

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

October 2026 Newsletter

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



MHPN was fortunate to have a beautiful evening at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farms for this year's Fall Benefit. Photos: Amanda D. Davis. Upper left: Guests arrived early to tour the Van Hoosen Farm's buildings. Upper right: Guests enjoyed networking and good food in the Calf Barn.
Middle left: Auctioneer Bob Donohue (a MHPN founding member) and Auction Associate Stacy Tchorzynski made the live auction fun! Middle right: Everyone met the MHPN's new Executive Director, Bill Wood. Lower left: Board VP Mike Hambacher (l) and President Melissa Milton-Pung (r) presented Dr. Richard Stamps with his Lifetime Achievement Award. Lower right: Board member Tiffany Dziurman (l) and President Melissa Milton-Pung (r) presented Patrick McKay with his Lifetime Achievement Award.

The MHPN's 32nd Annual Benefit marks the start of fall!

Last Saturday could not have been a better fall day with mild weather, lots of sun, and a rural landscape just beginning to change color. This was the backdrop for the MHPN's 32nd Annual Fall Benefit!

MHPN members and friends have gathered for over 30 years to spend an enjoyable fall evening at a significant historic venue. We've been in an armory, a bank or two, a three-story penthouse, a library and a train station, clubs and halls, factories, an opera house, and a variety of grand homes. This was, however, the first time on a farmstead.

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is a local history museum that preserves the history of the Taylor and Van Hoosen families who settled the Rochester area in 1823. The eight-building, 16-acre site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several of the barn buildings now serve as exhibit space, offices, and archives.

The evening included a tour of the Van Hoosen Farm buildings before the benefit started. Guests then gathered in the museum's Calf Barn for socializing and networking and a wonderful buffet dinner. The program included comments from MHPN and museum leadership, a live auction, and the presentation of two Lifetime Achievement Awards to Patrick McKay and Dr. Richard Stamps. An MHPN 45th Anniversary cake and coffee finished the evening.

To see photos from the evening, visit the Fall Benefit web page. If you have photos you would like to share, upload them here.

See you next year!

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors

$2,500 or More

Bay View Handworks, Michigan
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Up to $249

Nancy Bryk, Ann Arbor; Kathy and Don Duquette, Ann Arbor; Michael Hambacher, Williamston; Nancy and Eric Schertzing, Lansing



This view of Murray Avenue in Ann Arbor illustrates how preservation can be part of a community's housing strategy by maintaining what already exists in neighborhoods, providing the kind of options that make for a strong housing market. Photo: Janet Kreger.

Registration for the 47th Annual Conference opens in February 2027

What: "The Roof Over Our Head: Preservation's Role in Solving Michigan's Housing Crisis."
Where: Lansing, MI
When: Thursday, May 13 through Saturday, May 15, 2027.

For the latest updates, visit the conference web page. We're going to have a great line-up of sessions and tours!

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act Would Gut Protections for Historic Places

