



# MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

May 2026 Newsletter

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

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*Registration is still open for Saturday morning's tour of the Hamtramck Stadium, one of only five home ballparks of Major Negro Baseball League teams that remain. Photo: SmithGroup*

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## **There is still time to join us at the conference**

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Although registration for MHPN's annual conference has closed, there are still activities open to attend. One is the Opening Reception at the end of the day on Thursday, May 7 in the Jensen & Kahn Rooms of the Visitor Center at Ford House, with spill-over into an exhibition tent. From 5 to 6:30 p.m., the public is invited to enjoy free appetizers and light refreshments, with a cash bar serving wine and beer. The event is an opportunity for conference participants, as well as area residents, to network and visit the Annual Vendors' Showcase to learn about resources and products for repairing and restoring historic properties. Other exhibitors include partners from local nonprofits involved in historic preservation.

Another free event for the public is the Keynote Address on Friday, May 8, from 12:45 to 2 p.m., in the Lake Shore Room of the Visitor Center. The 2026 Keynote Speaker is Kiana Wenzell, Co-Executive Director of Design Core Detroit, the organization that stewards Detroit's UNESCO City of Design designation. Her focus is "Remixing the City: Historic Preservation, Inclusive Design, and the Practice of Community Repair." To look at the philosophy behind "remixing," she will include examples of architectural adaptation and public space renewal such as the revival of the 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.

Finally, on [MHPN's conference website page](#) under "Walk-In Registration," there is a list of tours not yet full. Consider joining the Friday afternoon tour, "Sacred Spaces, Special Places: Detroit's Historic Churches," or join the Saturday morning meet-up tour, "Hamtramck Stadium: Rooted in Major Negro Baseball League History" (the organizers say "bring your glove").

Don't miss out!

*The Opening Reception is sponsored by BEECK Mineral Paints; Akins Construction Inc.; Jablonski Building Conservation; [www.OldDetroitPhotos.com](http://www.OldDetroitPhotos.com); Thomas Roberts Architect, LLC; Sanders & Czapski Associates; Speedheater US; U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc.; and Cusack's Masonry Restoration Inc.*

*The Keynote address is sponsored by BRINKER, Michigan History Center, Elisabeth Knibbe, FAIA, Scheuren & Associates, LLC, Gordon and Sue Goldie, Sally and Ian Bund, Michigan Historic Preservation Network Board, Emeriti, Committees, and Staff; Department of Economic Development, Oakland County; Adkison, Need, Allen, & Rentrop PLLC.*

***Thank you to our conference underwriters!***



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## 2026 Sponsors – Our Special Thanks

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to those who are sponsors of the Forty-Sixth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference. Many donors have been supporting the MHPN for years; others are new. We thank you all!



### \$20,000 or more

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**BRINKER**



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*Every effort has been made to ensure listings are correct. If there are omissions or errors, we sincerely apologize and will make corrections on conference signage and when we list our conference donors in the 2025 or 2026 Annual Reports.*

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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**\$500 - \$999**

Dean L. Anderson, State Archaeologist (Retired),  
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 (Continued on next page.)



**\$500 - \$999 (Continued)**

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www.OldDetroitPhotos.com, Manitou Beach  
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Sault Ste. Marie



**Up To \$249**

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Jan Enns, Laguna Woods	Carol Mull, Ann Arbor	Eric Schertzing, Lansing
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Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, Ann Arbor	Marnie Paulus, Teton Village, WY	Susan C. Wineberg, Ann Arbor

**SPECIAL SPONSORSHIPS TO BE RECOGNIZED**

**EXPENSE FUND FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOLARS**

Bay View Handworks, Janet Kreger, Rod Kreger & Betsy LaVier,  
Preservation Ladies & Gents, Eric Schertzing.

**PROGRAMMING**

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





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*Marie Richards is a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a member of the MHPN Board of Directors*

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## **Marie Richards to deliver the annual conference blessing**

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We are honored to, once again, welcome MHPN board member Dr. Marie Richards to deliver the annual blessing at the opening of MHPN's annual conference. Marie is a former Repatriation and Historic Preservation Specialist for Sault Ste. Marie, and a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Although born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where she also attended high school, she spent her childhood in Hawaii and California.

Marie holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology, master's degrees in urban planning from The University of Iowa and in Heritage Resources from Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and a Ph.D. in Industrial Heritage and Archaeology from Michigan Technological University. She has worked on heritage matters related to ethnohistory and traditional cultural landscapes in the Great Lakes and southeastern U.S. Marie's current research is focused on traditional cultural landscapes and Anishinaabek food sovereignty.

