation Coordinator
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (616 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Haley Schriber is a historic preservationist with experience throughout the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast regions of the U.S. Haley joined the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as the Certified Local Government (CLG) & Community Preservation Coordinator in April 2024. In this role, she is responsible for administering the CLG program, assisting local historic districts and local preservation programs, and providing technical assistance and education opportunities to the public. She holds a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Clemson University and the College of Charleston.

TRACK: TRACK 1 - Theme
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

MODERATOR: Emily Cauzillo

Comeback Communities – How the Main Street Approach Has Worked in Michigan

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (343 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Once considered dead, many of our downtowns are economically vibrant and the social life of the community. Through case studies, learn how a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes local heritage created a sense of place, worked to bring downtowns back from the brink, and proved that our city centers can again be the heartbeat of the region.

Summary: (1,307 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Downtowns were once the financial and social center of the community. Then between the 1960s – 1980s our downtowns experience neglect and disinvestment that were the result of many factors. To reverse that trend, the National Trust for Historic Preservation launched a pilot project to test an idea. Could a strategic plan, comprehensive enough with historic preservation as its backbone, be a structure to save our downtowns and return them to the vitality and gathering place they were throughout history? The test was successful and 45 years later over 2,000 communities have used that approach to varying degrees of success. It managed to pull downtowns out of the grips of abandonment, suburbia and shopping malls and helped downtowns survive six recessions, four major pandemics and online shopping. This session will identify the Four Points - Organization, Promotion, Economic Vitality and Design - all the mainstay in the Main Street approach. Participants will gain a working knowledge of these Points and how they were applied within each of the local communities that will be featured. Presenters will feature case studies of downtowns which will showcase how the Main Street approach was successfully applied in each of the town's comeback. There will be time for questions and answers.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Analyze the prevailing conditions that cultivated the principles for reviving once thriving cities.
- Apply an asset-based community development lens using the Main Street Four Points to analyze and strategize community's growth, resilience, and place-based identity.
- Expand the understanding of Main Street and historic districts by development patterns into preservation and planning efforts.
- Recognize how diverse downtowns have leveraged their unique assets to enhance livability, cultural richness, and economic stability

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Ron Campbell
TITLE: Principal Planner/Architect
AFFIL: Oakland County
CITY: Waterford, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (840 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Ron Campbell is a Principal Planner and Preservation Architect for Oakland County Planning and Economic Development. He provides design and technical assistance for Oakland County's 30 Main Street communities and preservation assistance for more than 90 National Register sites, two National Landmarks and numerous state and local historic resources throughout the 63 units of government. He is a former President of the American Institute of Architects Michigan, served on the Michigan Construction Code Authority and the National Main Street Leadership Board. He currently serves on the MI Barrier Free Design Board, the DDA Board of Davison and the Oakland County Historical Commission. A former member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Board of Directors, Ron was recently honored with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

NAME: Laura Krizov
TITLE: Manager Michigan Main Street Place Programs & Services
AFFIL: State of Michigan - Michigan Economic Development Corporation
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (756 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Laura Krizov is the Manager of the Michigan Main program and has been with the State of Michigan for 27 years. During her tenure, she served on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's CATEam, where she played a key role in helping communities through the revitalization process. Her work included managing Brownfield projects,

coordinating CBDG incentives, and offering technical assistance. For the past 22 years, Krizov has been an integral part of the Michigan Main Street Program, providing essential support to Main Street communities. The program is highly regarded across the country for its exceptional quality. Additionally, she has served on the Leadership Council for Main Street America and is a former board member of the organization.

NAME: Leigh Young, AICP
TITLE: Senior Main Street Specialist
AFFIL: State of Michigan - Michigan Economic Development Corporation
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (622 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Leigh Young, AICP conducts trainings and provides technical assistance and essential support to Michigan Downtowns and Michigan Main Street Communities. Leigh has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan and a Bachelors in Public Policy from Michigan State University, with specializations in physical planning and design and environmental policy. She has over 10 years of experience in public sector planning and downtown management. Prior to joining the Michigan Main Street team, Leigh worked for Oakland County, MI where she primarily worked with the Main Street Oakland County Program.

NAME: Alexandria Huff
TITLE: Principal Planner
AFFIL: Oakland County
CITY: Waterford, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (683 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Alex Huff is an AICP certified planner and architectural designer with Main Street Oakland County. She is process-minded and implementation-driven with over a decade of experience working for and alongside Michigan communities. Alex has worked in local government and as a planning consultant. She's worked on a range of projects from Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances to Campus Master Plans and has covered topics like affordable housing, downtown management and community resilience. With a passion for preservation, community engagement and measurable impacts, Alex loves making policies and tools accessible to community members and unpacking complex issues for technical teams.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 – 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM:

TRACK: Track 1 - Theme
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Melissa Milton-Pung

Go Big & Go Home: St. Mary's Academy Adaptive Reuse

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (344 character-and-space; 350 limit)

St. Mary Academy, a NR-listed sprawling 1932 Art Deco campus, is being transformed. This session examines key partnerships and timing for a sustainable project that has 80% green energy and blends historic integrity with community needs: new housing units, public spaces, and community services, all located within walking distance of downtown.

Summary: (1,997 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

The St. Mary's Academy redevelopment in Monroe offers a powerful case study in aligning historic preservation with local economic development. Since 2022, the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and MML Foundation, with support from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, have been exploring small business ecosystems and housing needs across Southeast Michigan. St. Mary's sits at the center of this work: a 1932 Art Deco landmark, 260,000 square feet, listed on the National Register, and vacant since the mid-1990s.

The vision is bold yet grounded. With support from the City of Monroe, technical assistance from Quinn Evans Architects, and leadership from local partner KM Cornerstone, the project aims to adaptively reuse the building with an entrepreneurship center, non-profit and civic services, commercial anchors, and mixed-rate housing. Floors one and two will be devoted to small business incubation, while upper floors will add needed housing stock. This mix addresses regional gaps in entrepreneurial space and housing options, both essential for healthy local economies.

Preservation challenges are matched with innovation: the site retains good security and enclosure, with original stained glass stored for reuse. This project's sustainability street cred will build on existing geothermal, solar, and graywater systems on the IHM Sisters campus, combined with new commitments to 80% green energy. The project's capital stack will include TIF, OPRA, and historic tax credits, alongside private and philanthropic investment. For preservationists, the project demonstrates how mothballed historic assets can be strategically reactivated. For economic developers, it shows how adaptive reuse can expand local business ecosystems and housing supply, while reinforcing community connection to a beloved local landmark. St. Mary's Academy stands poised to join the Village at Grand Traverse Commons as a national model where historic integrity, housing, and local economies can thrive together.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain the basics of how to leverage incentives such as Housing Tax TIF, OPRA, and historic tax credits.
- Describe the housing needs in Michigan and how adaptive reuse is part of the solution.
- Summarize how to structure public-private partnerships.

- Discuss the history and architecture of the St. Mary's Academy in Monroe.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Melissa Milton-Pung
TITLE: Policy Research Labs Program Manager
AFFIL: Michigan Municipal League
CITY: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (1,000 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Melissa Milton-Pung is a Policy Research Labs Program Manager at the Michigan Municipal League. She is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP), sits on the Urban Land Institute Michigan Housing Product Council, has been Adjunct Faculty in the Graduate Program for Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University, is an alumna of the American Council on Germany Sustainable Urban Development Exchange, and is President of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. She is co-author of Pattern Book Homes for 21st Century Michigan, Volumes I&II. Melissa earned her B.A. in Public History in 2001 from Western Michigan University, and Master's in Historic Preservation–Policy, Planning, and Vernacular Architect in 2004 from University of Kentucky. She carries with her more than two decades' worth of stories from work in consulting and local government, with substantial expertise in place-based economic development. She lives in Ann Arbor with her husband and two children.

NAME: Mark Cochran
TITLE: Assistant City Manager
AFFIL: City of Monroe
CITY: Monroe, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (877 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Mark Cochran is an experienced government administrator with a demonstrated history of working at all levels of government to cultivate collaborative relationships to accomplish project implementation, financing, and success. He has demonstrated strong professional skills in project management, government relations, legislative development and analysis, negotiations, crisis communications, coalition building, and nonprofit governance. After earning a bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing at Eastern Michigan University in 2010, and a master's in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Toledo in 2012, Mark worked as a Field Representative and then Director of Special Projects for U.S. Congressman John D. Dingell. Mark has been with the City of Monroe since 2018, filling a variety of roles before becoming Assistant City Manager.

NAME: Matthew Vanisacker
TITLE: Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development
AFFIL: City of Monroe
CITY: Monroe, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (616 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Matthew Vanisaker is an economic and community development professional who graduated from Hillsdale College in 2017 with a BA in Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services. Following time as the Director of Constituent Relations for Michigan State Senator Dale Zorn, as Vice President of Business Development for the Monroe County Business Development Corporation, and as Director of Economic Development for the Monroe County Business Alliance, Matthew joined the staff of the City of Monroe in 2023 as Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development and Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

TRACK: TRACK - SHPO
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Katie Kolokithas

Leveraging Community Preservation Grants for Survey and Planning - Part 2 - Preservation Transportation Grants

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (342 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

This session features SHPO and MDOT staff discussing how survey and planning can be used to foster better projects with Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. This funding can be used by local governments to fund preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities and provide safe non-motorized alternatives.

Summary: (1,627 character-and-space; 2,000 limit)

This session will feature State Historic Preservation Office and Michigan Department of Transportation staff discussing Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding and the various types of projects that can benefit historic resources. The TAP Program is an annual funding stream that funds specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system throughout the State of Michigan. TAP is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds for specific activities like bike trails, Safe Routes to School projects, sidewalks, and more. Historic Preservation is woven throughout every aspect of these projects through the Section 106 process. Considering historic resources during the project planning process can and does create opportunities for better outcomes for communities and neighborhoods. MDOT Staff will provide examples of TAP Grant projects from the past few years that have involved often complicated historic preservation questions that have ultimately ended up being more well-rounded projects.

The program also funds specific Historic Preservation (HP) projects to fund preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, including railroad depots, steam engines, brick streets in historic districts or historically significant bridges. This session will go through the requirements and options for TAP HP Grants including who is eligible and what is required of applicants after they complete their grant project. SHPO and MDOT Staff will cover project examples and best practices for these types of projects including information on the process for applying.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain the Michigan Department of Transportation Historic Preservation Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
- Discuss the role of Survey and Identification in improving outcomes for road specific projects.
- Summarize best practices for applying to the TAP Historic Preservation Grant Funds.
- Describe the role of Section 106 in the TAP Grant funding process and best practices for identification on road projects.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Katie Kolokithas
TITLE: Survey Coordinator
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (566 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Katie Kolokithas is the Survey Coordinator for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and holds Master's degrees in Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Katie previously worked as an Architectural Historian for three years for an environmental consulting firm. Since re-joining the SHPO in June 2017, she has worked to update and improve the survey program in the State of Michigan. She works with communities around the state to complete historic resource surveys as well as reviews surveys related to Section 106 compliance, grants and special projects.

NAME: Sigrid Bergland
TITLE: Historian
AFFIL: Michigan Department of Transportation
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (440 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Sigrid Bergland is an Architectural Historian/Cultural Resources Coordinator with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). She also serves as the Vice Chair for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Cultural Resources subcommittee. Ms. Bergland received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and graduate degree in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University.

TRACK: TRACK 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2026
TIME: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Aaron Sims

Hidden Housing in Detroit: Creating an HGIS of Housing on Detroit's Alleys, Places, and Courts

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (348 character-and-space; 350 limit)

In this session, attendees learn all about alley houses—what an alley house is, a history of their use in the United States and Detroit, how a Historic Geographic Information System (HGIS) was developed to map the historic location of alley houses, and why this example of the housing of ordinary people is worthy of documentation and preservation.

Summary: (1,995 character-and-space; 2,000 limit)

Attendees will learn all about alley houses—what an alley house is and a brief history of their use in the United States, their history in Detroit, and how a historic geographic information system (HGIS) was developed to recreate Detroit's 1920 street pattern to map the location of alley houses.

Attendees will learn the definition of an alley house, which is a modest house, located behind a street-facing house, which is oriented towards and is primarily accessible by an alley or narrow street. The narrow street fronted by the alley dwelling may be referred to as an alley, place, court, or lane, with the defining characteristic being its narrow width—typically only 20' wide—when compared to neighboring streets. A history of alley housing in the United States and Detroit will follow, providing a historic context within which attendees can understand alley housing development. The context will touch on how transportation, population growth, and the need for housing for newcomers to the city drove their development and how after the rise of the automobile, Progressive era reforms, and urban renewal, much of Detroit's alley housing was demolished. Today, very few examples remain of this type of housing that was once commonplace throughout the city.

