



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

June 2026 Newsletter

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



Conference keynote speaker, Kiana Wenzell. Photo: Amanda Davis.

**Thank you for attending the 46th
Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**

This year's conference saw 400 registrations and was packed with 75 presenters, 24 sessions, four events, and nine tours. Program content featured work from around the state. Great comments have been coming in. They are directed to all of you who attended, our Ford House hosts, all our sponsors, the MHPN Board of Directors and Emeriti Leaders, the superb MHPN staff, and our tireless volunteers. Thank you, once again, to our conference underwriters and sponsors! We look forward to seeing you all again in May 2027!

We, once again, thank our 2026 Annual Statewide Preservation Conference Underwriters and sponsors.

Upload your annual conference photos!

MHPN is grateful for the professional photographers who volunteer for the conference each year. At Ford House, photographers April Bryan and Amanda Davis took amazing photos to document the event. However, we've been crowd-sourcing conference photos over the years as well, and it helps archive each year's gathering. If you have photos to share, please upload them through the conference photo portal link below. Remember to add your name to each image so you can be credited if a photo is chosen for media or publication use. If you don't know the people in your photo, not a problem! We'll be able to identify them for you!

[Upload your photos here.](#)

Feel free to browse and click through the conference files uploaded to the Dropbox folder. If you use one, please credit MHPN and the 2026 Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

What did you think about MHPN's annual conference?

We understand surveys are sometimes collected and then put in the proverbial drawer. But not so for the MHPN! Your conference evaluations are important for future events. Your comments have introduced the track-system of organizing the program, formatted the Schedule-at-a-Glance as the brochure's center-page, added the wine and beer cash bar to the All-Conference Opening Reception (genius!), steered MHPN to host communities and speakers, and so much more. The online portal for commenting will close at the end of June, so be sure to send your comments using the link below. Thank you!

[Send MHPN your conference comments here.](#)



FORD HOUSE

EDSEL & ELEANOR



**MICHIGAN
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**



\$1,000 - \$2,499

AIA Michigan, Livonia
Peter Basso Associates & Illuminart, A Division
of Peter Basso Associates, Inc., Troy
BEECK Mineral Paints, Fort Mill, SC
Sally and Ian Bund, Ann Arbor
D.C. Byers Company, Warren
Clannad Foundation, Wrightsville Beach, NC
DeStigter Architecture LLC, Grand Rapids
Detroit Cornice and Slate Co., Inc., Ferndale
Driven Design Studio, Battle Creek
Early Family, Plymouth
Gordon and Sue Goldie, Bloomfield Hills
Melinda A. Hill, Rochester
ICC Commonwealth Historic Preservation,
North Tonawanda, NY
Elisabeth Knibbe, FAIA, Pinckney
McIntosh Poris Architects, Detroit
Mercantile Community Partners, Grand Rapids
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Board, Emeriti, Committees, and Staff,
Michigan/U.S.
Department of Economic Development,
Oakland County, Waterford
Plante Moran, Michigan
Barry J. Polzin Architects Inc., Marquette
Preservation Ladies & Gents, Michigan/U.S
Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter of the Society
of Architectural Historians, Michigan
Scheuren & Associates, LLC, East Lansing
Park Smith, AIA, Flint
SmithGroup, Detroit
Talis Historic Restoration, Medina, NY
Turner Restoration, Detroit
The War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Farms
Kathleen H. Wendler, Detroit



\$500 - \$999

Dean L. Anderson, State Archaeologist (Retired),
and Laura Rose Ashlee, State Historic
Preservation Office (Retired), Okemos
Architecture + design Inc., Battle Creek
Conference on Michigan Archaeology, Michigan
Detroit Area Art Deco Society, Detroit
Family & Friends of David Evans Endowed
Scholarship Fund, Michigan/U.S.
GBX Group LLC, Cleveland, OH
Integrity Building Group, Detroit
Kelley Cawthorne, Lansing
Kraemer Design Group, Detroit
Helen & Ralph Kreger Endowed
Scholarship Fund, Ann Arbor
Loggia Preservation LLC, Southfield
The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., Maumee, OH
Merry Go Round Stained Glass, Inc.,
Clinton Township
Ruth Mills, Ypsilanti
(Continued on next page.)



