



network news

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

July 2009

MHPN, SHPO & City of Kalamazoo Collaborate on Ground-Breaking Sustainable Jobs Training

Jobs are tough to find right now, and programs that create sustainable jobs *and* practice sustainability are even rarer. Luckily for Michigan—that's changing.

In early June, a call went out across the state, attracting over 30 applicants from Saginaw, Bay City, Traverse City, Lansing, Detroit, Northville, Ann Arbor, Vandalia, Holland, Zeeland, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Why?

Twenty percent of the housing stock in the U.S. was built before 1950, and most of those homes have traditional wood double-hung windows. Repairing windows—rather than replacing them—and installing new, quality storm windows can be as energy efficient as installing new windows, and rehabbing windows keeps old, well-constructed materials out of our landfills. Just as important—even more so today—well-trained craftspeople that rehabilitate wood windows are well paid, and their jobs are local. That means much of the income they earn stays in their communities.

Preservation—or recycling historic properties—is the *ultimate* green endeavor, and for this collaborative job-training and preservation project, 12 people were chosen from the pool of 30 applicants to participate. The program began on July 6th, and runs for two full weeks. When completed, the trainees will depart with new window rehabilitation job skills that will also help preserve Michigan's historic building stock.

Building on its practical preservation training experience, MHPN is administering the Kalamazoo program, with funding from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and staff assistance from the City of Kalamazoo. Funding is provided through a SHPO-administered, federal Certified Local Government grant made to the City of Kalamazoo. Act Naturally Studios, Kalamazoo, is the media production partner for the project.



*The first day of class: window rehab trainees
(Courtesy Act Naturally Studios, Dominick Gladstone)*



*The training team (clockwise from top center):
Steve Stier, MHPN Training Program Coordinator,
Nancy Finegood, ED, MHPN, Marc Ferraro,
Instructor, Sharon Ferraro, City of Kalamazoo
Preservation Coordinator, Robin Adair, Instructor
(Courtesy Act Naturally Studios, Dominick Gladstone)*

Will “Right–Sizing” Reach Your Michigan City?

In Flint, it’s called “right-sizing.” In Saginaw, Habitat for Humanity will “deconstruct” two homes a week for the next two years. MHPN has been there, talking to the local governments—but what will *you* do if this takes place in your community? Historic building and sustainability advocates across the state are having this conversation now, and MHPN wants members and friends to have the information they need to be a part of informed community discussions.

While Michigan law does not prohibit demolition of historic properties with state funding, there is a federal law that requires a review if *federal* funding, licenses, or permits are required to undertake a project that may affect properties designated to OR eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including demolition. This federal law is commonly referred to as “Section 106 Review.” If you believe that your local government is planning to undertake work that may affect a National Register listed OR eligible property, you should do three things:

One. Educate yourself on how Section 106 works. Go to the State Historic Preservation Office’s website at: www.michigan.gov/shpo. Scroll down to and click on “Environmental Review.” For additional information on Section 106 for potential HUD–funded demolition work, go to: <http://mishporehab.wordpress.com/>.

Two. Call your Community Development or Planning department and ask if they will use federal funding and/or require federal licenses/permits to carry out the project. If so, ask if they are familiar with Section 106. If so, and they have begun a review, become a part of the process (see: “Three.”) If they are *not* familiar with Section 106, they should *immediately* contact the responsible state or federal agency about compliance, informing the agency of the existence of designated or eligible historic property within or nearby the project area.

Three. Get involved. If you own a NR–designated or eligible property that may be affected, are a member of a local advocacy group, or care about the property’s fate,

you can be part of this public process. You may be able to assist your government by providing information about the property, and/or can request to be a part of the public review portion of the Review.

If your community has abandoned and vacant historic properties that are NOT being demolished, designated or not, please become part of the community solution that helps to stabilize and save these resources. MHPN and National Trust Field Representatives Nan Taylor and Deb Odette reviewed and published a collection of approaches for vacant properties, and here are two that are both preservation and sustainability sensitive:

Richmond, VA: Neighborhoods in Bloom.