The session will then delve into what an HGIS is, and the resources used to create an HGIS based on Detroit's c.1920 street pattern. An HGIS is essentially a database used to display, store, and analyze historical information created using GIS. The challenges faced while creating the HGIS, its limitations, and the information recorded will be described. The products of the HGIS and how the geography of alley houses ties into their historic contexts will be shared and discussed. Afterwards, at least 2 case studies will illustrate Detroit's alley housing history. As understudied examples of the housing of ordinary people, the session will conclude with the importance of the documentation of alley housing and its preservation.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain what an alley house is and the history of alley house development in the US and Detroit.
- Summarize how a Geographic Information System was used to recreate Detroit’s early-twentieth century street pattern and create an Historic Geographic Information System.
- Describe where in Detroit alley housing was most common.
- Discuss the similarities and differences between 2 case studies of alley housing in Detroit.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Katie Cook
TITLE: Principal & Co-founder
AFFIL: Loggia Preservation
CITY: Berkley, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (573 character-and-space; 1,000 limit)

Katie has always been interested in old buildings, especially the houses of everyday people. While working in accounting, her interest in old buildings and history prompted her to further her education in geography and historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University. Katie co-founded Loggia Preservation with Cassandra Talley after working for several years in accounting, GIS, and historic preservation consulting. As an architectural historian, her work focuses on historic resource surveys, National Register nominations, historic tax credit applications, and GIS.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:

TRACK: Track 2 - Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

MODERATOR: Eric Gollanek

Building a Resilient Career Pipeline: Michigan Tech's Virtual Cultural Resources Career Fair

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (344 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

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 opened to current students and alumni from more than 50 colleges and universities nationwide, with equally diverse employers.

Summary: (2,000 character-and-space limit)

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 opened to current students and alumni from more than 50 colleges and universities nationwide, with equally diverse employers seeking talent for agencies and companies in cultural resources management, heritage, and preservation. Building upon the first experiment, the 2026 Career Fair continued to grow, building a recruitment and career development pipeline independent of any individual academic or professional organization, casting with widest possible net for job seekers and employers in these allied fields. The fair, which is currently open to anyone with access to the Handshake network, is free to both job seekers and employers. Besides building a robust and resilient school-to-job pipeline for professional development, the fair also provides a tangible measure of the scale and value of preservation-allied careers, helping academic departments and training programs demonstrate their significance in an age of intense resource competition. As the fair grows, Michigan Tech is seeking the support of sponsors to keep the event free and open-to-all job seekers, an essential part of improving equity and parity in professional development in cultural resources and preservation-allied professions.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe the mechanics of planning and presenting the Virtual Cultural Resources Career Fair.
- Measure the opportunity costs of design choices in the event.
- Promote to individuals, companies, or agencies how they can use the career fair for recruitment of talent.
- Share and discuss perspectives on the effectiveness of the event through critical feedback.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Tim Scarlett
TITLE: Associate Professor
AFFIL: Michigan Technological University
CITY: Houghton, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (640 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Tim Scarlett is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology on the faculty of Industrial Heritage and Archaeology in the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan

Technological University. Tim has a broad background in historical and industrial archaeologies, heritage and preservation, education, and collaborative and transdisciplinary activities. He is a board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and a co-founder of the Keweenaw Energy Transitions Laboratory, where he uses heritage resource as a collaborative process for building public consensus on issues of sustainable energy infrastructure development.

TRACK: Track 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

MODERATOR: Kaila Akina

Lessons in Resilience from the Westnedge Park Project

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (320 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

An inadvertent discovery of human remains at Westnedge Park in Kalamazoo could have caused massive delays and complications. However, a quick response and collaboration between city leadership and local law enforcement, SHPO, MDOT, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians resulted in a positive outcome.

Summary: (624 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

An inadvertent discovery of human remains during a Section 106 project on the south end of Westnedge Park in Kalamazoo could have caused massive delays and complications. However, a quick response and collaboration between city leadership and local law enforcement, Michigan SHPO, MDOT Local Agency Program (LAP), and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians resulted in a positive outcome. In this session we will discuss lessons learned from this project and how to move forward for future projects. We will also discuss strategies that local governments can apply to prevent costly delays in these situations.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Identify points of contact for inadvertent discoveries that occur during Section 106 or LAP projects.
- Discuss communication protocols for inadvertent discoveries that occur during Section 106 or MDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) projects.

- Describe why it is important to report archaeological sites with the Michigan SHPO.
- Demonstrate an understanding of why projects reviewed by the State under Section 106 include provisions for inadvertent discoveries.
- Demonstrate an understanding on the importance of tribal coordination as a critical component of the Section 106 review process.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Sarah Surface-Evans
 TITLE: Senior Archaeologist
 AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
 CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (769 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans joined the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office as Senior Archaeologists in 2022 after a decade as a professor of Anthropology at Central Michigan University. Sarah earned her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2009. She specializes in community-based archaeological practice in the Great Lakes region. Her research and publications have investigated a variety of topics, including material expressions of health and wellbeing, the structure of space as an expression of power in settler-colonial landscapes, and the role of memory, nostalgia, and haunting in contested colonial histories. Her most recent publication is the volume "Post-Contact Archaeology of Michigan and the Upper Great Lakes" co-edited with Dr. Misty M. Jackson.

NAME: Kaila Akina
 TITLE: Assistant Director/Deputy THPO
 AFFIL: Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians
 CITY: Shelbyville, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (556 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Kaila Akina (Diné, Native Hawaiian) is the Assistant Director in the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians. She has an M.A. from the University of Minnesota in anthropology and a B.A. in history from the University of Idaho. She has focused on historical archaeology in the United States and seeks to learn more about incorporating Indigenous knowledges and practices into the fields of archaeology and historic preservation. She is also a member on the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission.

NAME: Patty Jo Korzeniewski
 TITLE: Local Agency Program Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison
 AFFIL: Michigan Department of Transportation
 CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (601 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Patty Jo Korzeniewski is the Local Agency Program (LAP) Archaeologist within the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Environmental Services Section. Prior to this she

was employed as an Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison for the Indiana Department of Transportation for 3.5 years. She previously worked at Dickson Mounds, Illinois State Museum as an Archaeologist. Miss Korzeniewski has a B.A., double major, in Geography with a focus in Archaeology, and Art, and a minor in Native American Studies. She further possesses an M.A. in Archaeology and Geography, both from Valparaiso University.

NAME: Luis Peña
TITLE: Historic Preservation Coordinator
AFFIL: City Of Kalamazoo
CITY: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (787 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Luis Peña is the City of Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator. A native of Kalamazoo, Peña earned his BA in English from Western Michigan University and a Master of Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. As Preservation Coordinator, Peña is dedicated to preserving Kalamazoo's historic built environment which is integral to its unique heritage. Peña works with property owners to navigate the process for acquiring historic district permission to conduct work on the exterior of their properties in an effort to make the process simpler. Peña also serves as the staff liaison to both the Historic District and Historic Preservation Commissions, the latter of which works to distribute funds to the community through the O'Connor Fund for Historic Preservation.

TRACK: Track 2 - Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

MODERATOR: Cody Newman

From Blueprints to Bytes: Digital Twins and Historic Building Information Management

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(344 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

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.

Summary: (1,991 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

For custodians of revered and significant 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. Present and future operation requires the ability to synthesize pertinent and accurate information about their multi-layered past and present performance to make informed decisions.

Working with stewardship-oriented institutions such as George Washington’s Mount Vernon and the Michigan State Capitol—both National Historic Landmarks—we have learned that managing and maintaining historically significant places relies heavily upon understanding their unique histories, materiality, and composition. Critical activities like upgrades to meet modern building codes, sharing history with audiences, and even routine maintenance require organized and contextualized information.

Historic Building Information Management (HBIM) captures, digitizes, and organizes a myriad of information into a three-dimensional digital system within a web-based graphical user-interface. HBIM provides a living documentation platform that is intuitive and navigable. It empowers a diversity of users regardless of their software fluency.

HBIM is a 3D virtual filing cabinet that organizes and provides easy access to data. The customizable platform allows users to digitally navigate their entire facility, all on a web browser without using complicated software. In this presentation, we will explain the logic of HBIM and setting up the system for success. We will continue by exploring the ongoing advancements in technology, such as the expansion into “Digital Twins.” Utilizing Digital Twin technology, the HBIM platform connects real-time dynamic building performance data to the digitally modeled spaces. With this more holistic view of the building history and current operations, stewards can manage a smarter facility and ensure its ongoing data-informed care into the future.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe the data and information challenges faced in operating, maintaining, and preserving an existing or historic building.
- Analyze relevant levels of development for digital building elements in order to establish a useful Historic Building Information Management (BIM) hierarchy.
- Apply unique approaches to modeling in order to best capture relevant and accurate conditions of existing and historic buildings with new technologies.
- Discuss the integration of facility monitoring software with BIM in a user-friendly and cloud-based interface.
- Discern the difference between digital building information types and their usefulness to management and maintenance decision making.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Benjamin Telian
TITLE: Senior Associate
AFFIL: Quinn Evans
CITY: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (863 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Benjamin is a Senior Associate with over 17 years of architectural design, document execution, and project management experience serving clients in the Cultural, Higher Education, and Historic Preservation market sectors. His keen ability to think creatively through problems and work effectively with Owner and Constructor are leveraged to help institutional clients navigate complex factors impacting the design and construction of major capital projects. He serves as the Architect of the Michigan State Capitol and is involved in planning, designing, executing, and capturing renovation and restoration work at this National Historic Landmark. Additionally, Benjamin and his Quinn Evans team are proud to capture and organize this important preservation work for future facility stewards in the Capitol's Historic Building Information Management Digital Twin.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Friday May 8, 2026
TIME: 8:00 AM - 11:45 AM

TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Cassandra Talley and Katie Cook

Grosse Pointe Modern: Exploring Three Residential Masterpieces – A bus and walking tour.

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (642 characters-and-spaces; 700 limit)

Whereas the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe is best known for historic revival-style homes, it is also home to notable spectacular modern residences designed by renowned architects Alden B. Dow, Alexander Girard, William Kessler, Paul Rudolph, Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Minoru Yamasaki and others. The tour features three residential masterpieces, including: Alexander Girard's John and Kathleen McLucas House (1950), William Kessler's W. Hawkins Ferry House (1964), and Paul Rudolph's Frank and Anne Parcels House (1970). Current owners share their experiences in owning and preserving these exemplars of Grosse Pointe's modernist heritage.

Summary: (2,000 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Whereas the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe is best known for historic revival-style homes, it is also home to spectacular modern residences by Alden B. Dow, Alexander Girard, William Kessler, Paul Rudolph, Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Minoru Yamasaki and others. This somewhat contradictory coexistence mirrors the history of Grosse Pointe itself, which was developed in the 19th-century as a site of summer cottages for wealthy Detroit families but evolved during the early decades of the 20th-century into an exclusive residential district. As Detroit transformed into the "motor city," members of its new automotive elite – who built factories in steel and glass – commissioned private residences in Colonial, Georgian, and Tudor styles, matching that of Detroit's old money families.

By the 1930s, aesthetically adventurous Grosse Pointe patrons were inspired to commission homes that departed dramatically from their historically-inspired neighbors. This phenomenon reflected both the prosperity of Metro Detroit and Michigan's primacy in

modern design, not only in cars but in architecture, home furnishings, and educational institutions.

The tour will feature three residential masterpieces, each expressing the unique practical and aesthetic aspirations of its patrons. Alexander Girard's John and Kathleen McLucas House (1950) features an enclosed atrium and accent walls of boldly-colored glazed bricks from the General Motors Technical Center. Paul Rudolph's multi-level Frank and Anne Parcells House (1970) is composed of Brutalist-style, box-like projections, infilled with glass recesses, offering dramatic vistas over Lake St. Clair. William Kessler designed a modern lake-front home (1964) for art collector and architectural historian W. Hawkins Ferry with a unique spiral staircase and a two-story glass-walled living room to display his modern art collection.

Current owners will share their experiences in owning and preserving these exemplars of Grosse Pointe's modernist heritage.

Learning Objectives:

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe the elements of MidCentury Modern architecture.
- Explain the primacy of Michigan – most specifically, Metro Detroit – in the development of modern design, not only in automobiles but also in architecture, home furnishings, and educational institutions.
- Compare the designs of three significant architects that worked in the Detroit area.
- Summarize the preservation challenges of stewardship of mid-century architectural masterpieces.
- Describe the challenges faced by both architects and patrons in building a home in a style not understood or appreciated at the time.
- Discuss the importance of preserving architecture from this mid-century period.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Deborah Lubera Kawsy, Ph.D.
TITLE: Art Historian
AFFIL: Docomomo Michigan, Madonna University
CITY: Plymouth, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (976 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Deborah Lubera Kawsy, Ph.D. is an art/architectural historian and a Detroit native, with a bachelor's degree in art history from Smith College and an MFA and Ph.D. from Princeton University. She is an Associate Professor at Madonna University in Livonia, MI, and also teaches at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is board president of Docomomo

Michigan, which has organized events devoted to Minoru Yamasaki and the legacy of Detroit's African American architects. She has given lectures both within and beyond Metro Detroit on midcentury modern icons Alexander Girard and Ruth Adler Schnee and on Detroit artists Artis Lane and Hubert Massey. Kawsky's 2018 book, *Alexander Girard Architect: Creating Midcentury Modern Masterpieces*, is the first comprehensive study of Alexander Girard's Michigan period. She is also project curator for the restoration and exhibition of a newly-rediscovered Alexander Girard wood collage mural, currently on loan to General Motors.