\$500 - \$999 (Continued)

Pamela Hall O'Connor & Terry A. O'Connor
Endowed Scholarship Fund, Kalamazoo
Louisa Pieper Endowed Scholarship Fund,
Ann Arbor
Quaker Commercial Windows & Doors,
Freeburg, MO
Elaine H. Robinson Endowed Scholarship
Fund, Clinton Township
Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship
Fund, Dearborn
Pam and Jon VanderPloeg, Grand Rapids
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.,
Bingham Farms



\$250 - \$499

Adkison, Need, Allen, & Rentrop PLLC,
Bloomfield Hills
Akins Construction Inc., Detroit
Building Conservation Associates, Inc., Detroit
CASS Sheet Metal, Detroit
Julie & Max Courtney, St. Augustine, FL
HopkinsBurns Design Studio, Ann Arbor
Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc.,
New York, NY
Rod Kreger and Betsy LaVier, Satellite Beach,
FL
National Restoration, Inc., Milford
www.OldDetroitPhotos.com, Manitou Beach
Past Perfect, Inc., East Grand Rapids
Gary R. Rentrop, Cross Village
Thomas Roberts Architect, LLC, Wyandotte
Sanders & Czapski Associates, Marquette
Speedheater USA, Ann Arbor
U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., Houghton,
Iron Mountain, Ishpeming, Marinette (WI),
Sault Ste. Marie



Up To \$249

Cusack's Masonry Restoration Inc., Hubbardston	Steven Jones, Ann Arbor	Ellen Ramsburgh, Ann Arbor
Kathy and Don Duquette, Ann Arbor	J. Michael Kirk, Rochester	Rebecca Savage, Detroit
Jan Enns, Laguna Woods	Carol Mull, Ann Arbor	Eric Schertzing, Lansing
Nancy Finegood, Berkley	Pamela Hall O'Connor & Terry O'Connor, Kalamazoo	Dan Schneider, Commerce Township
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.





MHPN scholarship recipients at the annual conference Opening Reception. (L to R): Irma Guzman, Sylvia & Dave Tillman Endowed Scholarship; Kelsey Maas, MHPN Volunteer Scholar Advisor; Amanda Miller, Peter Basso Associates & Illuminart Scholarship; Anna Bennett, MHPN Scholarship for EMU's Preservation Eastern Student Organization Scholarship; Lillian Gerrits, Preservation Ladies & Gents Scholarship; Jake Flaviani, Kraemer Design Group Scholarship; Cassandra Talley, MHPN Board Scholar Advisor; Alayna Moricz, GBX Group, LLC Scholarship; Kierra Smith, Louisa Pieper Endowed Scholarship. (Those not pictured include: Samantha Brown, Family and Friends of David Evans Endowed Scholarship; Jessica Luke, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Scholarship; Lesley Harkai, Pamela Hall O'Connor and Terry A. O'Connor Endowed Scholarship; Marie Richards, Elaine H. Robinson Endowed Scholarship; and Nathan Nietering, MHPN Scholarship Coordinator.) Photo: April Bryan

Meet the 2026 Conference Scholars

Did you know MHPN has a conference scholarship program that has been in place for over a quarter century? The establishment of the first scholarship endowment in 1991 marked a turning point for MHPN; the organization was taking steps to ensure its future with a dependable source of income wisely invested and earmarked for training the next generation of preservationists. The first endowed scholarship was awarded in 1999.

MHPN scholarships reflect donors' recognition that people enter the preservation field from various starting points. Thus, a recipient could be a student, teacher, young professional, or veteran practitioner, and could be studying, practicing, or just exploring an interest in preservation or its related fields. Today, the program includes six scholarships, each endowed in perpetuity with a \$10,000 donation, and usually an equal number of expendable scholarships that are funded on a year-to-year basis by generous donors. They remain competitive and broadly focused, enabling a range of scholarship recipients to attend the statewide preservation conference each year.

This year, the MHPN awarded 11 scholarships. The scholarships cover three nights' accommodations at the conference hotel, registration, and the ability to attend any tour, workshop, or special event. A small group of additional donors underwrites an "Expense Fund for Scholars" to cover emergency expenses that might be a roadblock to participation. Scholar participation in the conference introduces our membership to new professionals in the field.

