

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

November 2026 Newsletter

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



MHPN welcomes students and new preservation professionals at the 2026 Fall Benefit. Attendees included: (front row) Austin Lay/EMU; (second row l to r) Elizabeth Longcore/SHPO, Coco Pung/Community High, Anna Bennett/EMU, Annie Strickland/EMU; (back row l to r) Amelia Blakely/littlefish design, Max Levanduski/MSU, Oliver Pung/Washtenaw CC, Andy Koziol/EMU, Riley Greenwood/EMU, Caden Barrett/EMU. Photo: Amanda Davis.

MHPN welcomes students and new professionals at the annual Fall Benefit

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Each year, newcomers to the field of historic preservation are welcome to attend MHPN's Fall Benefit, a premier social event for the network. At this year's 32nd annual benefit on October 3 at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, MHPN introduced eleven students and new professionals. The experience for these participants goes well beyond attending a great party!

The group enjoyed an after-hours tour of the museum farmhouse, outbuildings, and grounds, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. New participants also covered a volunteer duty or two, including staffing the registration table where they greet and meet everyone attending. This often leads to conversations with some of the field's leaders over dinner and time to talk with the senior professionals being honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards that evening. Equally important to these young guests is the opportunity to meet their peers joining them in the field.

Participation of students and new professionals is underwritten by event sponsors as well as by MHPN members and friends who buy additional tickets for a student. MHPN thanks them for their generosity!



Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI.
The International Style Kellogg Center building opened in 1951. In 1988, renovation and additions completed the building we know today. In addition to hosting thousands of guests annually, the Center is a working laboratory for The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University. Photo: Kellogg Center

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Reservations for the 2027 MHPN conference hotel are now open!

MHPN is pleased to offer hotel accommodations in the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center where the 47th annual conference will be presented. There is no doubt that staying at the same place where the conference is held has its benefits! For instance, you can get to breakfast in less than five minutes or take some time to make work calls from your room or dress for the awards ceremony without concern for the weather. The following details will help you plan:

- The major conference program days are all-day Thursday, May 13, through the morning of Saturday, May 15.

- The conference rate is available starting Tuesday, May 11, for those who want to arrive early to visit with legislators or to explore the Capital City Area, through Sunday morning, May 16, for those who want to stay the weekend.

- All rooms in the MHPN block are at the conference rate of $146/night plus tax and fees. Standard Doubles and Standard Queen rooms are priced the same.

- Guestrooms exceeding double occupancy are subject to a $10.00 room rate increase per occupant, per night.

- Sunday, April 11, 2027, is the cutoff date for the room block. Any rooms left on this date will be released to the public at midnight. After,

rooms are booked at the regular room rate, if available.

• Reservations must be changed or cancelled 48 hours prior to the arrival date to avoid a charge for the first night room and tax.

• Making reservations by phone? Call 800-875-5090 and use the Group Code 27725. You can also make reservations online. When making a reservation, guests will not be asked to provide a credit card number to hold their reservation.

• Check-in is 4 p.m. ad check-out is 12 p.m.

• Each room will receive one complimentary parking pass to the connected parking structure or adjacent surface lot. Passes are available for additional hotel guests at $15/night.

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
219 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48824
www.kelloggcenter.com



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!



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

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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, offered 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 to $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 have remarked:

"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!

Please remember these important year-end days of giving!

Shop Small Saturday is on November 28, between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Since 2010, Shop Small Saturday has invited shoppers to visit their favorite traditional downtowns, historic neighborhood retail spots, and farmers markets to prepare for the holidays. If you are looking for a new spot to shop this year, MHPN recommends visiting communities that participate in the Michigan Main Street Program where historic preservation is a key part of their economic strategy. Click here to learn more about the Main Street Program, including its impressive 20th Anniversary Report.

Giving Tuesday is December. This global day of giving is a reminder to consider donating your time, talents, and gifts to the causes that mean the most to you, including MHPN 😉.

Finally, at the close of December, MHPN will ask that you make a gift to our organization. As always, this is not your last gift of 2026, but rather your first investment in the work we do together in 2027 to combat the current assaults on cultural resources in Michigan and across the nation. For the past six years, we have used your year-end gifts to "match" the support we receive from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Even though the council's funding for pass-through grants has not yet been awarded, we will need your help year-end no matter what!

Want to start giving early? Donate here and check the year-end giving designation.

Upcoming Webinars

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

Thursday, November 19, 2026
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
AIA: 1 LU
AICP: CM 1, Eq 1 #9331380

Speaker: Kiana Wenzell
Co-Executive Director, Design Core Detroit
Co-Director, Detroit Month of Design

This webinar is a reprise of the keynote address presented at the 2026 MHPN Conference in May, offering attendees another opportunity to experience this timely and impactful presentation.

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 will include 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 will also discuss 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 will highlight 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.

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.



The passing of James Andrew Schmiechen

James Andrew Schmiechen, 86, passed away in Holland, Michigan, on October 29, 2026, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.

After graduating from high school in St. Louis in 1958, Jim earned a B.A. from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, then an M.A. from Illinois State University in Bloomington, Illinois, and a PhD. in British Economic History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In the late 1970s, he took a teaching position in the Department of History at Central Michigan University, where he enjoyed a 30-year tenure, retiring as a distinguished Professor Emeritus in 2009.

In the mid-1990s, Jim began an illustrious association with the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society where he became recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the area's history, spearheading a number of landmark initiatives, including the purchase of the Old School House in Douglas, Michigan, which now serves as the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center headquarters, curating award winning museum exhibitions, and authoring a number of books on the architecture and history of the Saugatuck-Douglas area.

Jim served on MHPN's board of directors for two terms from 2010 to 2016. He received MHPN's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

A private memorial gathering will be held at a later date. MHPN offers condolences to Jim's family, friends, and colleagues.

Preservation news you can use!

Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant applications are due Nov. 20

GRANT REMINDER! Attention lighthouse stewards: there is less than a month left to apply for the 2027 Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant. Apply today for up to $60,000 for preservation planning or rehabilitation ("bricks and mortar") projects. Deadline: November 20, 2026. Click here to learn more apply.

MHPN Historic Resource Directory
Find preservation professionals, services, and resources

Search by Category / View Directory

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