NAME: Brian D. Conway
TITLE: Retired State Historic Preservation Officer
AFFIL: Docomomo-Michigan and Palm Springs Modernism Week
CITY: Onkama, Michigan 49675 Palm Desert, California 92260

Biographical statement: (1,021 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Brian D. Conway served as Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer for over twenty years, retiring in 2020. Conway initiated the Michigan Modern Project to document and promote Michigan's significant role in the development of modern design. This work received a Docomomo US Advocacy Award and has been the topic of lectures nationwide. Conway is the author of the book *Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy* and co-editor of *Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America*. He served on the board of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and is currently a board member of the Michigan Docomomo chapter. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Florida. A Michigan native, Conway now splits his time between Northwest Michigan and Southern California, and serves as a tour guide for Palm Springs Modernism Week and the Palm Springs Modern Committee.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM:

TRACK: Track 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

MODERATOR: Tim Scarlett

Between Bleach and Best Practices: The State of Cemetery Preservation

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (314 characters; 350 character-and-space limit))

Cemetery preservation remains dominated by ad-hoc measures—volunteers and small contractors working without consistent training or long-term planning. This presentation asks: is this reliance a problem, and if so, what solutions exist? Or must the field embrace its ad-hoc character as both strength and challenge?

Summary: (1,254 characters; 2,000 character-and-space limit):

Cemetery preservation in the United States has never lacked for energy, yet it remains dominated by ad hoc measures. From local volunteers cleaning stones with household chemicals to small contractors improvising repairs, much of the work that sustains burial grounds is carried out without professional training, institutional support, or long-term planning. This reality raises a critical question: is the ad hoc character of cemetery preservation a weakness to be overcome, or an enduring feature of the field that must be acknowledged and worked with?

This presentation explores that question by surveying the current state of practice. It highlights the contributions and limitations of ad hoc efforts, considers the uneven dissemination of professional standards, and situates cemeteries within broader movements for community heritage, equity, and sustainability. While examples of digital documentation, conservator-led projects, and community partnerships point toward possible solutions, the central dilemma remains unresolved. By asking whether a more formalized and inclusive model of preservation is achievable, or even desirable, the presentation aims to spark dialogue about the future direction of this important but still unsettled field.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Define standards of practice that can accommodate the wide variety of people doing cemetery preservation work and foster understanding and acceptance.
- Discuss the ethics when tackling the critical question: is the ad hoc character of cemetery preservation a weakness to be overcome, or an enduring feature of the field that must be acknowledged and worked with?
- Identify how the needs of each community are met, or not met, by recognizing the contributions and limitations of ad hoc efforts and this uneven dissemination of professional standards.
- Demonstrate how the current state of practice situates cemeteries within broader movements for community heritage, equity, and sustainability.
- Summarize the duality of solutions to spark dialogue about the future direction of this important but still unsettled field.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Thomas Henthorn
TITLE: Professor

AFFIL: University of Michigan-Flint
CITY: Flint, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (428 characters; 1,000- character limit)

Dr. Henthorn is the Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History and director of the Preservation Studies Minor at the University of Michigan-Flint. In addition to conducting research and teaching projects at Michigan cemeteries, Dr Henthorn sits on the board of Flint's two oldest cemeteries. He and his students conduct workshops across the state of Michigan so communities can learn how to preserve their historic burial places.

TRACK: Track 2: Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 9:15 AM – 10:15 PM

Moderator: Kristine Kidorf, President Emerita, MHPN

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects - 101: Introduction

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (349 characters; 350 character-and-space limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. So that you can discuss actual deal structuring for your project, this Introduction provides a working knowledge of some basic incentives. Several local projects are studied to see how their financing came together. Time is available for questions.

Summary: (1,754 characters; 2,000 character-and-space limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can bring valuable financial incentives to real estate development projects. Such incentives are more important than ever with credit markets tightening in the current inflationary, high-interest rate environment. In the 101-Introductory portion of this two-part program, a working knowledge of basic incentives is taught, illustrated by how financing was put together for several local projects. In the 201-Intermediate portion, we provide an overview of the federal historic tax credit (HTC) and incentives frequently utilized in financing historic rehabilitations in Michigan, including the revived Michigan state historic tax credit, Community Revitalization Program (CRP) grants and loans, Brownfield tax increment financing (TIF), Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Opportunity Zones, and PACE financing. We also discuss such practical experiences as considerations related to retaining vs. syndicating federal HTCs, closing HTC syndication transactions, obtaining bridge financing, and choosing a good team of consultants. An active HTC investor will provide examples of projects where they were able to function as a "one-stop shop" for the project's financing needs. By presenting examples of actual deal structuring for some great historic properties, this Intermediate portion shows you how these and other programs work, how they can function together, and how you can work with the government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants who can bring these incentives to your project. For both 101 and 201 presentations, a significant amount of time is made available for questions so that participants can apply what they have learned.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- Identify some of the basic financial incentives available to harness significant equity investment, more favorable loan terms, and reduced property taxes for historic preservation projects.
- Describe in general the Michigan state historic preservation tax credit and its use for both commercial and residential projects.
- Review the parties who often work on successful financial packages to restore or adaptively reuse historic buildings; consider how to work together, and go through case studies that apply what has been discussed.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the choices to make from among financial incentives to help you apply the right ones to your project.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Emily Cauzillo
TITLE: Vice President, Director of Mercantile Community Partners
AFFIL: Mercantile Bank
CITY: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Biographical statement: (967; 1,000 character-and-space limit))

Emily Cauzillo currently serves as the Vice President and Director of Mercantile Community Partner (“MCP”), a subsidiary of Mercantile Bank Corporation. MCP provides equity investments in community development projects utilizing Low-Income Housing and Historic Tax Credits. Emily joined Mercantile in 2023, bringing nearly 15 years of Commercial Banking experience to the team. During her tenure, she originated and managed over \$450 million of investment in tax credits, supporting the creation of 1,800 affordable housing units and the adaptive reuse of 40 historic buildings. With a deep-seated passion for historic preservation and affordable housing, she works closely with development partners to find the best solutions possible for their project. In addition to her role with MCP, Emily currently serves as the Treasurer for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (“MHPN”) and a committee member of Michigan Housing Council and Opportunity Resource Fund.

NAME: Allan Martin
TITLE: Vice President
AFFIL: Community Housing Network, Inc.
CITY: Troy, Michigan

Biographical statement: (941; 1,000 character-and-space limit)

Allan Martin is a well-respected 23-year veteran of the affordable housing industry in Michigan. He is the Vice President of Real Estate Development for Community Housing Network (CHN) whose vision is that all members of society have equal access to a safe home and a chance to succeed in life. Prior to CHN, Allan was an independent consultant, serving multiple organizations whose missions included the development of affordable

housing. Allan has facilitated the development of multi-family and single-family rental and lease-to-own units throughout the state, helping to generate nearly \$325M worth of development, representing over 1,600 units of first-rate, affordable housing. His most recent projects on behalf of CHN are on display in Sault Ste Marie and represent the repurposing of two historic structures into high-quality affordable and market-rate housing. CHN works throughout Michigan, including many projects in SE Michigan.

TRACK: Track 3 - Applied Skills & Case Studies
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

MODERATOR: Mike Hambacher

Re-Energizing the Clara and Henry Ford Estate Powerhouse and Garage

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (348 character-and-space limit; 350 limit)

Work on the Powerhouse and Garage at the Clara and Henry Ford Estate (Fair Lane) began nearly a decade ago with a master plan and a vision for how the property might be preserved and re-energized as an income-producing property. The solution included a modern addition to the historic structure, complimenting, not competing with, its surroundings.

Summary: (1,763 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Work on the Powerhouse and Garage at the Clara and Henry Ford Estate (Fair Lane) began nearly a decade ago with a master plan and vision for how the property might be preserved and re-energized as an income producing property. Long ago are the days since Henry Ford and his good friend, Thomas Edison, utilized the upper floor as a lab. Gone, too, is the host of family cars stored in the Garage and the operation of the still-intact hydro-electric power plant.

In order to secure the private funds to complete necessary repairs to the Powerhouse and Garage, a vision for the future of the property was required, one that was a bit more strategic than a living history museum. Through those initial visioning sessions, it was determined the Powerhouse and Garage could be utilized as an event and meeting venue. However, as with most historic structures, code compliance and accessibility shortcomings were a major inhibitor to those plans. Studies were completed to address accommodation of these two issues, but doing so proved difficult, often stressing the integrity and character defining features of the historic structure.

From these initial studies, it was concluded an addition was the best way to achieve accessible routes to all floors, provide code-compliant restrooms, and create a catering kitchen for the event spaces in the historic structure. While locating modern amenities was far less obtrusive in an addition, the new structure faced different challenges. It needed to be appropriately situated within the historic landscape, complete a 'light touch' where the connections occurred to the Powerhouse and Garage, and speak and relate to the historic features of the adjacent building, but not pretend to be historic in its own right.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe the function and history of the Fair Lane Powerhouse and Garage.
- Explain the Estate’s plans to reimagine the Powerhouse and Garage for future use.
- Compare and contrast the existing historic structure to the modern Pavilion addition.
- Define appropriate ways additions may be made to historic structures utilizing the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Erin Andrus
TITLE: Associate
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (678 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

As an Associate and Historic Preservation Project Architect with SmithGroup, Erin Andrus specializes in the architecture and technical preservation of historic structures and landmarks, such as the Marygrove (College) Conservancy, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Saginaw News Building, Lansing’s Moores Park Pool, and Fair Lane. With nearly 20 years of experience, Erin has contributed to a variety of restoration and rehabilitation projects, utilizing her specialty and careful attention to details to ensure each project is a success. Erin earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and is licensed in both Michigan and Indiana.

NAME: James Shepherd
TITLE: Vice President, Director of Historic Preservation
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Washington DC

Biographical Statement: (854 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

With over 30 years of experience, James W. Shepherd, a Vice President and SmithGroup’s Director of Historic Preservation, has directed historic preservation projects of national significance for clients such as the National Park Service, the Department of State, the District of Columbia Courts and the Architect of the Capitol. He has contributed to the restoration of many National Historic Landmarks such as Grand Central Station, Ellis Island

and Henry Ford's Fair Lane. Jim previously served as the Director of Preservation and Facilities for Washington National Cathedral for six years and oversaw repairs due to damage caused by a 2011 earthquake. Jim earned a Master of Architecture with a specialty in historic preservation from the University of Texas in Austin and is licensed in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington DC, and Michigan.

NAME: Austin Gieseey
TITLE: Senior Project Manager
AFFIL: The Christman Company
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (936 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Austin M. Gieseey, a key leader within The Christman Company's Historic Preservation Group, brings a wealth of expertise in both exterior and interior preservation. A Michigan native, Austin holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Michigan State University. Throughout his career, Austin has spearheaded significant preservation projects, including the interior rehabilitation of the iconic Michigan Central Station, the restoration of the Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane Potting Shed and Powerhouse, The Belle Isle Aquarium & James Scott Fountain, the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit Campus, and the Fisher Building Vestibules. With a deep passion for meticulous preservation practices, Austin has been recognized for his contributions, most notably co-authoring *Ruin to Revival: Restoring Michigan Central Station: The Builders' Journey*, a coffee table book that chronicles the restoration of Michigan Central Station.

NAME: Austin Evans Eighmey
TITLE: Senior Director of Historic Resources & Interpretation
AFFIL: Fair Lane
CITY: Dearborn, MI

Biographical Statement: (1,006 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Austin Eighmey has spent the last decade restoring Fair Lane, the historic home of Henry and Clara Ford. He first came to the Fair Lane Estate as an artisan, working to restore the original decorative finishes of the first floor. Today, Austin leads the Estate's restoration, Historic Resources department, and interpretative planning process while collaborating with Fair Lane's conservation team and helping guide the non-profit's strategic plan. Austin holds a B.S. in Archaeology from Oakland University and an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With a background in fine art, visual language, archaeology, and museum studies, Austin is uniquely suited to navigating the challenges of preservation leadership, for which he was recognized as one of Detroit's 40 under 40 by *Crain's Business* in 2024. Driven to illuminate the present with lessons of the past, Austin is excited to welcome visitors back to a restored Fair Lane with the grand re-opening in 2027.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

The Ford House Education Department can accommodate the staffing of these tours with a maximum of 50 guests per hour slot with 1:10 tour associate to guest ratio.

Title:

Inside Ford House

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (736 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The tour of Ford House provides access to the formal rooms and private living spaces at the heart of the Ford family's estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the architecture of the Cotswold region. Built and furnished between 1926-1929, the Fords moved in 1928. The interior reflects Western European design influences. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms, introducing a Machine Age aesthetic. Featured are paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera, as well as classic European portraiture, modern sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. The interior has remained nearly unchanged since the family was in residence.