Thank you letters written by scholarship recipients to their donors will be featured in upcoming issues of MHPN's Network News. If you or someone you know would like to discuss endowing an MHPN scholarship,



celebrating

45

years

2026 marks MHPN's 45th Anniversary Year

On May 30, 1981, members of the Detroit Historic District Commission convened a meeting of fellow commissioners from around Michigan. They hosted the group at today's Visitors Center at Historic Fort Wayne. The more than fifty people who gathered that Saturday at historic Fort Wayne decided to continue meeting because they could see they had much to learn from each other. The group developed bylaws, established a budget, created a newsletter, and assigned responsibilities. They chose the name "Michigan Historic District Network" to reflect their objectives to provide commissioner education, serve as an information clearinghouse, lobby for stronger state legislation for local historic district ordinances, and market a compelling preservation message. Staff members from Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were available in Detroit, establishing MHPN's and SHPO's working relationship.



Guests at the Annual Fall Benefit will have the opportunity to tour the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm before the event. Photo: Ron Campbell.

Remember these upcoming dates!

October 3, 2026: MHPN's Fall Benefit will be at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm in Oakland County. From 5 to 8:30 p.m., a buffet dinner will be served with beer and wine included. We'll also have an auction, awards presentation, preservation-related activities, and plenty of networking! Registration opens in early August.

May 13-15, 2027: The 2027 annual statewide preservation conference will be held at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. The working theme is "The Roof Over Our Head: Preservation's Role in Solving Michigan's Housing Crisis." We'll consider several pertinent topics such as the adaptive recycling of non-traditional buildings into housing, the pros and cons of increasing density in historic neighborhoods, the "lights on downtown" initiatives to add housing in the upper stories of downtown buildings, keeping existing historic residential stock in full use. The Call for Abstracts will be announced in early July with a deadline in September. Abstracts are welcomed from Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas as well as from neighboring states and Canada and may come from individuals and panels. Check the July newsletter and MHPN's website next month.

Upcoming Webinars

Epic Stained Glass of Metropolitan Detroit **July 30, 1 - 2 p.m. ET** **AIA: 1 LU; AICP: CM 1**

Join author, photographer and architectural historian Dale A. Carlson at 1 p.m. on the afternoon of Thursday, July 30, as he discusses the enviable stained glass legacy of metropolitan Detroit. Learn about the architects and early histories of numerous significant installations sites in both the city and the suburbs, many over a century old. Important makers covered in this presentation include Willet Studios of Philadelphia, Franz Mayer & Co. of Munich, Ateliers Loire of Chartres, France and, of course, Tiffany Studios of New York City. Carlson's presentation will be augmented by numerous optimized newspaper and journal clippings and professional photographs that more fully elucidate the histories discussed. It will run approximately 45 minutes and be followed by a short Q&A.

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.

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



Preservation news you can use

Gov. Whitmer Honors Six Historic Preservation Projects Across Michigan

Recently, six Michigan preservation projects were awarded [Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation](#) during a ceremony hosted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Communities represented by the projects include Clarkston, Coldwater, Detroit, Isle Royale, Lansing, and Northfield Township.

"It's an honor to celebrate the 2026 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation," said Governor Whitmer. "Across our two peninsulas, these awardees are helping us build a stronger Michigan by preserving the places and stories that define our state. They're creating affordable housing, honoring traditions, creating jobs and growing our economy. Today's awards are a reminder of Michigan's rich past and bright future. Let's keep working together to build a brighter future for Michigan."

Now in its 23rd year, the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation program, held annually during National Historic Preservation Month, was created by SHPO to celebrate outstanding historic preservation achievements that reflect a commitment to the preservation of Michigan's unique character and the many archaeological sites and historic places that represent our rich past. This year's event took place in Heritage Hall at the Michigan State Capitol.

This year's six awardees for the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation represent the remarkable diversity of Michigan's historic resources," said Ryan Schumaker, State Historic Preservation Officer. "This year's honorees include a major adaptive reuse project in Detroit, an affordable housing project in Lansing, a family's stewardship of a drive-in theater in Coldwater, significant survey efforts in Clarkston and Northfield Township, and a unique partnership supporting the stewardship of archaeological resources on Isle Royale. Each awardee reflects a strong commitment to preservation and to telling a fuller, more inclusive story of Michigan's past."

The 2026 Governor's Awards recipients are listed below. For full details and videos of each project, [visit here](#).

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