



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

July 2026 Newsletter

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



The Motor Wheel Urban Lofts were constructed in 1916 for the W.K. Prudden Company to produce wheels for the emerging auto industry. The Albert Kahn-designed factory is listed on the National Register and was adapted for residential use in the summer of 2006. Photo: BlackBerry Window & Door Systems

It's time to submit abstracts for MHPN's 2027 conference

MHPN invites you to submit a session abstract to be considered for its 47th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. The conference theme is "The Roof Over Our Heads: Preservation's Role in Solving Michigan's Housing Crisis." Conference dates are Thursday, May 13 through Saturday, May 15, 2027, at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Submit your conference abstracts by Sunday, September 27 at 11:59 p.m. [Click here to find the "Call for Abstracts – Information for Speakers" and also the Session Abstract Submission Portal via Whova.](#)

The conference theme was inspired by stakeholders' meetings held by SHPO this year to help define goals for the state's next long-range plan. Michigan's housing crises in one issue that came up repeatedly in the sessions. As preservationists, we know older building stock provides an opportunity for housing options in many Michigan communities. But how do we help others know this, too?

The conference theme allows MHPN to tap into a range of housing topics, including the adaptive recycling of non-traditional buildings into housing, the pros and cons of increasing density in historic neighborhoods with "Accessory Dwelling Units" (ADUs), the "Lights on Downtown" initiatives to add housing in the upper stories of downtown buildings, the "Missing Middle" programs that provide multi-unit residential-scale homes compatible with historic districts of single-family homes, "Pattern Book Homes" that create new infill housing evocative of the last century, and the importance of keeping existing historic residential stock in full use.

Approximately 24 in-seat sessions are needed for three in-seat program tracks. Successful abstracts will look into specifics such as how the financing was structured, who was on the project team, what the challenges were, etc. We invite individual speakers and panelists. The Information and the Case Studies & Applied Skills tracks demonstrate the latest practices and tools needed for any kind of project, housing or otherwise. Abstracts are welcomed from all across Michigan, as well as from other states and Canada.



Guests at the Annual Fall Benefit will be able to tour the farm before the event. Photo: DIMA Media

MHPN's annual Fall Benefit is October 3

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Join us for the 32nd annual MHPN Fall Benefit, Saturday, October 3, at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm in Rochester Hills (Oakland County). Registration opens at the end of the month.

For over 30 years, MHPN members and friends have gathered to spend a festive fall evening together at a historic venue. For the first time, this year's benefit is being held at a historic farmstead! The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is a 16-acre complex located in historic Stony Creek Village, a rural historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. What we know today as the Van Hoosen Farm was home to the Taylor and Van Hoosen families dating back to 1823. The complex includes the 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1927 Dairy Barn, 1927 Calf Barn, 1850 Red House, Stony Creek Schoolhouse, and agricultural land bordered by Stony Creek. A guided tour – exclusively for Benefit guests and including the main residence - will be the perfect start to our Fall Benefit fun!

The Benefit runs from 5 to 8:30 p.m. A buffet dinner with wine and beer is included with your ticket. Enjoy preservation-related activities and plenty of networking.



Bicycling is a favorite way to get around Mackinac Island when visiting in the summer whether you bring your own bike over on the ferry or rent a bike when you arrive. Photo: Ron Campbell

A request for your summertime support

We may be biased, but we think Michiganders involved in historic preservation have better summer road trips! Perhaps it's because we rarely stay on the expressways. What unfolds around us are centennial farms, main streets, beautiful resort towns, lighthouses, and historic neighborhoods. It's during our leisurely summer travels when we admire an array of cultural resources. As part

please consider contributing to MHPN whose work with you continues year-round.

Donate online using the donate button below; call 517-371-8080; or send a check payable to "MHPN" and mail to MHPN, 313 East Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing MI 48906

Your financial assistance in the summer is important!

[Donate Now!](#)



Irma Guzman was one of this year's group of 11 conference scholars. She is a Detroit-based historian, social worker, and University of Michigan museum studies student. Here she is on the annual Sacred Spaces Tour, visiting Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church in Detroit. Photo: April Bryan

A note of thanks from conference scholarship recipient Irma Guzman

While longtime conference participants enjoy and gain valuable insights from attending MHPN's annual event, our scholarship recipients, however, are often attending their first preservation gathering. This experience helps them see what their career path might be.

Irma Guzman, whom you met in our June newsletter, shares her experience with the conference in a letter to Dave Tillman, the scholarship provider.

Dear Mr. Dave Tillman,

I am grateful to you for creating this endowed scholarship as a way to honor your late wife Sylvia.

This was my first MHPN Conference and I am already excited to be able to attend as a volunteer next year! It was refreshing for me to be in a space where I did not have to explain the importance of my work but instead was encouraged to share my work and approach. I never knew a network like this existed and much less the variety of work that this network is involved in across the state and the Midwest. I am in awe of the possibilities and hopeful to share much of what I learned with others who may not know about this important work.

I was able to attend sessions that explained the various grant opportunities from the state that could fund some of my community projects. I connected with like-minded individuals to continue expanding my professional network. I gained insight into tax credits for the benefit of my community's newly established historic district. And something I never would have imagined, I was able to enter St. Anne Church in Detroit, MI while it is closed for restoration and saw it completely scaffolded from the inside! This was my grandparents' church when they first came to this country, and I've attended service there many times as recently as last year. It was a full circle moment in the most beautiful way to see how this magnificent church is being cared for today.

Mil Gracias - a thousand thanks, for creating this opportunity for folks to follow in the footsteps of Sylvia.

With immense gratitude,

Irma Maribel Guzman

This scholarship was established in 2022 by:



Sylvia & Dave Tillman
Endowed Scholarship

Would you like to sponsor a future scholarship? Let us know!

There's still time to upload your annual conference photos!

If you have photos from the 2026 annual conference 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 the MHPN and the 2026 Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

Upcoming Webinars

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

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.

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.

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



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