Summary: (2,197 characters-and-spaces; 2,000-limit):

The Guided Main Residence tour at Ford House takes you into the heart of the Ford family's historic estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England. With the exterior built between 1926-1927, the interior's 60 rooms were finished and furnished between 1927-1929. The Fords moved into their lakeside residence in 1928, where they raised their four children and welcomed guests into a home with rooms that felt intimate and comfortable.

Overall, the interior reflects Western European design influences in its handcrafted wood-, plaster-, and stonework. The Fords purchased architectural pieces including wall paneling, fireplaces, and a staircase from a variety of English manors to be included in the original construction. Like many families, Eleanor and Edsel Ford updated the house over time to reflect their evolving tastes. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer and Ford Motor Company collaborator Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms. Teague introduced sleek, modern concepts rooted in the Machine Age aesthetic. In the 1950s, following Edsel's passing, Eleanor invited her close friend and interior decorator, Polly Jessup, to design new spaces that reflected her personal style. Jessup's updates showcased Eleanor's refined eye for fine art and antique furnishings.

Throughout the home, Edsel and Eleanor added paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera – whom Edsel had also commissioned for the *Detroit Industry* murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as classic European portraiture, modern-style sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. Wrought-iron doors by Philadelphia metalsmith Samuel Yellin - who also created grillwork gates for the Detroit Institute of Arts - open from the Main Hall to the loggia to frame views of Lake St. Clair.

The tour includes not only an opportunity to study the main rooms of the home – the library, dining room, and drawing room, but also the private living spaces that reveal a more personal side of the family's life. The home has remained nearly unchanged since Eleanor's passing in 1976.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss Ford House as an example of the residential work of Albert Kahn.
- Identify what makes Ford House an example of Tudor Revival styling inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England.
- Compare the juxtapositioning of Western European interior design influences with sleek, modern interior concepts rooted in a Machine Age aesthetic, as well as with a 1950s showcase of fine art and antique furnishings.
- Review the conservation challenges of maintaining the original features of a 100-year-old interior that is open to the public.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Jason Dake
TITLE: Director of Education
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (815 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Jason Dake is the Director of Education at Ford House, where he oversees all aspects of educational programming, manages staff, and develops a program of arts, humanities, and environmental education. Prior to this, Jason worked as Deputy Director of Museum Programs and Learning at Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City where he curated exhibitions and programs, and designed educational programming. Jason's earlier experience includes working as Art Education Coordinator at Flint Institute of Arts and as a Program Assistant at AmeriCorps. Jason completed his BS in Education, with a focus on Art and History, from Central Michigan University, from 1999 to 2004. From 2010 to 2011, he pursued an MA in Arts Administration, specializing in Community Engagement and Technology at the University of Michigan-Flint.

NAME: Sabrina Reinhard
TITLE: Interpretation Manager
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (558 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Sabrina Reinhard is an experienced professional in the fields of education and visitor services, currently serving as Interpretation Manager at Ford House, following her start at Ford House in 2022 as a Tour & Education Associate. Previously, Sabrina was an educator at Meadow Brook Hall, a National Historic Landmark designed by William E. Kapp of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls in a Tudor Revival style for Matilda Dodge Wilson and built in 1929.

Sabrina Reinhard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oakland University, earned between 2015 and 2019.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM:

TRACK: Track 1 - Theme
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

MODERATOR: Sarah Marsom

Reimagining Old Strategies for New Goals: From Selma to Greenfield Village

- **Will not share power point after the conference.**

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (347 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Founded in 1927, Greenfield Village has served as a focal point of an ongoing preservation debate - do structures lose their significance if they move? Curators are again addressing the question, reimagining old strategies as they restore the Jackson House, relocated in 2023 from Selma, AL, to re-present its role in the 1960s Voting Rights Act.

Summary: (1,979 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Founded in 1927, Greenfield Village has served as an early exploration of preservation and interpretation strategies. Relocating structures associated with innovation, this National Historic Landmark, has served as a focal point of an ongoing preservation debate - do structures lose their significance if they move? Almost 100-years later, Greenfield Village is opening the doors to the Jackson Home, its first residential acquisition in decades.

The Dr. Sullivan and Richie Jean Sherrod Jackson Home Museum (Selma, AL) quietly told stories of its role in the Selma Voting Rights Movement—as the Selma home base for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But, as site caretaker and family kinkeeper, Jawana Jackson sought a succession plan for the site, its contents, and most importantly its history. She had an audacious dream - that her home be acquired by Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford, allowing for her family story to reach thousands of visitors.

In 2023, that dream became a reality, with the home and contents collected and moved over one thousand miles to Michigan. Today, The Henry Ford works to restore the home to its 1960s facade and re-present the story of the Jacksons and the Voting Rights Act, preparing to open in 2026. This round table will explore custodial preservation, community engagement, house museums, and the challenges of acquiring and preserving a historic house with firm community roots.

The session will provide and encourage Q&A and conversation. In addition to building awareness about the project, this session will allow the curators at The Henry Ford to share about the challenges and successes thus far, and hear from their peers how they think the

interpretation of the Jackson Home can empower future generations. The consultants will be able to explore succession planning with the audience, however they will encourage discussion on multi-generational caretaking plans for homes and stories.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Demonstrate an introductory-level knowledge of Civil Rights history.
- Explain strategies to identify preservation project goals.
- Discuss methodologies to cultivate relationships with caretakers of historic sites, objects, and histories.
- Articulate recommendations for expanding heritage interpretation at a preexisting historic site.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the Jackson Home Project at The Henry Ford and the preservation work underway.
- Explain the challenges of Black History Preservation in our current political climate.
- Debate if preservation “in place” is always the best solution.
- Describe the role of cultural advocacy in preservation, interpretation, and institutional practice.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Sarah Marsom
TITLE: Heritage Resource Consultant
AFFIL: N/A
CITY: Bear Lake, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (520 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Sarah Marsom is a Heritage Resource Consultant and an advocate for positive change in the cultural resource field. Specializing in organizational strategy and education/outreach, Sarah’s work is a balance of creatively cultivating connections to the past and identifying/remediating deficiencies in cultural resource frameworks. Her projects have received awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Council on Public History, National Emerging Museum Professionals Network, and Preservation Action.

NAME: Amber Mitchell
TITLE: Curator of Black History
AFFIL: The Henry Ford
CITY: Dearborn, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (593 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Amber N. Mitchell is a public historian, educator, experience designer, and community-rooted cultural strategist. Currently, she serves as the founding Curator of Black History at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Detroit, MI. As a public historian, Amber strives to empower communities of color to tell our own stories in cultural institutions and beyond, while transforming nonprofit structures into accessible reflections of our communities. She holds a master's degree in History from Indiana University and a bachelor's in History from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

NAME: Heather Bruegl
TITLE: Curator of Political and Civic Engagement
AFFIL: The Henry Ford
CITY: Dearborn, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (739 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Heather Bruegl (Oneida/Stockbridge-Munsee) is a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and a first-line descendant of the Stockbridge Munsee. She graduated from Madonna University in Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in U.S. History. She is currently the Curator of Political and Civic Engagement at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, MI. Heather is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where she studies First Nations Education, and her dissertation work will focus on why it is important to tell truth in history. Heather is a public historian, activist, and consultant who works with institutions and organizations for Indigenous sovereignty and collective liberation.

TRACK: Track 2: Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Moderator: Kristine Kidorf, President Emerita, MHPN

Incentives for Successful Preservation Projects – 201: Intermediate

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (482; 350 character-and-space limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can make valuable financial incentives available. Examples of actual deal structuring show you how incentives work, how they function together, and how you can work with state and federal government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants to bring incentives to your project. Our session is meant for those with a basic knowledge of project development. Time is available for questions.

Summary: (1,754; 2,000 character-and-space limit)

Restoring or adaptively reusing historic buildings can bring valuable financial incentives to real estate development projects. Such incentives are more important than ever with credit markets tightening in the current inflationary, high-interest rate environment. In the 101-

Introductory portion of this two-part program, a working knowledge of basic incentives is taught, illustrated by how financing was put together for several local projects. In the 201-Intermediate portion, we provide an overview of the federal historic tax credit (HTC) and incentives frequently utilized in financing historic rehabilitations in Michigan, including the revived Michigan state historic tax credit, Community Revitalization Program (CRP) grants and loans, Brownfield tax increment financing (TIF), Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA), Opportunity Zones, and PACE financing. We also discuss such practical experiences as considerations related to retaining vs. syndicating federal HTCs, closing HTC syndication transactions, obtaining bridge financing, and choosing a good team of consultants. An active HTC investor will provide examples of projects where they were able to function as a “one-stop shop” for the project’s financing needs. By presenting examples of actual deal structuring for some great historic properties, this Intermediate portion shows you how these and other programs work, how they can function together, and how you can work with the government agencies, investors, lenders, accountants, attorneys, and preservation consultants who can bring these incentives to your project. For both 101 and 201 presentations, a significant amount of time is made available for questions so that participants can apply what they have learned.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

- Identify the various financial incentives available to harness significant equity investment, more favorable loan terms and reduced property taxes for historic preservation projects – e.g., federal historic tax credits, Michigan Historic Tax Credits, Opportunity Zones, Brownfield tax increment financing, Michigan’s Community Revitalization Program (CRP) and PACE financing.
- Describe, in particular, the requirements of the federal historic tax credit and the historic tax credit syndication process.
- Identify the parties who likely will work on successful financial packages to restore or adaptively reuse historic buildings; consider how to work together, and go through case studies that apply what has been discussed.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the choices to make from among financial incentives to help you apply the right ones to your project.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Tracey Lackman
TITLE: Counsel
AFFIL: Baker Hostetler
CITY: Cleveland, Ohio

Biographical statement: (907; 1,000 character-and-space limit)

Tracey Lackman has more than 20 years of tax-credit finance experience and regularly structures tax-advantaged investments in the context of development and project finance transactions. Her background includes in-depth knowledge on affordable housing and historic rehabilitation tax credit development law, commercial real estate law, and economic

incentives. Tracey has represented both investors and developers in all facets of commercial real estate sale, acquisition, development, and rehabilitation. Tracey also represents lenders, including drafting and negotiating loan documents, closing loans, and oversight of due diligence review. Tracey has served as lead counsel to developers in more than \$350 million in LIHTC and/or HTC developments, to investors in more than \$250 million in LIHTC and/or HTC developments, and to lenders in more than \$100 million in loans to LIHTC and/or HTC developments.

NAME: Terri L. Salas, CPA
TITLE: Principal
AFFIL: Housing and Community Development Solutions Group - Plante Moran, PLLC
CITY: East Lansing, Michigan

Biographical statement: (1,009; 1,000 character-and-space limit))

As a leader in Plante Moran's housing and community development solutions group, Terri Salas specializes in structuring real estate transactions with tax incentives, including historic tax credits, New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs), low-income housing tax credits (LIHTCs), and other state and local incentives. With more than 30 years of experience, she has closed transactions of all sizes, from a smalltown Main Street type to one of the largest historic rehabs in the country. Terri is rewarded to contribute to the positive impact tax incentives provide in community development. She gets excited sharing her knowledge and educating clients on various incentives and opportunities available for their projects. Prior to joining Plante Moran in 2011, Terri worked in fund and asset management for a regional syndicator and was the controller for an affordable housing developer/contractor. Her experience provides her with perspective and insight into all aspects of a project from inception to disposition.

TRACK: Track - SHPO
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

MODERATOR: Katie Kolokithas

What is SHPO and the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan?

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(348 character-and-space; 350 limit)

State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) around the country were established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Have you wondered what they do and what programs they offer? This session provides an overview of the Michigan SHPO's work as well as its more recent efforts to develop the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan.

Summary: (1,162 character-and-space; 2,000 limit)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the creation of the State Historic Preservation Office in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories, and three Freely Associated States. SHPOs across the country play a vital role in helping support and guide preservation efforts at the state and local levels. However, not everyone is familiar with what SHPOs do and what services we provide to residents. Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer, Ryan Schumaker, will provide an overview of the Michigan SHPO, its program areas, and how we provide assistance. Program areas include the identification, evaluation, and nomination of eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, creating and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan, providing technical assistance on preservation matters, working with local governments to develop local historic preservation programs, and much more. He will share information about the Historic Preservation Fund that provides federal dollars to the office each year, and comment on the Certified Local Government grant program. Additionally, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Martha MacFarlane-Faes will provide an update related to our Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and relate how this ties into the work SHPO does.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Explain what State Historic Preservation Offices are and do under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
- Summarize each of the program areas within SHPO including the identification, evaluation, and nomination of eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, creating and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan, providing technical assistance on preservation matters, and working with local governments to develop local historic preservation programs.
- Discuss the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and how it informs decision-making at the local and state levels.
- Demonstrate awareness of the Historic Preservation Fund and how it supports the Michigan SHPO as well as its Certified Local Government grant program.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Ryan Schumaker
TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (865 character-and-space; 1,000 limit)

Ryan Schumaker has served as the State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Michigan since September of 2023. In this role, he is responsible for the administration of

the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in identification, evaluation, and nomination of eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, creating and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan, providing technical assistance on preservation matters, and working with local governments to develop local historic preservation programs. Prior to his role at SHPO, he worked as a consultant and for the City of Detroit as Deputy Director and Grant Coordinator for the Historic Designation Advisory Board, where he successfully applied for and was awarded three National Park Service grants to document and preserve the history of underrepresented communities.