Richmond finds “Urban Pioneers” willing to buy, repair and move into vacant homes in 5 different historic neighborhoods. If “Pioneers” invest \$70,000 of their own money and stay in their house for 7 years, the City provides forgivable loans of up to \$35,000. Richmond redirected nearly all of its discretionary funds, including HOME and CDBG, to make a positive effect, and the results are dramatic. Go to: <http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/departments/communityDev/neighborhoods/>

Knoxville, TN: Knox Heritage’s “Vintage Homes program”

Knox Heritage, Knoxville’s local non–profit preservation advocacy agency, targets the most condemned homes in National Register Historic District neighborhoods, using two lines of credit, one from the National Trust and one from a local bank. They purchase or receive the house (if owned by the City) and rehabilitate it. Then, they sell the home and pay off their loans. In place for a decade, Knox Heritage has rehabbed and sold about one house annually, which have been catalysts for additional revitalization. Contact Executive Director Kim Trent at: info@knoxheritage.org or 865-523-8008.

To download the review of other vacant property programs, go www.mhpn.org, click on “Network Services & Programs” in the upper right, and then on “Effective Vacant Property Programs.”

MHPN Bestows A Record Fifteen Awards at Annual Ceremony

MHPN members and supporters gathered at San Chez's Third Floor in Grand Rapids on Friday evening, May 15, to present annual Preservation Awards to 15 people, organizations, and businesses across Michigan.

Receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2009 were well-known advocates from Michigan's lower east and west coasts. **Balthazar Korab** has logged more than five decades of distinguished international photographic work of architecture, art and landscapes—but it is his photo-documentary work of Michigan architecture, and his tireless preservation support,

that earned his award. Likewise, Grand Rapidians **Jack Hoffman and Rebecca Smith-Hoffman** earned a Lifetime Achievement award for their 30-plus years of work in the conference host city, including Rebecca's early work defending downtown buildings from parking-lot fates, and Jack's continued preservation law work. Together, they've forged a dynamic preservation legacy that continues to break new ground and helps set the standard for Michigan.

The committee chose three outstanding projects that used Federal and/or Michigan Rehabilitation



Jack Hoffman, (left), and Rebecca Smith-Hoffman (right), accept their award from colleague and former MHPN Board member Jennifer Metz (center). (Photo Courtesy of Amanda D. Davis)



*Balthazar Korab and his family, flanked by Nancy Finegood, ED (right) and Janet Kreger, Board VP (left).
(Courtesy Amanda D. Davis)*

Tax Credits in carrying out their projects, including: **Think Tank LLC**, Grand Rapids, for its rehabilitation of the vernacular International Style 1965 New York Life Insurance Company building; the **Great Lakes Center Foundation** in Bay City, for the rehabilitation of the 1904 Prairie Style Pere Marquette Depot; and the **Christman Company**, Lansing, for rehabilitating the former Michigan Millers Mutual Fire Insurance Company as its new headquarters.

Citizen awards went to: **Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell of Ann Arbor**, for their protection of the Bowers Harbor Inn and surrounding property in Traverse City, and to **Nicholas Bozen** of Lansing for his three decades of preservation legal assistance.

The Government/Institutional Award was presented to **Eastern Michigan University** for its two decades of dedication and preservation of EMU's historic core

campus—where many buildings are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Seven Building Awards were presented this year, and include: **Armory Arts Village**, for the adaptive reuse of the former Armory and old State Prison in Jackson; the **Harbor Springs Area Historical Society**, for restoring the Harbor Springs History Museum; the **Arenac Heritage Route Authority and Michigan Department of Transportation**, for the Standish Historical Depot Welcome Center rehabilitation; the **Glazier Building** rehabilitation in Ann Arbor; the **Grand Rapids Public Schools**, for Harrison Park Elementary School rehabilitation; **Keweenaw National Historical Park**, for rehabilitating the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Administration Building, and the **Inner City Christian Federation**, Grand Rapids, for its rehabilitation work on the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children as its headquarters.

Upcoming MHPN Events and Activities

Anytime...

B.Y.O.H.H. (Bring Your Own Hard Hat!)

