



# Network News

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

April 2016

## CALL TO ACTION: HELP US KILL THE BILLS!

*Historic Resources in Michigan Jeopardized by HOUSE BILL 5232/SENATE BILL 720*

Michigan's historic places drive economic development, attract businesses, draw tourists and new residents, create a sense of place, and enhance our quality of life. Keeping these historic places is so important that historic preservation has been upheld as a public purpose under the U. S. Constitution—preserving historic resources is a valid governmental goal and local historic district ordinances have been upheld as an appropriate means to secure that goal. Local historic districts are the only way for communities to manage and protect historic assets, and Michigan enables local historic districts through Public Act 169 of 1970. 78 communities to date have chosen to enact ordinances to protect their historic assets at the local level, under current state law. House Bill 5232 seeks to change Public Act 169, making it exponentially more difficult for a community to navigate the local historic district process by introducing multiple procedures for local legislative bodies



*The hearing room was so packed with those against HB 5232 that an overflow room had to be opened. Here, hearing attendees listen to testimony opposing the bill (courtesy of Valentin Pulido).*



*The Mackinac Island historic district, one of hundreds of local historic districts in Michigan under threat by HB 5232 and SB 720 (courtesy of Nan Taylor).*

and community members to follow depending on what they wish to accomplish.

House Bill (HB) 5232 and Senate Bill (SB) 720 were introduced in January 2016, with testimony presented before the Michigan House of Representatives Local Government Committee—less than 24 hours later. Since that time, there have been six amendments (Drafts) to the bill! All of this, in spite of over 20 resolutions or formal letters of opposition to the bills being drafted and passed by Michigan's local governments as well as protests by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, the Historical Society of Michigan, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, other like-minded organizations, and preservationists across the state. At the time this article is being written, the House Bill is in its sixth version! We continue to urge everyone across Michigan to reach out to Governor Snyder, the bill sponsors, AND your elected officials to voice

your strong displeasure with how these bills will completely dismantle Public Act 169, and jeopardize our local historic districts! PA 169 isn't broken—don't "fix" it. For more information, including the draft language on the current bill, contact information for the bill sponsors, Michigan State Representatives' and Senators' contact information, Governor Snyder's contact information (along with draft language for your letters), and the numerous articles against the bills published in Michigan newspapers, please visit our website at [www.mhpn.org/?page\\_id=2914](http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=2914). Help us Kill these Bills! ✨

## Make it a Detroit Weekend!

The MHPN Annual Conference is just weeks away, and we hope you will be joining us in Detroit May 11-14 to attend our fantastic lineup of educational sessions, conference tours, and special events. While you're there, why don't you add a few extra nights and "Make it a Detroit Weekend!" Whether you are a resident, frequent visitor, or haven't been to the city in years, we think you will find something new and exciting to do in the D!

Detroit is a great city for art lovers. Everyone loves the Detroit Institute of Arts ([www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)), but have you been to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCAD) in Midtown ([www.mocadetroit.org](http://www.mocadetroit.org))? Both are just steps away from our conference headquarters. There's plenty of art to be seen around the city as well, including the iconic Fist and the Spirit of Detroit, both at Woodward and Jefferson, the Dodge Fountain in Hart Plaza, and outdoor art environments like the Heidelberg Project on the East Side and the Eastern Market murals.



*This May, why don't you...visit the Detroit Historical Museum (courtesy of Elaine Robinson)....*

If you're looking for museums, Detroit has those aplenty. The Detroit Historical Museum ([detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org)) is full of fascinating exhibits, including the perennially popular "Streets of Old Detroit," and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle is the place to go for maritime history fans. The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History ([thewright.org](http://thewright.org)) is the world's largest museum dedicated to African American experiences. Devotees of the Motown sound should not miss the Motown Historical Museum at Hitsville, USA ([www.motownmuseum.org](http://www.motownmuseum.org)) and science enthusiasts can check out the (relatively) new Michigan Science Center ([www.mi-sci.org/](http://www.mi-sci.org/)).

May is a perfect time to get out and see Detroit's many beautiful parks and outdoor spaces. Belle Isle is Detroit's jewel and the largest city-owned island park in the country; the Michigan DNR has been working hard to improve the island and we think you'll like the



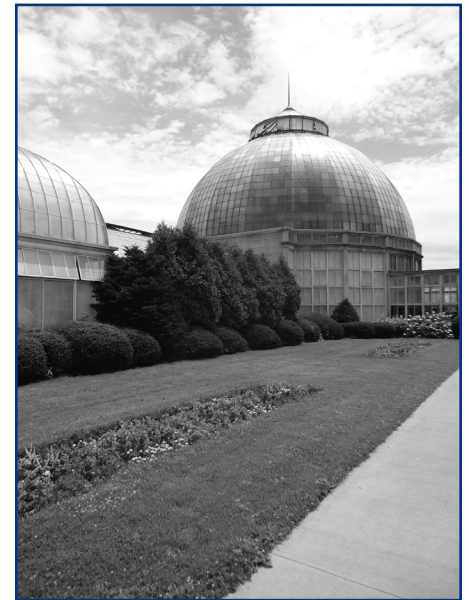
*---explore the offerings at Eastern Market (courtesy of Christopher Lark Photography/Kraemer Design Group)...*

results. Take some time to hang out in the heart of the city at Campus Martius or Hart Plaza, or visit the Jens Jensen-designed Elmwood Cemetery. On Saturday afternoon or Sunday, head over to Historic Fort Wayne, where Civil War Days, the annual living history event, will be taking place ([www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/cwdays.html](http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/cwdays.html)). Take a leisurely stroll along the Detroit Riverwalk, or explore some of the city's neighborhood parks, like Clark Park in Southwest Detroit, or the Lafayette Plaisance in Lafayette Park.