NAME: Martha MacFarlane-Faes
TITLE: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (910 character-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Martha MacFarlane-Faes has served as Michigan’s Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer since 2010, including three years serving as the acting SHPO for Michigan. With nearly three decades of preservation experience, she currently sits on the board of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). She formerly managed the SHPO’s multifaceted federal and state regulatory responsibilities for ten years and now oversees the SHPO’s community and economic development programs, including historic preservation tax credits, archaeology, planning, survey, local historic districts and Certified Local Governments. A Michigan transplant with roots in California and New England, Martha has a B.A. in art history from Wellesley College and an M.A. in architectural history from the University of Chicago. Her current work includes leading the Michigan SHPO’s statewide planning process.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 12:45 PM – 2:30 PM:

TRACK: Special Event – Keynote Address
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

MODERATOR: Michael Hambacher, Vice President, MHPN

Title:

Remixing the City: Historic Preservation, Inclusive Design, and the Practice of Community Repair

Summary and About Our Speaker: (424 words; 450-word limit)

In this keynote, Kiana Wenzell, Co-Executive Director of Design Core Detroit, explores historic preservation as an undeniably powerful strategy for community repair, recovery, and resilience. She contends that true resilience is more than simply “bouncing back”—it is the

capacity of communities to use historic preservation to bend without breaking, to adapt and repair with creativity, grace, and endurance.

Through the lens of inclusive design, Wenzell explores how preservation can advance three core dimensions of resilience—social, economic, and environmental. She highlights how Detroit serves as a “Living Laboratory” for these ideas, demonstrating how design and preservation intersect to drive community-led transformation.

The lecture includes examples of architectural adaptation and public space renewal, 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.

Wenzell also discusses environmental stewardship, showcasing how Detroit organizations are upcycling waste into new materials and reimagining vacant land as spaces for cultural and environmental art. The presentation highlights community-led design, including how residents have reclaimed the front porch as a platform for storytelling, neighborhood memory, and resistance.

Ultimately, Wenzell celebrates preservation’s primacy to Resilience by Design—a philosophy of designing for continuity—where cities thrive by being continually remixed, inclusive, and future-ready.

This topic is especially relevant as preservationists and urban practitioners face growing challenges: declining civic engagement, economic disinvestment, social fragmentation, and environmental vulnerability. Wenzell’s keynote proposes an integrated framework that centers repair, recovery, and adaptation as essential preservation strategies. Using Detroit as a model, she illustrates how inclusive design can address these challenges through social, economic, and environmental resilience.

Wenzell encourages preservationists to view their work as a dynamic practice of community care and continuity—ensuring that places endure, evolve, and remain relevant for generations to come.

About the Speaker

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

Her experience spans nonprofit leadership, cultural programming, civic engagement, and education, including roles at the College for Creative Studies, Washtenaw Community College, and Lawrence Technological University. She also serves on the board of the Detroit Artists Market. Wenzell’s work positions design as a catalyst for urban revitalization, cultural vibrancy, and collective resilience in Detroit and beyond.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Demonstrate that historic preservation is a powerful planning strategy for the repair, recovery, and resilience of Michigan’s communities.
- Discuss the three core dimensions of resilience – social, economic, and environment – and how historic preservation addresses them.
- Describe specific projects – Michigan Central Station, Detroit Riverwalk, Dequindre Cut, Dreamtroit – and why they are examples of architectural adaptation and public space renewal.
- Explain “upcycling waste” for the environmental stewardship of Detroit, and “reimagining” vacant land as space for cultural and environmental art.
- Articulate that Resilience by Design is a philosophy of designing for continuity where cities thrive by being continually remixed, inclusive, and future-ready through the primacy of historic preservation.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Kiana Wenzell
TITLE: Co-Executive Director
AFFIL: Design Core Detroit
TITLE: Co-Director
AFFIL: Detroit Month of Design
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (993 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Kiana Wenzell is an interior designer and creative director with over 17 years’ experience researching, planning, and executing design projects in metropolitan Detroit. She executes large- and small-scale projects at the College for Creative Studies (CCS) and managed local activations in partnership with local and national brands including Gucci, Foot Locker, Kickstarter and Ford Motor Co. Kiana also leads the programing for the Detroit Month of Design, an annual multidisciplinary design festival, that attracted over 50,000 attendees in 2020.

Though her work with the festival, she collaborates with designers and partner organizations to create dynamic place-based events that bring cultural experiences to Detroit for Lear Corporation, Rocket Companies, Kickstarter, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, Herman Miller, and others. Kiana has a 2004 BS in Interior Design from EMU, and a 2015 MS in Technical and Professional Communications from Lawrence Technological University.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM:

TRACK: Track 3 – Case Studies and Applied Skills
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

MODERATOR: Zach Rusu

Digital Meets Vintage: Tech-Driven Design for Historic Buildings

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (351 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Discover how cutting-edge technology—from laser scanning to drones to hygrothermal modeling—is transforming historic preservation. Through real-world case studies, explore how adaptations to historic buildings are complimented and influenced by the use of modern tech - while protecting their character and enhancing resiliency for future generations.

Summary: (1,237 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Preserving historic buildings is more than honoring the past—it’s about designing a resilient future. This presentation explores how cutting-edge tools and technologies are transforming the way we adapt, restore, and preserve structures of historic value. From reality capture methods like drones and laser scanning to hygrothermal modeling, infrared evaluation, and physical testing, these innovations and methodologies help fill in the gaps left by missing or incomplete construction documents. They also shape our understanding of existing conditions, ensuring that the character and integrity of historic buildings remain uncompromised.

Through a series of compelling case studies—including the Detroit Institute of Arts, University of Michigan President’s Residence, Cranbrook Art Museum, GM Factory One, and more—we’ll showcase how these tools have been applied in real-world scenarios. Whether it’s analyzing moisture behavior, probing masonry, or capturing complex geometries, each example highlights how technology supports thoughtful design and resilient preservation.

Join us to discover how embracing innovation can protect what matters and empower us to build a stronger, more adaptable future—one historic building at a time.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Describe how modern technologies such as laser scanning, drones, and infrared imaging support the assessment of historic buildings.

- Discuss how hygrothermal modeling, performance calculations, and condensation analysis inform design decisions to meet current building and energy codes.
- Explain how physical testing methods (e.g., water testing, masonry sampling, and physical probing) inform restoration and repair decisions.
- Summarize how modern design tools are integrated with historic preservation principles to meet current building and energy codes without compromising character.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Zachary Rusu, AIA
 AFFIL: SmithGroup
 TITLE: Associate
 CITY: Grosse Ile, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (882 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Zachary Rusu is an architect with over 15 years of experience, including a strong focus on historic preservation and restoration. He has worked with the General Services Administration, Smithsonian Institution, University of Michigan, and others on buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. His expertise includes analysis of existing conditions, assessments, exterior enclosure design, investigation, documentation, and construction administration. Notable preservation projects include Boston's JFK Federal Building, Detroit's Guardian Building, Meadowbrook Hall in Rochester, the Smithsonian Institute Arts and Industries Building, and the University of Michigan President's Residence. Zachary has demonstrated the 36 CFR 61 qualifications necessary to be listed as a Historical Architect on the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office's consultants list.

NAME: AJ Noto, AIA
 TITLE: Associate
 AFFIL: SmithGroup
 CITY: Trenton, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (693 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

AJ Noto has 14 years of experience at SmithGroup where his primary focus is on field investigations and testing, detailing and development of construction documents, and building enclosure commissioning (BECx). AJ tailors his skills in multiple practice types including higher education, healthcare, and workplace. As a licensed FAA Part 107 sUAS pilot, Level 1 Infrared Thermographer, and architect, his specialty includes laser scanning, drone photogrammetry, and infrared surveying. AJ is a board member of the Building Enclosure Council – Greater Detroit and a Task Group Chair for ASTM's E06.55 Performance of Buildings subcommittee (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials).

TRACK: Track 1 - Theme
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026

TIME: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

MODERATOR: Former MHPN ED Nancy Finegood

Funding Community Resilience through Unorthodox Means

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (346 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

If you want to save the building - go find the money! In a novel 2001 move, a couple Kalamazooans hatched a plan to support the Preservation Commission's (KHPC's) work with a Community Foundation Fund. In 2022, the KHPC began making preservation-based gifts and grants. An established income stream and annual fundraising made all the difference.

Summary: (970 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Between 2022 and the end of 2025, the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC) has invested approximately \$55,000 in Kalamazoo preservation projects using a novel funding source. In this session, participants will learn what alternatives were considered, why and how the specific funding source was established, how a decision was taken to move forward, the fund-raising, investments, the grant and gift-making procedures, their results, and the important partnership that's been established.

The O'Connor Fund for Historic Preservation in the City of Kalamazoo, founded in 2001, is wholly owned by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and through a series of decision-making points and the hard work of figuring out how it should happen, using the Secretary of Interior's Standards as the most important element of its scoring rubric, the KHPC now has both gift and grant programs up and running that have made broad impacts on people and the places they love.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Summarize the historic and present-day need for financial support for local preservation work; and now, more than 2 decades after its beginning, how it happened in Kalamazoo and the results as of 2025.
- Describe the needs that existed and how we can now meet them to build resilience.
- Explain the unique partnership established to carry out the goal and how it works financially at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- Identify the specific components of how the grant program was established, what the Fund supports, Grants, Gifts and regular program work, and how funding

grant recipients' work is monitored (U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for all work, including KHPC's "Program" projects.)

- Compare this funding model with others available (are there any others in Michigan at the local level?)
- Summarize the programs' successes to date.
- Discuss the challenges of this unusual model/partnership for funding HP within a local unit of government and how other communities might adopt this model.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Pamela O'Connor
TITLE: MHPN President Emerita
AFFIL: MHPN Emeriti Leadership Council
CITY: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (868 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Kalamazooan Pamela Hall O'Connor (she/her) is a Kalamazoo College honors graduate and mostly-retired historic preservation consultant who specialized in preparing local and federal historic designations and consulted with property owners on using federal and state historic preservation tax credits for rehabilitating historic properties. In 2000, she and her husband Terry founded The O'Connor Fund for Historic Preservation at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in support of the City's Historic Preservation Commission's work. She co-authored the award-winning Kalamazoo Lost and Found with historian Lynn Houghton, which was published in 2001, and served for decades on national, state and local non-profit organizations in advocacy and board roles; work that was recognized in 2004 by the American Institute of Architects with its "Honorary" AIA membership award.

NAME: Luis Peña
TITLE: Historic Preservation Coordinator
AFFIL: City of Kalamazoo
CITY: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (783 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Luis Peña is the City of Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator. A native of Kalamazoo, Peña earned his BA in English from Western Michigan University and a Master of Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. As Preservation coordinator, Peña is dedicated to preserving Kalamazoo's historic built environment which is integral to its unique heritage. Peña works with property owners to navigate the process for acquiring historic district permission to conduct work on the exterior of their properties in an effort to make process simpler. Peña also serves as the staff liaison to both the Historic District and Historic Preservation Commissions, the latter of which works to distribute funds to the community through the O'Connor Fund for Historic Preservation.

NAME: Carla Fernández-Soto
TITLE: Philanthropic Advisor
AFFIL: Kalamazoo Community Foundation
CITY: Kalamazoo, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (612 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Carla Fernández-Soto, M.S.Ed. (she/her), is a Philanthropic Advisor at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation where she stewards a portfolio of individuals and businesses, supporting their philanthropic aspirations and building pathways to engage in transformative philanthropy. Carla serves as Board Chair of Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative in Kalamazoo, MI; is a member of the Council of Michigan Foundation's Latinx Affinity Network; and is an alumna of the Hispanics in Philanthropy Líderes Fellowship. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her M.S.Ed. from Purdue University.

TRACK: Track 2 - Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

MODERATOR: Lori Taylor Blitz

What Warrants Rescue - Dilemmas in Mid-Century Preservation

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (346 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

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.

Summary: (1,307 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Nearly 75% of all extant buildings in the United States were constructed after WWII. This is a staggering number. Many of these structures are familiar to us. You are likely sitting in one right now. How and when should preservationists approach these buildings as historic structures?

This presentation will review three midcentury domestic buildings located in Northwest Indiana and how each home presented unique challenges and opportunities not commonly encountered in traditional buildings. We will look at a 1949 International Style home designed for Hungarian-Jewish emigres on the shores of Lake Michigan; a 1954 suburban-style ranch in Gary, Indiana, built by African-American brothers who migrated to Gary from Alabama; and, a 1960 mid-century home designed and built for a Valparaiso University president.

