

**The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is pleased to honor three special individuals at its 30th Annual Fall Benefit being held on Sunday, October 20, at the Adrian Armory.**

**The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by consensus of the Network's senior leadership to those who have worked throughout their careers to promote historic preservation in the State of Michigan.**

Steve Bohnet, Lansing

For over 45 years, Steve Bohnet has continued the legacy of his family's firm, Bohnet Electric, and its dedication to artistry and innovative craftsmanship in the repair and restoration of historic lighting. Founded in 1906, Bohnet Electric is Lansing's oldest electrical contractor, and Steve is the fourth generation to lead the firm. A graduate of Lansing Community College, Steve began stocking shelves in the family business while still in high school, working his way up to president. In addition to serving the electrical and lighting needs of Lansing's community, Steve's experience and craftsmanship in restoring vintage lighting is evident in many of the state's most iconic historic places. His work includes lighting restoration at the Belle Isle Aquarium and the Fisher Building in Detroit, Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, and the Cheboygan Opera House. In Lansing, Steve has worked at the Potter House, Turner Dodge House, Clara's Restaurant, and the Governor's Residence, among many others. As Steve once said of his career, "We're lighting the world, and I love what I do."

Robert E. Donohue, Jr., Commerce

Bob Donohue dedicated his 45-year career to historic preservation planning. After serving in the US Navy for four years, Bob graduated from the University of Michigan in 1979 and later earned a graduate certificate in Historic Preservation Planning from Eastern Michigan University. In the 1980s Bob served as a local planner, focusing on historic preservation, for communities including the City of Monroe, Livingston County, and Southfield. As the Executive Director of the Rochester DDA from 1991-1999, Bob's work included coordinating the rehabilitation of the historic Western Knitting Mill and developing architectural and historical tours of the downtown. In 1999, Bob became the principal planner for Main Street Oakland County, leading the establishment of the first full-service county-wide Main Street program in the United States. Bob retired from Oakland County in 2016, when he became the Executive Director of the South Lyon DDA, overseeing several major building and façade rehabilitation projects. Fully retired since 2020, Bob and his family live in an 1845 Greek Revival schoolhouse in Commerce Township, restored by the family as their home.

Lorri D. Sipes, Ann Arbor

Lorri Sipes' celebrated career as a preservation architect and historic consultant spans more than four decades. She graduated in 1972 from Kansas University with a Bachelor of

Environmental Design and earned her graduate degree in architecture from the University of Michigan in 1978. She immediately began working in the field of historic preservation, beginning with William Kessler and Associates of Detroit, restoring lighthouses, theaters, and courthouses. In 1984, she co-founded Architects Four, Inc., focusing on historic preservation architecture. Lorri helped bring the firm to national prominence and participated in the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol. Architects Four merged with SmithGroup in 1999, and Lorri continued her preservation work with the firm until 2004. From 2004 to 2016, Lorri ran her own consulting practice, and in 2009 she established the Wood Window Repair Company. Lorri's work was recognized with over 20 awards on the local, state, and national level and she has been a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences. She was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 2001 for her contributions to the field of preservation in mentorship, teaching, and community activism.