



MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

January 2025 Newsletter

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



**Registration for MHPN's 45th Annual Conference
Opens February 2025**

Conference theme: "Bringing Stories to Light"

Dates: Thursday, May 15 – Saturday, May 17, 2025

Location: Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Benefits: Continuing Education Credits, networking, learning new things, visiting a beautiful location in Michigan's upper peninsula!

[Be a Conference Sponsor!](#)

Sponsorship deadline is January 15

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network asks you to consider supporting its 45th annual statewide preservation conference. It's the largest educational gathering in the state each year for those involved in preservation.

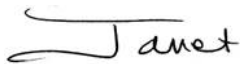
If you're a business or an individual, have you thought about sponsoring the conference?

SPONSOR RECOGNITION: Before the conference, you are recognized in our 7,000 printed and mailed brochures, on MHPN's website (including the conference registration page), and on MHPN's social platforms to our 6,000+ followers. You are also recognized during the conference on signage, on rotating screen slides located in key conference areas, during sessions, tours, and special events.

WHY SUPPORT US: Sponsors are invited to a VIP reception and provided comp registrations and reduced table pricing at the Vendors' Showcase. You'll be included in the MHPN's Annual Report and recognized as a conference sponsor in the Annual Historic Resource Council Directory. If you are a business, the greatest return on your investment as a sponsor, however, is educating conference attendees and supporters about the services you offer.

Please take a moment and read through the Sponsorship materials on MHPN's website: mhpn.org/conference. Request invoicing later if desire. Mail, email, or fax your Sponsorship Form to the MHPN, or simply give online. We must hear from you by Wednesday, January 15, for you to be included in the brochure.

Thank you for considering our request. Your support is important!



Janet Kreger

2025 Conference Funding Coordinator

Direct questions to Janet: kregerj1981@att.net or 734-222-9310.

Thank you to our conference underwriters!





**MICHIGAN
ECONOMIC
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From the session, "Polishing Significance by Drilling into Cultural Landscapes," presented by Ruth Mills and Brenda Williams, Quinn Evans, Thursday, May 15, 2:45 PM – 3:45 p.m.

Attending MHPN's 45th Annual Conference? Track 1 sessions may interest you!

One of the best ways to begin thinking about attending the conference is to take a look at the presentations and tours, all of which are organized into tracks. This month, we start with Track 1: Theme – "Bringing Stories to Light." The speakers emphasize that as our preservation efforts reveal the physical evidence of what makes our communities distinctive, we have the responsibility to find out and talk about the importance of what's been preserved. The conference's tagline summarizes this track: You've got a story. Tell it!

Here's what's being presented in Track 1:

Thursday, May 15:

Paper Partners: Archival Stories and Preservation – Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula once was home to a world-renowned copper industry. Today, the Quincy Mine is one of its best preserved and accessible sites. Stories hidden and preserved within archival institutions guide preservation and, at Quincy, have promoted its importance, reinforced its impact, and shed light on a distinct way-of-life.

Maximizing Storytelling and Audience Engagement: Immersive Strategies for Historical Organizations – Historical organizations, from small-budget entities to well-resourced institutions, can effectively promote their programs using social media, digital platforms, and in-person immersive experiences. By sharing compelling stories, they can engage both local communities and tourists, tapping into the growing interest in cultural heritage and tourism. Attendees leave with ideas they can use.

Polishing Significance by Drilling into Cultural Landscapes – A cultural landscape approach assesses layers of human activity enduring over time. Using this approach revealed complex stories and informed National Historic Landmark nomination amendments for three very different sites: the industrial landscapes of Keweenaw National Historical Park, Detroit's Lafayette Park, and Knife River Indian Villages in North Dakota.

It All Comes Full Circle: Stories from the Field – What do Inkster and Kalamazoo have in common? What about Ewart and Otter Lake? The interconnections of their histories are illuminated by stories that run the gamut from laying the Flint and Pere Marquette railroad tracks through middle Michigan, to Robert Inkster's journey through the southern counties. We'll discuss others!

Friday, May 16:

Creating Celebrations for Those in the Future Looking Back – Many Michigan communities will observe special dates in upcoming years. The City of Ann Arbor celebrated its Bicentennial in 2024 with highly engaging activities: weekly history projects, smartphone-based tours, and a community-wide closing celebration. Ann Arbor's experiences can inspire your own planning committee to recognize your local history in spectacular ways!

Old Stories, New Tools: Engaging New Audiences through Digital Storytelling – Digital tools are for more than telling people your address and when you are open! They can be essential parts of interpretive programming, whether part of an educational curriculum, publicity strategy, or just for information. Story mapping, social media strategies, and other digital tools share stories in fresh ways with new audiences.