The presentation will touch upon how modern architecture challenges traditional preservation ideas, the importance of design intent, the inherent tension of ambivalence and reverence for contemporaneous structures, and the need to understand the opportunities to document and celebrate the extant buildings at our disposal. This presentation will also incorporate how a preservation organization like Indiana Landmarks manages these issues to fit its mission to 'save meaningful places'.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss the importance mid-century design intent.
- Explain material preservation in mid-century vs. traditional buildings.
- Identify our biases toward functional obsolescence and its impact on midcentury preservation.
- Summarize organizational planning regarding mid-century buildings.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Blake Swihart
TITLE: Director - Northwest Field Office
AFFIL: Indiana Landmarks
CITY: Valparaiso, Indiana

Biographical Statement: (820 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Blake Swihart is the Director of Indiana Landmarks Northwest Field Office. In his role, Blake oversees Landmarks' preservation services across a diverse collection of five counties ranging from dense urban environments to rural towns. He also serves on the board of the Lake Michigan Coastal Advisory Board; Calumet Heritage Partnership, which is seeking to create a National Heritage Area in the Calumet Region of Indiana and Illinois; and the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association. He has degrees in history from Indiana University (Bloomington) and McGill University (Montreal), and historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University. For many years, he lived with his family in Ann Arbor, but now resides in Valparaiso, Indiana, with his family in a 105-year-old house that has few level surfaces but many stories.

TRACK: Tour Track
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 2:15 PM – 5:15 PM – EARLY DEPARTURE

Tour Accompanist: Katie Kolokithas

Sacred Spaces, Special Places: Detroit’s Historic Churches – A Bus and Walking Tour

Topic Statement for the Brochure:

(720 characters-and-spaces; 700 limit)

Detroit's historic churches offer a remarkable window into the city's cultural and spiritual heritage. Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church, founded in 1701, reflects the city's earliest French Catholic traditions, with the current 1886 Gothic Revival structure showcasing soaring vaults and vibrant stained glass. Christ Church Detroit, established in 1845, anchors the city's Episcopal history with its distinguished English Gothic design completed in 1863. Second Baptist Church, founded in 1836, stands as Michigan's oldest African American congregation and a key station on the Underground Railroad. Together, these sacred spaces highlight Detroit's diverse architectural traditions and resilient faith communities.

Summary: (1,997 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church is one of the most significant religious sites in the region, founded in 1701 alongside the city itself. While several earlier structures preceded it, the present Gothic Revival church, completed in 1886, remains a landmark of French Catholic identity in Detroit. Designed by Albert E. French, the church features an elegant nave, elaborate tracery, and a celebrated series of stained-glass windows by the Detroit Stained Glass Works. Its longstanding connection to early missionaries and French settlers underscores its enduring importance.

Christ Church Detroit, organized in 1845, is the city's oldest Protestant congregation still worshipping in its original building. Completed in 1863 and designed by architect Gordon W. Lloyd, the church is a distinguished example of English Gothic Revival. Constructed of rusticated limestone with a prominent tower, the building reflects an Anglican architectural lineage. Inside, the exposed timber roof, carved woodwork, and richly colored glass contribute to an atmosphere of solemn refinement that has served generations of Detroit worshippers.

Second Baptist Church, founded in 1836, represents one of the most important African American congregations in the Midwest. The church played a central role in abolitionist activity, education, and social justice, including serving as a major station on the Underground Railroad. The current Classical Revival building, constructed in 1914 and designed by architect Clarence E. Day, features a monumental portico and a dignified, symmetrical façade. The interior contains historically significant murals, commemorative artwork, and gathering spaces that reflect the church's civic and spiritual leadership.

Together, these three houses of worship embody Detroit's layered history, French colonial roots, ever-changing and expanding populations and acceptance, and African American resilience, while preserving craftsmanship and architectural integrity across generations.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss the history of Detroit and the development of three distinct worship communities that shaped the city's spiritual and cultural life.

- Identify the diverse architectural styles, including Gothic Revival, English Gothic Revival, and Classical Revival, represented in the three churches on the tour.
- Review the variety of artistic and craft traditions found within these sacred spaces, particularly stained glass, carved woodwork, and commemorative artwork.
- Compare the restoration and preservation strategies employed over time to maintain each church's function and architectural integrity.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Angela Wyrembelski
 TITLE: Associate Principal
 AFFIL: Quinn Evans
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical statement: (582 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Angela Wyrembelski is an Associate Principal and architect with Quinn Evans, based out of their Detroit office. She received her Masters in Architecture from Boston Architectural College, a Masters Certificate in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, and her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. A passionate advocate for historic preservation, Angela enjoys the opportunity to extend the life of vacant and underused buildings. Angela leads Quinn Evans Living Practice Area; focusing on the transformation of buildings that touch our daily lives.

NAME: Lauren Strauss
 TITLE: Designer
 AFFIL: Quinn Evans
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical statement: (648 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Lauren Strauss is an architectural designer at Quinn Evans in Detroit, Michigan. She believes in promoting historic preservation and adaptive re-use as sustainable design. She has worked on large projects including the renovation of Michigan Central Station in Detroit, Michigan, as well as countless historic reports across the country for the National Park Service. She loves learning and documenting buildings' histories, particularly those in historic landscapes. Her passion for the outdoors fortunately has connected to her career, where she has worked on many exciting projects related to campgrounds, lighthouses, historic forts, and more.

NAME: Austin Giesey
 TITLE: Senior Project Manager
 AFFIL: The Christman Company
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical statement: (770 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Austin is a senior project manager with Christman's Historic Preservation Group, a team of dedicated specialists in the preconstruction planning and management of construction for complex preservation projects nationwide. Austin specializes in managing complex historic

preservation projects, working closely with superintendents and project engineers to ensure timely and quality delivery. His expertise spans key elements like terracotta, Guastavino tile, and scaffolding, with experience on projects like Michigan Central Station, the Henry Ford House, and the Fisher Building. Austin maintains strong client relationships, manages resources, and ensures compliance with all regulations, while guiding teams to successfully preserve and revitalize historic landmarks.

NAME: Melissa Milton-Pung
TITLE: Program Manager
AFFIL: Michigan Municipal League
CITY: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Biographical statement: (860 characters and spaces; 1,000 limit)

Melissa Milton-Pung is a Policy Research Labs Program Manager at the Michigan Municipal League. She is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP), Adjunct Faculty in the Graduate Program for Historic Preservation at EMU, and current President of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Having worked a dozen years in local government prior to joining the League in 2017, Melissa's expertise is in place-based economic development. Melissa has been part of the Sacred Places Tour at the MHPN conferences for almost 10 years, her own religious background making her knowledgeable in iconography; her training as a preservationist allowing her to comment on church architecture, layout, and design; and her current work as an urban planner giving her an understanding of the role houses of worship play in their neighborhoods and communities.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

The Ford House Education Department can accommodate the staffing of these tours with a maximum of 50 guests per hour slot with 1:10 tour associate to guest ratio.

Title:

Inside Ford House

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (736 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The tour of Ford House provides access to the formal rooms and private living spaces at the heart of the Ford family's estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the architecture of the Cotswold region. Built and furnished between 1926-1929, the Fords moved in 1928. The interior reflects Western European design influences. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms, introducing a Machine Age aesthetic. Featured are paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera, as well as classic European portraiture, modern sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. The interior has remained nearly unchanged since the family was in residence.

Summary: (2,197 characters-and-spaces; 2,000-limit):

The Guided Main Residence tour at Ford House takes you into the heart of the Ford family's historic estate. Designed by Albert Kahn, the home's Tudor Revival style was inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England. With the exterior built between 1926-1927, the interior's 60 rooms were finished and furnished between 1927-1929. The Fords moved into their lakeside residence in 1928, where they raised their four children and welcomed guests into a home with rooms that felt intimate and comfortable.

Overall, the interior reflects Western European design influences in its handcrafted wood-, plaster-, and stonework. The Fords purchased architectural pieces including wall paneling, fireplaces, and a staircase from a variety of English manors to be included in the original construction. Like many families, Eleanor and Edsel Ford updated the house over time to reflect their evolving tastes. In the 1930s, Edsel commissioned industrial designer and Ford Motor Company collaborator Walter Dorwin Teague to reimagine four rooms. Teague introduced sleek, modern concepts rooted in the Machine Age aesthetic. In the 1950s, following Edsel's passing, Eleanor invited her close friend and interior decorator, Polly Jessup, to design new spaces that reflected her personal style. Jessup's updates showcased Eleanor's refined eye for fine art and antique furnishings.

Throughout the home, Edsel and Eleanor added paintings by Henri Matisse and Diego Rivera – whom Edsel had also commissioned for the *Detroit Industry* murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as classic European portraiture, modern-style sculptures, and ancient Asian and African artifacts. Wrought-iron doors by Philadelphia metalsmith Samuel Yellin - who also created grillwork gates for the Detroit Institute of Arts - open from the Main Hall to the loggia to frame views of Lake St. Clair.

The tour includes not only an opportunity to study the main rooms of the home – the library, dining room, and drawing room, but also the private living spaces that reveal a more personal side of the family's life. The home has remained nearly unchanged since Eleanor's passing in 1976.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss Ford House as an example of the residential work of Albert Kahn.
- Identify what makes Ford House an example of Tudor Revival styling inspired by the stone architecture of the Cotswold region of Gloucestershire, England.
- Compare the juxtapositioning of Western European interior design influences with sleek, modern interior concepts rooted in a Machine Age aesthetic, as well as with a 1950s showcase of fine art and antique furnishings.
- Review the conservation challenges of maintaining the original features of a 100-year-old interior that is open to the public.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Jason Dake
TITLE: Director of Education
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (815 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Jason Dake is the Director of Education at Ford House, where he oversees all aspects of educational programming, manages staff, and develops a program of arts, humanities, and environmental education. Prior to this, Jason worked as Deputy Director of Museum Programs and Learning at Denos Museum Center in Traverse City where he curated exhibitions and programs, and designed educational programming. Jason's earlier experience includes working as Art Education Coordinator at Flint Institute of Arts and as a Program Assistant at AmeriCorps. Jason completed his BS in Education, with a focus on Art and History, from Central Michigan University, from 1999 to 2004. From 2010 to 2011, he pursued an MA in Arts Administration, specializing in Community Engagement and Technology at the University of Michigan-Flint.

NAME: Sabrina Reinhard
TITLE: Interpretation Manager
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (558 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Sabrina Reinhard is an experienced professional in the fields of education and visitor services, currently serving as Interpretation Manager at Ford House, following her start at Ford House in 2022 as a Tour & Education Associate. Previously, Sabrina was an educator at Meadow Brook Hall, a National Historic Landmark designed by William E. Kapp of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls in a Tudor Revival style for Matilda Dodge Wilson and built in 1929. Sabrina Reinhard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oakland University, earned between 2015 and 2019.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 – 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM:

TRACK: Track 2 - Information
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Katie Cook

Our Stewardship Imperative: Adapt!

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (326 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Preservation planning and project execution must now include actively reviewing climate risks and incorporating resiliency measures into thoughtful recommendations and design

strategies — in all cases and in all places. This session explores a practical roadmap for assessing resource vulnerability and taking adaptive action!

Summary: (1,939 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

The cultural resources in our communities face clear and present dangers from the climate around them – both those gradually building and others that erupt with alarm. If we are not actively amending our approach to stewardship, we stand to suffer much greater negative impacts than we are likely primed to bear. Preservation planning and project execution must now include actively reviewing risks and incorporating resiliency measures into recommendations and design strategies — in all cases and in all places.

This presentation will outline the industry-adopted steps to adaptive planning, an iterative process for those managing cultural resources, taking a focused look into two key aspects:

- 1) Vulnerability Assessments – the formal (e)valuation of a resource’s level of exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and impacts, informing where to prioritize efforts.
- 2) Adaptation Strategies – tangible options for adjusting resources or their surroundings to minimize climate vulnerability, including factors for implementing measures within sensitive contexts.

The session will highlight recently developed process tools and guidance, as well as illustrate implementation of adaptation concepts through both designed and built projects. Examples will demonstrate how both simple and creative solutions alike, some hidden / some visible, can help achieve a critical balance between performance and preservation.

Ultimately the resilience of our communities relies on the collective ability of a multitude of resources to not only survive but continue to thrive in the face of climate change and its intensifying impacts. Just as the mitigating and adaptive solutions we explore and employ can be more preventative than reactive, we, as stewards of important places, are capable of being much more proactive and evolutionary in our approach, rather than delayed and deficient. This session explores a practical roadmap for taking action!

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Review two main aspects of adaptive planning: performing vulnerability assessments, then prioritizing and implementing adaptation strategies.
- Distinguish between the elements of resource vulnerability: exposure versus sensitivity.
- Understand how historic places can be purposefully and sensitively adapted to incorporate resilience against known and predicted climate stressors.

- Learn by example—strategies for balancing challenges and opportunities that come with the inherent overlaps of planning, preservation, and performance.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Alexis Cecil
TITLE: Principal
AFIIL: Quinn Evans
CITY: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (662 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Alexis Cecil, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, is a Principal and Historical Architect that has executed successful preservation projects and sustainability initiatives at Quinn Evans over the past 20 years, based out of their Michigan office. She is a champion for resilient design and an expert in the interconnected nature and necessity of preservation as climate action in the field of architecture. Alexis has managed heritage-based and adaptive reuse projects for a multitude of institutional clients in communities throughout the U.S. Alexis holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University, where her passion for sustainable stewardship first took root.