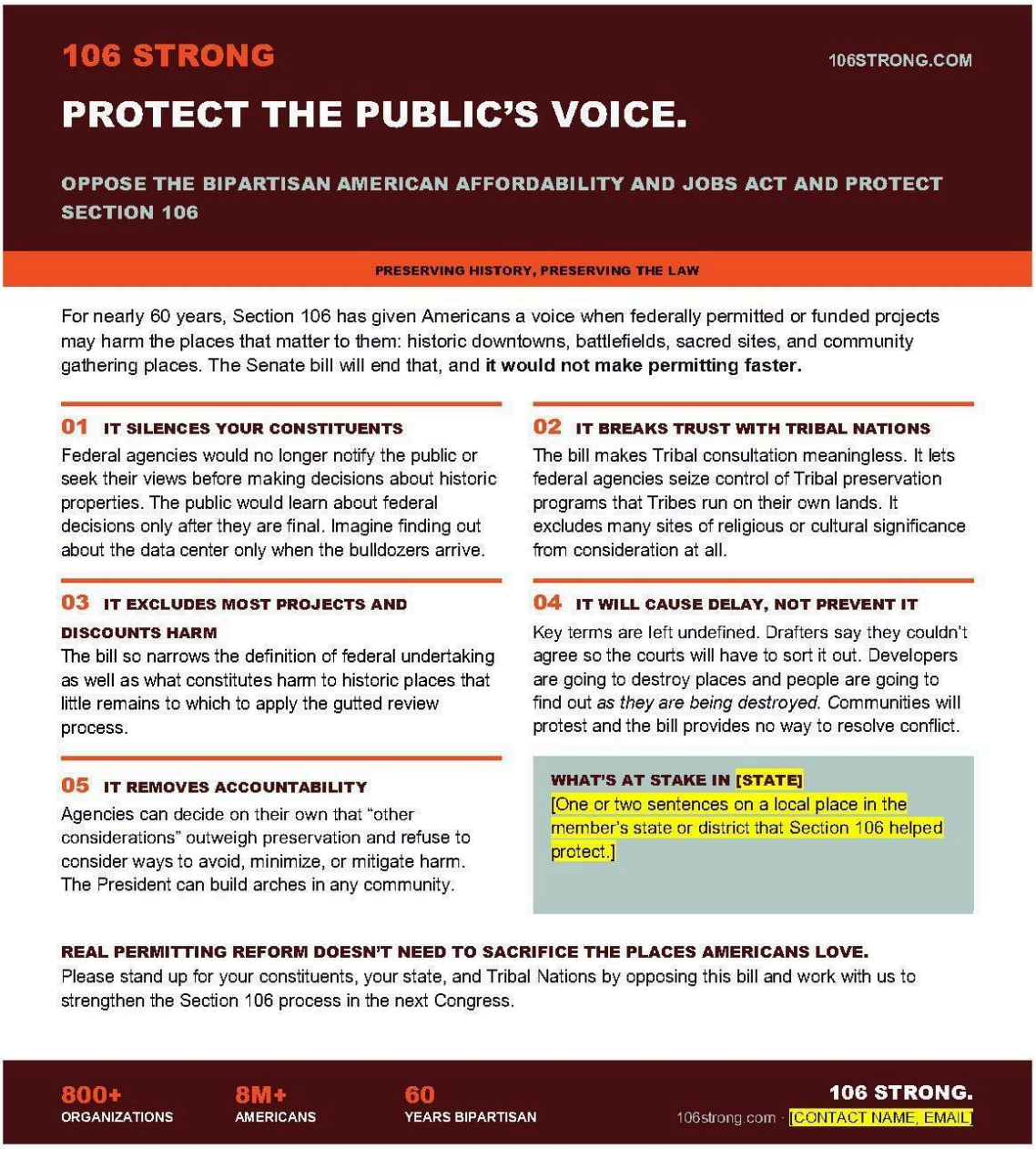
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For 60 years, Section 106 has made one simple promise: before the federal government harms a place that matters, it stops, looks, and listens. Most reviews finish quickly and without controversy. Lawsuits are rare.

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act proposed in the Senate by Senators Heinrich, Whitehouse, Lee, and Capito takes a process that works and tears it apart.

This isn’t about party. The bill has Republican and Democratic sponsors, and historic places don’t have a party.

106 Strong calls on Senators to vote "no"on the bill and to reconvene in a new Congress to tackle permitting reform with transparency and integrity. Click on the image below or go to the 106Strong website for more information.





You are invited to be a part of the 28th edition of MHPN's Historic Resource Council Directory

Since first compiled in 1999, the Directory has been Michigan's best guide to finding architects, engineers, general and trades contractors, consultants, developers, and preservation organizations. What began as a construction trades directory has grown to include archaeologists, accountants, real estate professionals, and others providing preservation goods and services.

BENEFITS FOR YOU: Your benefits begin when you start or renew your $200 membership in the Historic Resource Council (HRC). With that, you're included in both the on-line and hard copy versions of the Directory, have discounts for the vendors' showcase at the annual conference, receive invitations to practical preservation workshops and training programs for craftspeople, and receive other member benefits for two individuals from your organization.

LISTING IN THE DIRECTORY IS COMPETITIVELY PRICED: With your new or renewed HRC Membership, you get a free listing in the Directory and the option of adding a well-priced advertisement ranging in price from only $130-$425. A project of yours may also be chosen for the Directory cover!

JOIN THE COMMUNITY: The Directory is posted on MHPN's website and distributed in print each year, reaching more than 2,000 MHPN members and partners, historic district commissions, Main Street programs, MHPN event attendees, elected officials, and property owners. Those listed remark: "We've seen a marked increase in customer volume." "Not only has our listing produced new leads, we're happy our participation supports the preservation community as a whole."

Join the directory here. Questions? Send an email Xbaosmith@MHPN.org or call 517-371-8080. Your deadline to be included in the Directory is Tuesday, November 20!



Attention voters in Wayne and Oakland counties!