Want to show off your work *prior* to the ribbon cutting?? MHPN's Historic Resource Council (HRC) seeks active construction projects whose owners are willing to host construction tours for interested people—to raise awareness *and* funding for the MHPN. The HRC will help schedule events where fellow colleagues, co-workers, friends and others can tour your project for small (or large) donations to MHPN. We promise lots of free marketing through invitations and advertising! Contact Cheryl Early at cheryllearly@yahoo.com or 734-751-8568 (or the Lansing office) to discuss details.

August 28 at 6:00pm

Presentation Abstracts due for MHPN's 30th Anniversary Conference, May 13-15, 2010 in Ann Arbor.

See Appendix in this issue for complete details.

October 2

MHPN Annual Fall Benefit
Riverside Art Center, Ypsilanti
Information and Reservations:
info@mhpn.org or 517-371-8080

September 10

Oakland County Heritage Conference
Pontiac

September 15-16

Michigan Downtown Conference
Lansing

August 14

Main Street Oakland County 2009 Workshop Series, Waterford
Workshop #3: "Lead Your Downtown from Brown to Green."
8:30am to 4:30pm
www.MainStreetOaklandCounty.com

September 25

House Party! MHPN/Peter Dougherty Society
Bowers Harbor Inn, Traverse City

October 13-17

National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference
Nashville, TN

August 21-22

MHPN Quarterly Board Meeting and Annual Retreat
Cassopolis

November 5

Preservation Wayne Annual Membership Meeting and Awards

For additional information about these or any MHPN activities contact us at info@mhpn.org or call 517.371.8080

Please
Join us!

Complete
and return
the attached
membership
form today.

For Individuals & Households:

_____ \$40 Basic Membership
_____ \$20 Student (enclose copy of student ID)
_____ \$20 Senior (age 60 and older)
_____ \$100 Patron (includes \$60 gift)
_____ \$250 Sponsor (includes \$210 gift)
_____ \$500 Benefactor (includes \$460 gift)

For other entities:

_____ \$75 Organization / Business /
Institution / Government
_____ \$120 Historic Resource Council
_____ \$150 Historic District Commission or Study
Committee (up to 10 people)

Method of Payment:

___ Check enclosed (payable to "MHPN") Charge my: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Am Ex

Name on Card: _____

Member's Name _____

Phone _____

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2009 Conference Sponsorships Up; Geographic Diversity Increases

The Triple Bottom Line, this year's conference, May 14–16, garnered **unprecedented support** from throughout Michigan. MHPN thanks these sponsors for their resolute encouragement of MHPN's mission and in particular this conference, its largest annual educational gathering.

Karp + Associates, Lansing
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 Don and Linda Weir, Jonesville
 BlackBerry Window and Door Systems, Kalamazoo
 Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group Inc., Jackson

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 Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program, Ypsilanti
 Finnicum Brownlie Architects, Franklin
 Hamilton Anderson Associates, Detroit
 HopkinsBurns Design Studio, Ann Arbor
 Helen A. Kreger, Ann Arbor



*2009 MHPN Conference: Douglas J and United Way session
 (Courtesy Amanda D. Davis)*

Rod Kreger and Betsy LaVier, Satellite Beach, FL
 Lott3Metz Architecture, LLC, Grand Rapids
 Past Perfect, Grand Rapids
 Plante & Moran, PLLC, Auburn Hills
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 Preservation Ladies & Gents, Michigan
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 Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter of the Society of
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 Library Design Associates, Inc., Plymouth

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MHPN also recognizes its many talented & dedicated volunteers, and its partners: Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries through the State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan Historical Center; National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington DC and Midwest Regional (Chicago) Offices; and Preservation Action.



*2009 MHPN Conference: Heritage Hill Homes session
 (Courtesy Amanda D. Davis)*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A **Call for Abstracts** for the 2010 MHPN Conference presentations has been issued by MHPN's conference committee. The conference will take place in Ann Arbor, May 13–15, 2010. Send us your ideas NOW. Abstracts are due August 28th. For complete details see the newsletter's Appendix.