TRACK: Track - SHPO
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Martha MacFarlane-Faes

The State Historic Preservation Tax Credit for Residential Use

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (351 character-and-space; 350 limit)

The State Historic Tax Credit program was re-established in 2020 to promote the preservation of Michigan's historic resources. An eligible property must be either individually listed or contribute to a district listed in the National Register, the State Register, or be in a local historic district. Applications may be for owner-occupied residences.

Summary: (1,768 character-and-space; 2,000 limit)

The State Historic Tax Credit program was approved by the Michigan Legislature in December of 2020 to help support place-based projects while promoting the preservation of Michigan's historic resources. The credit has a \$5 million cap per calendar year. Credit reservations will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. An eligible property must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district. Applications for Credits must fall into one of three categories: Owner occupied residential projects; Small commercial projects (up to \$2 million); Large commercial projects (\$2 million and above). The availability of credits in each category will depend on the amount of credits already committed in each category within the calendar year. A three-part application process is used to apply for the state credit. It is similar to the parts used for the Federal

Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, but is a completely independent and separate application. It is recommended that no project work take place until your application has been reviewed and approved. All proposed work will be reviewed against the guidance contained in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36CFR61); the associated interpretation and explanation found in the Preservation Briefs Series; the Interpreting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards as published by the National Park Service; and other State tax credit program guidance that may be published by the SHPO. State credits are available for Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses made to and within the historic resource. Can the program benefit your project?

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Discuss that an eligible property must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district.
- Compare the three categories into which applications must fall: Owner occupied residential projects; Small commercial projects (up to \$2 million); Large commercial projects (\$2 million and above). Be able to explain that the availability of credits in each category will depend on the amount of credits already committed in each category within the calendar year.
- Articulate that all proposed work will be reviewed against the guidance contained in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (36CFR61) as well as related program guidance.
- Summarize that State credits are available for Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses made to and within the historic resource.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 character-and-space limit)

NAME: Mara Lancaster
TITLE: Historical Architect
AFFIL: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
CITY: Lansing, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (920 character-and-space; 1,000 limit)

Mara Lancaster joined the State Historic Preservation Office in 2023 in the position of Historical Architect. A native Michigander, Mara spent the prior 20 years in private practice with architecture firms around the mid-west, primarily focusing on the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Her project experience ranges from relocating a historic barn to restoring a presidential site, and everything in between. Mara attended the University of Michigan, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Architecture, and the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, earning her Master's of Architecture degree with a specialization in Historic Preservation. Licensed to practice in the states of Michigan and Indiana, she is also a qualified professional meeting the federal requirements for Historic Architecture (36 CFR Part 61). Outside of preservation, Mara enjoys reading, gardening, and travelling with her family.

TRACK: Track 1 - Theme
DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026
TIME: 3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

MODERATOR: Eric Gollanek

Holland's Washington Square – Resilient in name, form, and spirit

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (349 characters-and-spaces; 350 limit)

Washington Square's enduring urban design creates a unique sense of place, contributing to the city's identity. A recent collaboration aims to nominate it for the National Register of Historic Places as a District, highlighting its resilience as a key attribute, as well as its role as a "living blueprint" for making human-scale urbanism elsewhere.

Summary: (1,697 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit)

In Holland, Michigan, neighborhood-specific commercial centers like Washington Square play an important role on the city stage. In comparison to more economically or culturally important settings such as Downtown Holland, the Square is quiet, comfortable, and neighborly. The resulting atmosphere relates to Downtown through shared architectural and town-making traditions, but its expression is simpler, in respectful deference to the city's core as well as to nearby public buildings and the residential fabric. Washington Square exhibits the foremost hallmark of all enduring urban ensembles – its whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the Square's case, each individual element participates in and contributes to the urban district, from which the neighborhood community derives its unique and tangible sense of identity and place.

This session will summarize a recent collaboration between the City of Holland, Michigan and faculty and students at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture which has yielded a draft District Nomination of Holland's Washington Square to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Research of the Square's history and physical attributes, distinct among comparable neighborhood nodes, hint at resilience characteristics baked in during various periods of development which help to explain its endurance as a neighborhood center. Today, the Square, coupled with community planning and preservation documents and initiatives, can serve as a living blueprint for other places who seek to develop or reclaim human-scale urbanism, helping to preserve not just Washington Square, but also the traditions and techniques employed in its making.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

“After attending this program, participants will be able to:”

(Start each bullet using a word such as “Describe,” “Explain,” “Identify,” “Compare,” “Integrate,” “Summarize,” “Demonstrate,” “Discuss,” “Articulate,” “Adjust,” “Review,” and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Consider the role of physical layout in establishing long-term resilience, or conversely, fragility with respect to small commercial districts specifically.
- Discuss the building blocks of the neighborhood commercial district in American towns and cities.
- Summarize the role of preservation at the urban scale, specifically with respect to small commercial districts.
- Describe how the National Register of Historic Places might serve as an established framework for educating others on the basic principles of urbanism.

Speaker’s Contact Information and Bio: (1,000 characters-and-spaces limit)

NAME: Nicholas Rolinski
TITLE: Adjunct Assistant Professor of the Practice
AFFIL: University of Notre Dame School of Architecture
CITY: Holland, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (998 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Nicholas Rolinski currently teaches ARCH 71321 -- Urban Conservation Studio, which is offered within the Master of Science in Historic Preservation Degree Program at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture. Nick's work aims to promote the stewardship and development of buildings and places which are timeless, human scale, and lovable. Nick's projects focus on long-term sustainability, housing access and dignity, and community-oriented placemaking through the reclamation of historic architectural and town planning models and traditions -- specifically those belonging to the Great Lakes Region, and most often, the lakeshore communities of Western Michigan. In keeping with a core tradition found within the professions of architecture and urban design, Nick operates his practice as a "teaching office", committed to the execution of built work, scholarly inquiry, and client and community education through innovative and experiential public engagement methods. Nick holds B.M.E.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON:

TRACK: Special Event - Workshop
DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon (Continental breakfast: 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM)

WORKSHOP MODERATOR: Cassandra Nelson, SHPO, and Mara Lancaster, SHPO

Ford House’s Preservation Philosophy Applied: A Look into Lime Mortars, Leaded Glass Windows, and Historic Locks and Hardware – A walking workshop with 4 stops

CAPACITY: 50 people

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (680 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate (Ford House) 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 tour entails a review of historic materials and case studies pertaining to lime mortars, leaded glass windows, and locks and hardware.

Summary: (2,024 character-and-space; 2,000-limit):

Starting from the Visitor Center and having participants walk to locations around the Ford House property, this tour focuses on three historic building materials and trades: masonry, windows, and locks and hardware. Each topic and case study is presented by an expert in the field along with the Ford House's Director of Historic Preservation.

Simon Leverett, Leverett Masonry Consulting, provides a brief review of historic and modern mortars. Leverett covers the benefits of lime mortar and the potential causes of brick and stone deterioration. The tour leads into a discussion regarding the importance of matching existing mortar and joint profiles. Participants review the repointing of the east elevation of the historic Power House with a custom matched Pozzolan Hydraulic Lime (PHL5) mortar. If time permits, a demonstration of the installation of this custom lime mortar is presented.

Participants then enter the Main Residence of the estate to review leaded glass casement window preservation efforts by Ford House craftsperson, Kevin Ellwood, Merry Go Round Stained Glass. Topics for this portion of the tour provide a brief overview of historic leaded window terminology and evaluation. Window restoration best practices are discussed. Tools, products, and materials often used for historic restoration are presented, and informational resources are provided. Avoiding common pitfalls and mistakes encountered in leaded window restoration projects round out this portion of the tour, with a particular focus on safety.

Participants meet inside the Main Hall, and meet with Matt Trupiano, master locksmith and inventor. There is a brief introduction to lock history followed by an overview of hardware and locks at Ford House. Participants examine the value of retaining historic locks and hardware while finding solutions for modern security needs. This tour focuses on the case study of restoring the lock on the front door of the Main Residence. The lock is estimated to be from the late 18th century.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

- Describe the basic differences between lime and modern mortars with an understanding of best methods for selecting replacement mortar for historic buildings.
- Identify signs of damage and deterioration following the installation of an inappropriate mortar on an historic building.
- Summarize best practices for the restoration of historic leaded glass windows with an integration of windows terminology.
- Discuss the value of retaining historic locks and hardware while describing options for increasing security with modern systems.
- Emphasize the value of developing an historic preservation philosophy.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Simon Leverett
 TITLE: Owner/Masonry Consultant
 AFFIL: Leverett Masonry Consulting
 CITY: Chicago, IL

Biographical statement: (588 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Simon Leverett began his career in the early 1980's when he completed the City and Guilds of London Masonry program in England. As a journeyman mason he spent the next fifteen years working on buildings ranging from 11th century churches, to Jacobean manors, to Arts and Crafts houses. When he moved to the Midwest he started his own business, working on local landmarks. His current chapter is consulting. Drawing on nearly four decades of experience, he assists architects, engineers, and property owners. His advice and expertise have been sought for landmarks all over North America.

NAME: Kevin Ellwood
 TITLE: Owner
 AFFIL: Merry Go Round Stained Glass
 CITY: Clinton Twp., Michigan

Biographical statement: (844 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Kevin Ellwood grew up around his father's stained-glass business. He soldered his first small glass art pieces at age 8 and enjoyed creating small projects using a variety of techniques throughout his school career. After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in Environmental Geosciences, he ran a field research station at a glacier in Alaska. After several years, Kevin returned home to run the family business. Over the past decade, he has been involved in many diverse projects throughout SE Michigan, including Ford Fair Lane, Extreme Makeover (Armada), Meadowbrook Hall, The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, The Fox Theater, Old Mariner's Church, and many other private homes and places of worship. Kevin has personally restored hundreds of leaded glass windows, as well as wood and metal window frames, and historic light fixtures.

NAME: Matt Trupiano
TITLE: Master Locksmith/Inventor
AFFIL: Fred's Key Shop
CITY: Roseville, MI 48066

Biographical statement: (927 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Matt Trupiano, master locksmith and inventor, has been involved in the lock security industry for just over 60 years. Matt's interest in locks began when he wanted to become a magician and as such needed to understand the art of picking locks that ultimately led him to own and manage a locksmith shop for 35 years. Trupiano has also taught several locksmithing courses at Macomb Community College. He currently works for Fred's Key Shop in Detroit and is skilled in the repair, restoration, and reproduction of antique locks and keys. He has served as a locksmith consultant for many historical homes and prominent buildings including the Fisher Building, Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Opera House, and the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House. Trupiano is also a part-time inventor and recently secured two U.S. patents for high security cylinder locks compatible with all existing hardware and general use.

NAME: Rebecca Torsell
TITLE: Director of Historic Preservation
AFFIL: Ford House
CITY: Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

Biographical statement: (1,037 characters-and-spaces; 1,000-limit)

Rebecca Torsell has a diverse preservation background and is driven by a love of historic buildings and landscapes. Her experiences range from restoring an historic log mining camp in Colorado's San Juan Mountains with HistoriCorps, to working as a project manager/conservator for Kreilick Conservation, a company specializing in sculpture and architectural conservation. She has worked on some of our nation's historic treasures including The Second Bank of the United States and Grant Memorial. Prior to joining Ford House as Director of Historic Preservation, Rebecca managed an architectural and design archive at Ball State University. She has a BA in Management and World Culture from Wittenberg University, an MS in Historic Preservation from EMU, and an Applied Associates of Science in Building Restoration and Preservation Technology from Belmont College. She is a professional associate level member of the American Institute for Conservation, and a recipient of the Australian National Maritime Museum's Bill Lane Fellowship.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Devan Anderson

Behind the Scenes at the Detroit Athletic Club – A Meet-Up Tour using own transportation.

CAPACITY: 30 participants

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (702 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The Detroit Athletic Club was founded in 1887 as a sporting club located north of its current site. With club leadership featuring the City's automotive and industrial leaders, the decision was made in 1913 to construct a six-story Clubhouse on Madison Street that added social facilities. It commissioned Albert Kahn to design the structure, his inspiration being Rome's Borghese and Farnese Palaces. The members enriched their building with a world-class collection of art and decorative arts. Establishment of an Enrichment Fund two decades ago has supported an array of projects from purchases of new art, to art restorations, to the restoration of architectural details throughout the Clubhouse.

Summary: (1,993 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit):

The Detroit Athletic Club was founded in 1887 as a sporting club with facilities north of its current site for track and field, baseball, football, and other sports. It reflected the trend for amateur athletics sweeping the country at the time. With club leadership including the City's automotive and industrial leaders, the decision was made in 1913 to construct a six-story clubhouse on Madison Street that added social facilities. It commissioned Albert Kahn, Detroit's leading architect, to design the structure. Kahn had visited Italy and was inspired by Rome's Borghese Palace for the Club's design, the Farnese Palace influencing the decision to place the large windows on the fourth floor. When the new Clubhouse opened in 1915, it was the culmination of Kahn's vision for a visually prominent Italian Renaissance Revival-style building and the dream of more than 100 prominent Detroiters. Names like Chalmers, Jewett, Kelsey, Joy, Lodge, Metzger, Hughes, Navin, and Scripps were forever associated with the Club's 20th-century rebirth as a downtown home for the City's business leaders.