Don't forget to eat! Detroit's restaurants are amazing and too numerous to list here, but whether you're in midtown, downtown, Mexicantown, Corktown, or Hamtramck, you are sure to find something delicious.

On Saturday, get your farm-fresh produce at the largest historic market in the country, Eastern Market ([www.easternmarket.com](http://www.easternmarket.com)), or come back on Sunday, May 15th, for the wonderful madness of Flower Day.

For more information on the conference and to register, head over to [http://www.mhpn.org/?page\\_id=154](http://www.mhpn.org/?page_id=154), and for more details on things to see and do in Detroit, visit our blog at <https://mhpn.wordpress.com/>. ✨



*...or see what's new on Belle Isle (courtesy of Scott Slagor).*

# 2016 Slate of Nominees to the MHPN Board of Directors

The MHPN Nominating Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present the slate for officers and returning/new board members, to be voted upon by the general membership at May's annual meeting. This year, we have several outgoing board members. Greg Jones is departing at the end of his third three-year term and James Schmiechen at the end of his second three-year term. Robin Adair has resigned due to other commitments during his second three-year term, and Aaron Jonker, Rob Dwortz, and Emily Jarvi are stepping down after their first three-year terms. We are grateful for the leadership these board members have given, no matter the length of their service, and look forward to continuing their close relationships with the organization as emeriti board members.

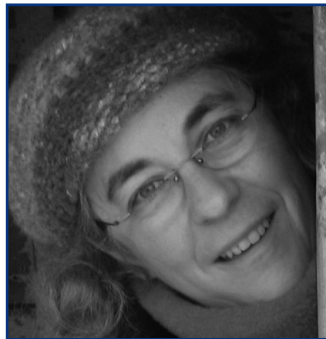
The current slate of officers has agreed to stand for re-election this year, including Ruth E. Mills, President; David Varney, Vice-President; Kathrine Kolokithas, Secretary, and Denise McGeen, Treasurer.

Three current MHPN board members are standing for re-election. These individuals are Kenneth Czapski (Marquette) and Mike Kirk (Dearborn) for their third three-year terms, and Dave Varney (South Haven) for a second three-year term.

The Nominating Committee and Board of Directors are pleased to present three new candidates for board membership in May.

**Sharon Ferraro, Kalamazoo**

Sharon has been a powerhouse for historic preservation in Kalamazoo, serving as the city's historic preservation coordinator



*Sharon Ferraro*

since 2001. Her work there, from economic development to training craftspeople to community activism, has made her an effective advocate for historic preservation in the city and a model for other communities. Sharon was instrumental in saving the 100 block of Michigan Avenue and the former state hospital water tower.



*Juanita Jones*

**Juanita Jones, Detroit**

Juanita has been actively collaborating with MHPN for several years, first as the Managing Director of the Detroit Land Bank, and later as a consultant under her own business, JRJ Consulting. A native Detroiter, Juanita brings a history of facilitating cooperation between the development and preservation communities to the board.

**Chip Windisch, Grand Rapids**

Chip is the Vice President of Capital Markets at Old National Bank in Grand Rapids, focusing on investing and lending related to historic real estate and affordable housing. He's an expert in working with the unique financing structures that accompany complex, incentive-based transactions. Chip is an active member of MHPN's Public Policy Committee. \*



*Chip Windisch*

## Recent Michigan National Register Listings

MHPN congratulates the following properties for recently being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Property Name	Location	County	Date
Saugatuck Pump House	735 Park St., Saugatuck	Allegan	12/29/2015
IOOF Centennial Building	150 E. Chrisholm St., Alpena	Alpena	12/29/2015
Elk Rapids First Methodist Episcopal Church	301 Traverse St., Elk Rapids	Antrim	12/29/2015
Braastad-Gossard Building	308 Cleveland Ave., Ispeming	Marquette	12/29/2015
Detroit News Complex	615 & 801 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit	Wayne	12/29/2015
Rice Bay	Indian Village Road, Watersmeet Township vicinity	Gogebic	12/02/2015
Hart Downtown Historic District	Along South Street, roughly bounded by Main, Dryden, Water, and Lincoln Streets	Oceana	11/24/2015
Holy Family Orphanage	600 Altamont Street, Marquette	Marquette	10/05/2015
Elizabeth Cleveland Intermediate School (Public Schools of Detroit MPS)	13322 Conant Street, Detroit	Wayne	10/05/2015



Michigan Historic Preservation Network

313 E. Grand River Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48906  
517.371.8080

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lansing, MI  
Permit No 979



Printed on Recycled Paper

*To join MHPN, get more information about  
our organization and its activities,  
and to see a list of upcoming events, please  
go to our website at*

***www.MHPN.org***

*For Individuals and Households:*

- \$45 Basic Membership
- \$25 Student (enclose copy of student ID)
- \$25 Senior (age 60 and older)

*For other entities:*

- \$80 Organization/ Institution/  
Government
- \$140 Historic Resource Council
- \$150 Historic District Commission or  
Committee (up to 10 members)

***Please  
Join Us!***

***Complete  
and return  
the attached  
membership  
form today.***

*Add an optional extra gift to your membership:*

- \$50 Sustaining  \$250 Sponsor
- \$100 Patron  \$500 Benefactor

*Method of Payment:*

Check enclosed (payable to 'MHPN') Charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date M/Y \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 CVV (3 digit verification code on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ (required to process card)

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MHPN, 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing MI 48906 517-371-8080 fax 517-371-9090 info@mhpn.org