Before There was a Lighthouse: Shining a Light on the History of

Iroquois Point – Opened in 1870, the Point Iroquois Lighthouse stands on the site of one of the most consequential military actions in Great Lakes Native American history. But have you ever wondered why it's called "Iroquois Point" when there are no Iroquois natives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula? We have knowledge to share!

In the months leading up to the conference, MHPN's newsletter will highlight Track 2: Information, Track 3: Case Studies and Applied Skills, and Track 4: Tours, and a special series of sessions presented by staff members of Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office. For the complete abstracts describing these presentations and the names and bios of presenters, visit the MHPN's conference landing page later in January:

www.mhpn.org/conference. Conference attendees can mix and match track sessions and activities!

Final Word: House Bill 5430 died during Lame Duck

Last February, State Representative Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph) introduced House Bill 5430 crafted to increase the usefulness of Michigan's 25% Historic Tax Credit taken on the qualified rehabilitation expenses for historic building projects. The bill's proposal to raise the current \$5M annual credit cap to \$100M would better meet the actual demand coming from income-producing and residential projects in every part of the state – metro areas, cities, small towns, villages, and rural and shoreline areas.

Over the ten months that followed, MHPN met with over 50 representatives and senators as well as government staff, including the Governor's Chief of Staff. Support came from both Republicans and Democrats, just as it had when we won back the current tax credit in December 2020 with Senate Bill 54 passing 32-5 and House Bill 4100 passing 81-24 in a Republican-dominated Legislature. We moved fast because the goal was to get the proposed bill passed before the end of the calendar year when the 102nd Legislative Session would end.

December's Lame Duck session found House Democrats in disarray. The bill, along with many others, died. Rep. Andrews let us know he will reintroduce the bill as soon as possible after the 103rd Legislature convenes on January 8. Because the Legislature didn't act on all the economic development tools prioritized by the Governor, MHPN will continue speaking about the enhanced tax credit as a compliment to them.

For now, we'll leave the Advocacy page up on the MHPN's website so you can review what was accomplished these past months. Please remember that in 1999 when Michigan's first historic tax credit bill was passed, and again in 2020 with the current law, the bills didn't pass the first time either!

Please remember to write your Legislators and thank them for their support! If

they kept their seats in this last election, let them know our bill will be reintroduced. If they're new, take a moment to introduce yourself.

Get the information you need here: www.mhpn.org/state

There's Still Time to Make a Year-End Gift!

If you missed the year-end appeal to leverage our Michigan Arts & Culture Council Grants, know you can still give! We're still counting! Visit <https://www.mhpn.org/product/donate> for more information.



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Mexicantown Mural – CREDIT MexicantownCDC

[ICYMI: Detroit's Mexicantown featured in Preservation Magazine](#)

Detroit's Mexicantown is featured in the Fall 2024 issue of Preservation, the magazine from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The article paints a picture of a richly diverse neighborhood that has protected its heritage. Citizens have skillfully used the resources available, establishing the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation in 1989; employing programs of Michigan Main Street; winning a Vibrancy Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, as well as a federal grant from the Historic Preservation Fund for preparation of a National Register nomination; and utilizing programs of the Southwest Detroit Business Association. Relationships with the City of Detroit have been maintained, especially through the City's Historic Designation Advisory Board.

The [article](#) notes that Mexicantown is at a pivotal moment in its history. With hundreds of people coming to work at nearby Michigan Central Station, with the success of Corktown spilling over, and with easy access to and from Canada, Detroit, and the suburbs, the pressure of development and change is great.

(Footnote: We thank MHPN Board member Myrna Segura for hosting our 2023 Fall Benefit in Mexicantown, along with others featured in the article including Ray Lozano, Executive Director of the MexicantownCDC, who brought all the pieces together; City Council member Gabriela Santiago-Romero who spent the evening with us at The Mercado; and Janese Chapman, Director of Detroit's Historic Designation Advisory Board, who was presented with the MHPN's Lifetime Achievement Award as part of this special evening.)

Upcoming Webinar

What: Removing barriers and building bridges – harnessing the power of preservation to uplift marginalized communities

Where: Online using your phone or computer

When: Thursday, January 16, 1 p.m.

MHPN's monthly webinars are free and open to everyone. Registration is open! Click below to register.

[Register](#)

Did you miss a webinar or wish to review it again or share it? Past webinar recordings are available on the MHPN's YouTube Channel! [Workshop Recordings – Michigan Historic Preservation Network \(mhpn.org\)](#)

Do you have a great webinar idea you'd like to explore with us? Contact info@mhpn.org.

The MHPN's Webinar Series is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and National Endowment for the Arts.



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