*For the past 46 years, the MHPN has been recognizing and preserving the cultural heritage of Michigan. These past years, we have been inviting special guests to help us recognize the Native American presence on the land where our conferences take place.*

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## MACC awards MHPN with a sixth year of funding

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The MHPN is honored to receive another year of financial support from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC). The \$23,400 grant is administered through MACC's Mission Support Program which receives National Endowment for the Arts funding. With these funds, MHPN can continue to help communities and individuals preserve and revitalize the historic places that make every region of Michigan distinctive. Webinars will reach out across the state, while the annual statewide conference will bring people together this coming week in metro Detroit. MHPN's assistance includes responding to phone inquiries, making property visits, presenting to community groups, writing editorials, and more! We're here to help!

### SPECIAL THANKS . . .

Even though we did not know if we would be receiving MACC support before the end-of-year giving season, our supporters generously provided the matching funds that are required if we did! We made that goal, we received the grant, and we thank our donors!



27TH Annual Edition  
Michigan Historic Preservation Network  
Historic Resource Council  
**2026-2027  
DIRECTORY**



celebrating

**45**  
years

MICHIGAN'S PREMIERE  
RESOURCE FOR ACCESS TO  
PRESERVATION PROFESSIONALS



**Historic  
Resource  
Council**

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Cover Photo: Book Tower, Detroit.  
Submitted by BlackBerry Window  
and Door Systems



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**MHPN's 2026-2027 Resource Directory now available online**

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Each year, MHPN publishes a directory of preservation professionals. It is the source for statewide developers, property owners, and municipalities that need preservation-related services. Our members include archaeologists, architects, engineers, general contractors, historians, trades contractors, consultants, developers, preservation organizations, and many others. You can now access the [2026-2027 directory online on MHPN's website](#).

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**Upcoming Webinars**

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## **Saving Belle Tower: Adaptive Reuse, Community Stewardship, and the Preservation of a Former Seventh-day Adventist Church in Petoskey**

**May 21, 1 - 2 p.m. ET**

Belle Tower of Petoskey is the adaptive reuse of a historic 1891 former Seventh-Day Adventist church at 224 Michigan Street in downtown Petoskey, MI. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building is a distinctive two-story frame Queen Anne structure known for its front-gable form, decorative wood detailing, prominent window treatment, and entrance tower with an onion-like dome.

This session will use Belle Tower as a case study in practical, community-centered historic preservation. Attendees will learn the building's architectural and religious history, its connection to the broader story of Seventh-day Adventists in Michigan, and the challenges of bringing a long-underused historic property back into active public life.

[Register for Free](#)

*Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again? [View past webinar recordings](#). Do you have a great webinar idea you would like to explore with us? Let us know by emailing us at contact [info@mhpn.org](mailto:info@mhpn.org).*

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



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### **Preservation news you can use**

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#### **Rural Heritage Partnership Grant applications are now open**

Applications are now being accepted for Michigan's [Rural Heritage Partnership Grant Program](#). This is a competitive grant program intended to support long-term investment in the irreplaceable heritage assets of Michigan's small, rural communities. The program is supported through a one-time grant from the [Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program](#), established under the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, [National Park Service](#).

Program funding is specifically for building rehabilitation (i.e., "bricks and mortar") projects and associated pre-development (e.g., plans and specifications) work in small, rural communities throughout Michigan. Local units of government, non-profits, and public entities are eligible to apply for funding. Eligible entities may also sponsor a project on behalf of a private property or business owner, so long as the project meets grant program eligibility. Eligible properties must already be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as a contributing property to a historic district. Other eligibility criteria also apply.

The program places a particular focus on economic impact and projects that positively contribute to the economic, social, and/or cultural life of a community and promote reinvestment in historic properties. Economic impact can mean different things depending on the property and the community. Examples may include but are not limited to:

- Creation of new permanent jobs
- Preparing buildings for new businesses, enhancement of existing businesses, or diversification of businesses
- Creation of upper-story (market rate or affordable) housing units in mixed-use properties
- Activation of underutilized space
- Returning a vacant or dilapidated structure to active use
- Stabilizing a building or eliminating blight that detracts from community character
- New or expanded heritage tourism opportunities
- Rehabilitation of a community anchor (e.g., community theater or library) that brings people downtown
- Preservation of critical service buildings (e.g., village or township halls)

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

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: APRIL 29, 11 a.m.

An optional informational webinar will be held on April 29, 2026. The recording will be made available on the Rural Heritage Program webpage afterward for those unable to participate. Anyone can register for the webinar by using [this link](#).

DEADLINE TO APPLY - JUNE 8, 2026

Applications will be accepted via the submission portal on the program webpage until 5:00 p.m. June 8, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered. [Learn more about the program, review definitions and eligibility requirements, and find Frequently Asked Questions.](#)



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