This November, voters in Wayne and Oakland counties will decide a measure that matters to all of us: a proposed 0.2 mill levy to support three publicly owned museums and the history they hold in trust for our region.

For the owner of a $300,000 home, the cost would be approximately $30 a year. In return, the millage would provide free admission to the Detroit Historical Museum, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History for every Wayne and Oakland county resident. It would also support curriculum and teacher training, provide free transportation for student and senior tours, and protect nearly 300,000 publicly owned artifacts for future generations.

The proposal would run for 10 years from 2026 through 2035 and would be administered by the Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority, a five-member public authority appointed by Wayne and Oakland counties. The Authority would oversee the funds, with independent, audited oversight, and 15% of gross revenue would be directed to local historical museums across Wayne and Oakland counties.

This is more than maintaining three museums. It is about making the history of our region accessible to the people who live here, making it part of how our children learn, and protecting the collections that belong to all of us.

Our history belongs to all of us. So does the responsibility to make sure it remains accessible for generations to come. Look for the Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority Proposal. It is on the back of the ballot under County proposals.

To learn more about the proposal, visit yestoourstory.com.

Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

Home Energy Efficiency Online Workshop
Wednesday, October 14, 6-8 p.m.

Instructor: Daniel Schneider, AIA, Senior Project Manager & Preservation Architect. Kingscott Associates

Come join us for a free educational workshop and learn how to help your older home perform at its best while reducing energy costs and respecting its character and needs.

Sponsored by: Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission/City Planning Department, Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Michigan Arts and Culture Council, Cornerstone Church, Consumers Energy & Dan Schneider

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Exploring Risk and Uncertainty for Northern Great Lakes Indigenous Maize Horticulture during the Little Ice Age (1300-1850 CE/AD)
Thursday, October 22, 2026, 1-2 p.m.

Speaker: William A. Lovis, Emeritus Professor and Curator of Anthropology, Michigan State University (Retired)

In this webinar, the risks and uncertainties of indigenous maize horticulture in the northern Great Lakes region (above ~45°N Latitude) are explored across the late Holocene climatic episode known as the Little Ice Age (LIA; ca 1300 to 1850 CE/AD), focusing on the 450-year period prior to ca. 1750. Botanical evidence reveals maize presence in the northern Great Lakes 2500 years ago but is not well represented as macro botanical remains and evident in dietary isotopes until ca. 1000 years ago. The same cannot be said for beans or squash. We are stymied by a lack of comprehensive information on drought and pluvial cycle incidence, duration, and intensity.

This presentation has no clear conclusion but rather is a thought experiment. The exploratory perspective taken here draws on advances in dendrochronology, fire history research, isotopic analysis, pollen studies, etc. to refine understanding of the potential degree of risk for maize production in these northern domains and its relative consistency or ubiquity.

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. ***Would you like to help underwrite this webinar?*** *Please contact Xiaohan Bao Smith at xbaosmith@mhpn.org to learn more about having your name and logo recognized at the opening of the program, as well as in MHPN's social media and email communications. Your support will be receipted as a donation to the MHPN, a 501(c)3 organization.*





Preservation news you can use!

MISHPO CLG grant applications are due February 5, 2027

New month, new grant opportunity! CLG grant application is now available! MISHPO is accepting applications for the fiscal year 2027 round of Certified Local Government (CLG) grant awards. Every year, SHPO passes federal Historic Preservation Fund money to its CLG partner communities. These grants help support and enhance local historic preservation initiatives and can be used for a variety of activities, from architectural surveys, planning documents, and new nominations to the National Register Historic Places, to public education, outreach, and training. They can also be used for rehabilitation ("bricks and mortar" work) of certain categories of properties.

Grants are only available to the 42 Michigan municipalities that participate in the CLG program. Grant applications are due February 5, 2027. See MISHPO's website for a list of CLG communities, grant application materials, FAQ's, and other helpful information to plan your application.

NRHP Questionnaires can now be submitted digitally

The first step in preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination in Michigan is to complete the National Register Preliminary Questionnaire (NRPQ). As of October 1, Preliminary Questionnaires can be submitted to MISHPO digitally via Smartsheet submission portal. A handy Instructions document is also provided to help you know what to put where. Find them both and more information about the National Register process at www.michigan.gov/nrhp.

Already have an NRPQ underway? Not to worry – SHPO will still accept PDF forms, since both versions ask for the same information. Nearly 2,000 historic properties in Michigan are listed in the National Register - which one will be next?

MHPN Historic Resource Directory

Find preservation professionals, services, and resources

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