There is much to see during a tour of the DAC. The members enriched their building over the decades with a world-class collection of paintings – including works by George Bellows, Edward Hopper, Charles McGee, John Sloan, Paul Cezanne, and Diego Rivera - as well as sculpture, decorative arts, and furniture, all on display from the first-floor lobby to the rooftop. The DAC also collected a wide range of artifacts from important Club documents to silver and table ware, from sports trophies and medals to unusual and rare invitations, programs, and booklets. Noteworthy is the Club's collection of historic Detroit photos and the complete run of its own magazine, The DAC News. The establishment of the Enrichment Fund over two decades ago has supported an array of projects, from purchases of new art, to art restorations, to the restoration of architectural details throughout the Clubhouse.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Compare the architectural demands of accommodating a sporting club's activities as opposed to a prominent downtown space accommodating sporting as well as social activities.
- Describe the 16th century Italian Renaissance design characteristics Kahn integrated into his design for the DAC, and their derivations from historic palaces in Rome.
- Describe the collections of paintings, sculpture, furniture, and decorative arts held by the DAC, in addition to its artifact collections.
- Discuss the work funded by the Enrichment Fund to support restoration of both the interior and exterior of the building, and the collections it holds.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Ron Koenig
 AFFIL: Owner and Architectural Conservator
 TITLE: Building Arts & Conservation
 CITY: Saline, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (992 character-and-space; 1,000 limit)

Ron Koenig is owner of Building Arts & Conservation. His degrees include BAs in History and English from the University of Detroit, and a MS in Architectural Conservation from the University of Pennsylvania. He has also studied at Corpus Christi College Oxford, The International Center for Conservation in Rome, and the Getty Conservation Institute. Ron began working on historic buildings in 1988, during the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol. From 1995 to 1997 he was Chief Conservator of American Architecture at The Henry Ford Museum. He has also conserved buildings such as the 1744 Belmont Mansion in Philadelphia, Frank Lloyd Wright's Avery-Coonley House (1908), The Adams House in Deadwood, SD (1892), as well as over twenty significant buildings by Albert Kahn. Ron is a member of the Saline Historic District Commission, the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board of Directors, The Association for Preservation Technology, and the American Institute for Conservation.

NAME: Michael Crane
 TITLE: Curator of Collections
 AFFIL: Detroit Athletic Club
 CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (996 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Michael Crane oversees the Detroit Athletic Club's fine arts collection including paintings, sculpture, works on paper, furniture, and decorative arts, and manages its exhibitions and programs. From 1998–2007, he served as assistant curator in the Department of American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, a tenure that culminated in reinstallation of the American Wing. From 2004–2008 Crane served as an adjunct professor for the humanities at Wayne State University. Since 2007 he has served as a private art curator and consultant working with several key art collectors to develop and refine their collections. Among his publications are "Recognition of Modernity": Detroit Collects Contemporary American Art in the Early Twentieth Century" for the Detroit Institute of Arts' Bulletin, and essays for the exhibition

catalog “Life’s Pleasures: The Ashcan Artists’ Brush with Leisure, 1895–1925.” Crane holds a BA in Anthropology, and an MA in Art History, both from Wayne State University.

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Bill Brown

A First-Hand Look at Exterior Masonry Restoration at Marygrove – A Meet-Up Tour using own transportation.

CAPACITY: 30 participants

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (694 characters-and-spaces; 700-limit)

The 53-acre Marygrove Campus, located in Northwest Detroit, dates back to 1927. The Gothic-style buildings were in use as a private college until its closure in 2019 when it became home to the Marygrove Conservancy. A detailed condition assessment of the campus revealed that, among other damage, exterior masonry walls had deteriorated due to water intrusion and exposure to the elements. The tour provides participants a first-hand look at completing work that addresses deterioration and its root causes in mass masonry buildings, fulfilling the requirements of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, meeting grant requirements and tenant safety demands, and more.

Summary: (1,757 characters-and-spaces; 2,000-limit)

The 53-acre Marygrove Campus, located in the Fitzgerald neighborhood of Northwest Detroit, dates back to 1927. Designed by architect Oscar D. Bohlen of the firm D.A. Bohlen & Sons, most original buildings are of the Gothic style. The college operated as a private institution until its closure in 2019. Since 2018, the campus has been managed by the Marygrove Conservancy as a P-20 educational hub in collaboration with the Detroit Public Schools Community District and the University of Michigan School of Education.

Over the years, the exterior masonry walls deteriorated due to water intrusion and exposure to the elements. SmithGroup’s involvement began soon after reopening in 2019, when the firm performed a detailed condition assessment to better understand existing conditions and the needs of the Marygrove Conservancy. Restoration documents were prepared following the assessment, and bids were solicited in the fall 2020. The selection of RAM Construction Services as the skilled restoration contractor allowed restoration to begin on this challenging but rewarding project.

The tour allows participants a first-hand look at work completed by RAM for the exterior façade restoration of a sampling of campus buildings. The scope of work for each building will be considered, including discussion of challenges that needed to be addressed. Marygrove is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, requiring that all work comply with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Additional factors included grant and tax-credit requirements, environmental policies, limestone repair

considerations, and the ongoing safety needs of tenants and the surrounding neighborhood, all while respecting the client's timelines.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Demonstrate a high-level understanding of the process involved in revitalizing an historic campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Identify deterioration and its root causes in mass masonry buildings.
- Explain the restoration process from the initial assessment to implementation of repairs.
- Summarize the importance of restoration to preserve historically significant buildings while protecting the safety of campus users.
- Demonstrate how effective collaboration between architects, contractors, and conservancies contributes to successful historic preservation outcomes.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bio:

NAME: Juan Arias-Hernandez
TITLE: Architect II
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (692 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Juan Arias-Hernandez is part of the Building Technology Studio at SmithGroup and holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Detroit Mercy. He also serves as an adjunct professor and the current Director of the Cooperative Education Program at UDM. His expertise includes building condition assessments, enclosure evaluation, forensic investigations, and in-situ validation testing. Juan is a licensed Level 1 Thermographer and sUAV (drone) pilot, using infrared thermal imaging surveys to identify construction deficiencies across building enclosures. He has contributed to condition assessments of historic buildings including the Marygrove Campus and the Guardian Building.

NAME: Bill VanMarter
TITLE: Project Manager
AFFIL: RAM Construction Services
CITY: Livonia, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (538 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Bill VanMarter is a Project Manager at RAM Construction Services with over 40 years of experience in construction estimating and project management, including 11 years with RAM. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture and Construction Management degree from Lawrence Technological University. His experience ranges from Renaissance Center as-built documentation to senior project management for major airport expansions, as well as restoration projects such as the Book Building & Tower, the Buhl Building, and multiple projects at Marygrove.

NAME: AJ Noto, AIA
TITLE: Associate
AFFIL: SmithGroup
CITY: Trenton, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (693 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

AJ Noto has 14 years of experience at SmithGroup where his primary focus is on field investigations and testing, detailing and development of construction documents, and building enclosure commissioning (BECx). AJ tailors his skills in multiple practice types including higher education, healthcare, and workplace. As a licensed FAA Part 107 sUAS pilot, Level 1 Infrared Thermographer, and architect, his specialty includes laser scanning, drone photogrammetry, and infrared surveying. AJ is a board member of the Building Enclosure Council – Greater Detroit and a Task Group Chair for ASTM's E06.55 Performance of Buildings subcommittee (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials).

TRACK: TOUR TRACK
DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

TOUR ACCOMPANIST: Rebecca Binno Savage

Hamtramck Stadium: Rooted in Major Negro Baseball League History

CAPACITY: 30 people

Topic Statement for the Brochure: (708 characters-and-spaces; 700 limit)

Hamtramck Stadium is one of only five home ballparks of Major Negro Baseball League teams that remain. Built in 1930 as home of the Detroit Stars, it is a brick, steel, and concrete structure. At least 17 members of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown played there in the 1930s. It was acquired by the City of Hamtramck in 1940 and rebuilt by Wayne County in 1941. From 1941 to 1997, it hosted community and youth sports. The Stadium was added to the National Register in 2012. The field was restored by the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium in 2020, and a \$2.6 million project led by Wayne County rehabilitated the historic grandstand in 2022. In the past five years, the Stadium has hosted over 500 events.

Summary: (1,215 characters-and-spaces; 2,000 limit):

Located at 3201 Dan Street on the South Side of Hamtramck, Hamtramck Stadium is one of only five home ballparks of Major Negro Baseball League teams that remain standing. Since MLB's 2020 decision, the Major Negro Leagues from 1920 to 1948 have been considered full-fledged major leagues, equal to the American and National Leagues.

Hamtramck Stadium is a brick, steel, and concrete structure that was built in 1930 as the new home of the Negro National League Detroit Stars. At least 17 members of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown played at the Stadium in the 1930s. It was acquired by the City of Hamtramck in 1940 and rebuilt by Wayne County in 1941. From 1941 to 1997, it served as a hub for community and youth sports, including Little League and prep baseball.

The Stadium was added to the National Register in 2012; a Michigan Historic Marker was installed in 2014. The field was restored by the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium in 2020, and a \$2.6 million project led by Wayne County rehabilitated the historic grandstand in 2022. In the past five years, the Stadium has hosted more than 500 events, including baseball, softball, soccer, youth sports clinics, a STEAM camp, and other community functions.

Learning Objectives: (At least 4)

"After attending this program, participants will be able to:"

(Start each bullet using a word such as "Describe," "Explain," "Identify," "Compare," "Integrate," "Summarize," "Demonstrate," "Discuss," "Articulate," "Adjust," "Review," and other words that reflect that your listeners will have gained new abilities through your presentation.)

- Summarize the history of the Major Negro Baseball Leagues in the United States and how the Hamtramck Stadium survived to be one of only five home ballparks remaining.
- Discuss the 1930 construction of the stadium as a brick, steel, and concrete structure, and how that contributed to its ability to survive.
- Review the steps taken to restore the building in the 1940s and again in the 2020s, making it safe and efficient for current use while maintaining the physical integrity required for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Discuss the partners and financing needed to have the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium restore the stadium.

Speaker's Contact Information and Bios:

NAME: Gary Gillette
TITLE: Founder and Chair
AFFIL: Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical statement: (1,003 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Gary Gillette has spent four decades researching and writing about baseball along with editing numerous baseball publications, earning a national reputation as an expert across several disciplines. As founder and chair of the nonprofit Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, he led the successful campaign from 2012 to 2021 to rehabilitate one of only five extant Major Negro League home ballparks. Gillette has written for or edited dozens of books, publications, and websites, including the seminal encyclopedia Total Baseball and for ESPN.com. He was also the creator and editor-in-chief of the highly praised ESPN Baseball and ESPN Pro Football Encyclopedias. Gillette recently received a Henry Chadwick Award from the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), which was “established to honor the game’s great researchers . . . [for] making baseball the game that links America’s present with its past.” He also received the SABR Negro Leagues Committee’s Tweed Webb Lifetime Achievement Award.

NAME: Thomas Habitz
TITLE: Executive Director
AFFIL: Hamtramck Parks Conservancy
CITY: Hamtramck, Michigan

Biographical Statement: (959 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

Thomas Habitz, Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy (HPC) since September 2023. Mr. Habitz is a recognized leader in planning and economic development in the Detroit area, having previously enjoyed a lengthy career with Henry Ford Health developing and executing strategy in that space. He is a proud long-time Hamtramck resident, and frequent volunteer with City boards and commissions, and with sports and recreation in the area. Tom’s passion for vibrant urban spaces provides energy for the task of reinvigorating parks as part of the HPC mission. He envisions a bright future of beautiful open spaces anchoring strong communities. Mr. Habitz holds an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Michigan, and a master’s degree in Urban Planning from Wayne State University. His honors include the Detroit Revitalization Fellowship and the Marshall Memorial Fellowship (of the German Marshall Fund of the U.S.).

NAME: Rebecca Binno-Savage
TITLE: Historic Consultant
AFFIL: Freelance Architectural Historian
CITY: Detroit, Michigan

Biographical statement: (996 characters-and-spaces; 1,000 limit)

A native Detroit, Rebecca Binno Savage attended Columbia University’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation where she received an M.S. in Historic Preservation in 1997. After working as a Historic Preservation Specialist with the Greater Downtown Partnership, Architectural Historian with the Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board, and Preservation Lead at Kraemer Design Group, she established her own business. Rebecca previously served as a board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Preservation Wayne, and the Greening of Detroit. She was chair of the Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority, serving for ten years, and is now on the boards of the Hamtramck Economic Development Corporation and the Hamtramck Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Rebecca is on the board for the Architectural Salvage Warehouse

of Detroit, serves as VP of the Detroit Area Art Deco Society, and is co-author of Art Deco in Detroit published by Arcadia Publishing in 2004.