- At its annual meeting on May 15, 2009, the following were **Elected to the MHPN Board of Directors:**

Mid-year appointees, elected to first, 3-year term:

Julie Courtney

Richard Hosey

Ruth E. Mills

Lisa Nuskowski

Elected to first, 3-year term:

Sheila Bashiri

Meredith Long

Elected to second, 3-year term:

Randy Case

Elected to third, 3-year term:

Steve Fox

Retiring from the board were:

Kathy Duquette

Kristine Kidorf

James Turner

(We thank them for their many years of dedicated service!)

- **Resigning from the Board on May 15 and since that time are:**

Daniel Schneider & Frank Fiala

2009–2010 Officers: Elaine Robinson, President; Janet Kreger, Vice-President; Gary Scheuren, Treasurer; Lisa Nuskowski, Secretary



Michigan Historic Preservation Network

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

30th Anniversary of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Annual Conference
At the historic Michigan League on the Central Campus of the University of Michigan

Celebrating Michigan's Cultural Heritage: Creating Sustainable Communities (working title)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

You are invited to submit an abstract to be considered for presentation at the 30th Annual Conference of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, May 13-15, 2010 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Conference Theme: The 2010 conference initiates the 30th anniversary year of the MHPN. Presentations should celebrate the continuing success and growth of the organization as an important statewide source of quality information on historic preservation, sustainable communities, and integrated design that fosters respect for our citizens and the places in which we live, work, and play.

Conference Tracks: Three conference tracks highlight the overarching conference theme.

- **Celebrating Michigan's Cultural Heritage** – this track explores:
 - the history of preservation programs and education in Michigan;
 - the future of preservation through topics such as “green” rehabilitation of residential, commercial, and institutional properties;
 - recognition of Mid-Century Modernism;
 - heritage tourism, place-based destinations and the “experience economy;”
 - preservation case studies, ranging from museum-quality restoration to inspirational adaptive reuse.

- **Historic Preservation Skills** – this track emphasizes the skills and knowledge to execute successful preservation projects throughout Michigan, including:
 - best practices in historic preservation and sustainable development;
 - the economic benefits of preservation through the use of various programs of assistance, tax credits, easements and other incentives;
 - the opportunities to be found in specialized training, advocacy and outreach; and
 - the roles and services of MHPN, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

- **Historic Resources Council** – this track offers and encourages:

- in-depth exposure to actual projects and the people doing hands-on work with historic buildings.
- in-seat presentations, complemented by off-site field sessions (either walkable or by bus) with hands-on demonstrations of materials conservation.
- participation from the preservation trades and professionals, as well as individuals working on their own historic properties.

Submission: Word file, to include the following:

- **Title and Topic Sentence:** 40 words or less, and similar to the succinct bulleted track titles and descriptions above.
- **Abstract:** 250 words or less, expanding on the title and topic sentence to describe the major points and to list specific learning objectives for the presentation, allowing the session to qualify for continuing education credits (i.e. AIA and AICP). (Note: The Michigan Historic Preservation Network endorses the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties and asks those who speak at the conference to reflect adherence to them in the projects they present.)
- **Biography:** 150 words or less, with full name, letter suffixes, title, employer (if applicable), education, relevant experience, and role in the project.
- **Speaker's Contact Information:** for use by conference planning committee, including name, phone and fax numbers, address, and email.

Abstracts Due: on or before Friday, August 28, 2009 at 6:00 PM, to Norman Tyler, 126 N. Division Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or via email: ntyler@emich.edu. Questions may be directed to Norman Tyler or Janet Kreger (kregerj@msu.edu) for clarification.

Acceptance: The conference committee will notify selected speakers on or before Friday, September 25, 2009 to confirm participation and to verify accuracy of the abstract. If selected, MHPN waives the registration fee on the day he or she speaks and offers reduced registration fees for any additional conference days. In return, the speaker agrees to present during the designated time slot without compensation or expectation of reimbursement for costs related to participation. Two weeks before the conference, speakers using PowerPoint are expected to submit the presentation to MHPN electronically or on CD, allowing MHPN to have back-up presentations on-site and to be able to compile them for MHPN educational purposes.

Speaker Recognition: Speakers will have their names included in a well-recognized conference brochure with a distribution of over 14,000 copies in Michigan, noted on preservation-related websites and in e-blasts, and featured at a conference with over 400 participants.