

# network news

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

September 2011

## Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center site of MHPN Annual Fall Benefit

The 2011 Michigan Historic Preservation Network's Fall Benefit will take place on Friday evening, October 14, 2011, at the Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center (right) in Detroit, Michigan. The principal goal of the event is to raise funds to promote historic preservation in Michigan through the Network. Plans for this festive evening include music, strolling refreshments, and a silent and live auction—all set in the c. 1895 classical Beaux Arts style building in the heart of Michigan's historic Harmonie Park. For more information on the program, to donate an item for the live or silent auction (or both), and for online registration, please visit our website at: <http://mhpn.org/fallbenefit.html>.



(image courtesy of John Risk)

## MHPN Recipient of an Award— at Our Own Awards Ceremony!

Every year, one of the highlights of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network Annual Conference is the Awards program. This is our chance to honor people, places, projects, and preservation around the state—truly a feel-good moment for everyone involved. This year, the program was held on Friday, May 13, in the theater at the Saugatuck Arts Center. After a wonderful reception in the lobby, we moved into the theater, where the lights were dimmed, and the program began.

First to the stage was Mr. Park Smith, AIA, who had been asked to talk about the David Evans Memorial Award. David Evans was one of us: a preservationist, a member of MHPN, and in fact,



*Park Smith, representing the Michigan Architectural Foundation, presents the "big check" to MHPN Executive Director Nancy Finegood and MHPN President Janet Kreger (image courtesy of Amanda Davis)*

the MHPN treasurer. As a result, this award is near and dear to our hearts. When David passed away suddenly in the summer of 1998, we knew we lost someone very important to preservation in Michigan. However, from bad things often come spectacular results. It was in his honor that the David Evans Memorial Award was established. And we like to think he would be pleased that this is how he is remembered.

The award is meant for the small preservation project undertaken by a not-for-profit organization that sometimes risks everything to take a stand for an irreplaceable

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# 12 Award Winners Honored at Annual Conference

At the 2011 MHPN Awards Ceremony and Reception, held at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts during the MHPN 2011 Annual Conference, 12 deserving award winners from across Michigan won awards in seven categories.

## Citizen Awards

*Willard "Bill" Finch, Stockbridge.* After assisting in the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol beginning in 1989, Bill Finch served as the Capitol's master decorative painter from 1992 until his retirement in December 2010. Throughout his career, Bill zealously strived to preserve the craftsmanship of many talented artists, both past and present.

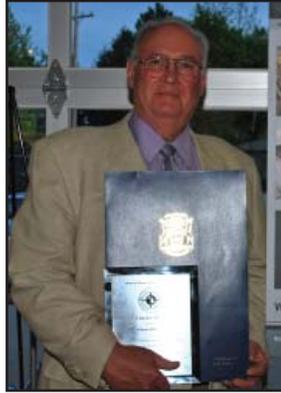


Image courtesy of Amanda Davis



Image courtesy of Amanda Davis

*Sharon Ferraro, Kalamazoo.* Sharon Ferraro has served as Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator for ten years. She is a knowledgeable, passionate, and diplomatic advocate for historic preservation as a cultural and economic development tool.

## Community Award

*The Museum of Ojibwa Culture, St. Ignace.* The Museum of Ojibwa Culture brought together this Upper Peninsula community to restore the historic Old Mission Church as a community landmark and cultural center. Local contractors, businesses, government departments, and private citizens donated time, expertise, and materials to complete this restoration under a very limited budget.



## Government / Institutional Award and Community Award

*Laketown Township.* The township and community were recognized for their leadership in developing and implementing the Township's master plan for historic preservation, achieved through governmental leadership, the volunteer efforts of citizens, and strategic collaboration with local and regional partners.

MHPN instituted a new award category this year, the **Preservation Gem Award**. This award is presented to an outstanding preservation project that includes restoration or rehabilitation of an element of a building, or of a structure or an object. The winners of this year's Preservation Gem Awards are:

*The Felt Estate Water Garden, Holland.* Buried under tons of muck, weeds, and crumbling cement, the 1924 Felt Estate Water Garden had been lost to view until it was quite literally stumbled upon. The rehabilitation of this 75-foot diameter wonder restored the beauty and essence of the water garden while retaining its historic integrity.



*The Rochester-Avon Historical Society, Rochester Hills* for the restoration of a 1938 WPA Federal Art Project Mural at the former Rochester High School building. The mural, which had been hidden behind drywall for nearly 30 years and damaged during prior renovations, was painstakingly taken down, meticulously restored using historic photographs, and proudly rehung.



## Cultural Landscape Award

*River Raisin National Battlefield Park and River Raisin Heritage Trail, Monroe.* The site of arguably the largest land engagement of the War of 1812, the River Raisin Battlefield was reclaimed from nearly two centuries of intervening development and scientifically rehabilitated to preserve and interpret the history of this pivotal conflict.

## Tax Credit Award

*Richard Karp and Kevin Prater, for the Durant Hotel Redevelopment, Flint.* The developers utilized Michigan's Historic Preservation Tax Credits to rehabilitate Flint's landmark 1920 Durant Hotel into a successful mixed-use facility, which has contributed to the revitalization of Flint's downtown.



Image courtesy of Kraemer Group

And finally, MHPN's highest honor, the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

## MHPN Recipient of an Award—at Our Own Awards Ceremony!

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*John Halsey, East Lansing.* John Halsey recently retired as the State Archaeologist of Michigan after a 35 year career safeguarding the state's archaeological treasures.

*Image courtesy of Amanda Davis*

*Michael L. Quinn, Ann Arbor.* A founding partner of Ann Arbor's Quinn Evans Architects, Michael Quinn has been a leader in Michigan's architectural design and preservation community for over 40 years.



*Image courtesy of Amanda Davis*



*Image courtesy of Amanda Davis*

*James Schmiechen, Saugatuck.* James Schmiechen, a professor emeritus of history at Central Michigan University, is a longtime leader and advocate in the Saugatuck-Douglas preservation community.

historic building. How fitting that the grant was established by two organizations whose values David would embrace. One, the Clannad Foundation, was founded by Jeanne and Ralph Graham to support cultural education and advocacy among other humanitarian undertakings. The other, the Michigan Architectural Foundation, supported the cause of historic preservation in its earliest years and fought to have the work of preservation architects recognized so that someone like David could become a member of the AIA's College of Fellows in 1997.

The award has gone to such diverse projects as the Shielding Tree Nature Center to restore the Lawr Farm, in Port Oneida; the Coopersville Area Historical Society for the restoration of Interurban Car #8; the Pewabic House in Houghton; the Corktown Tenement House; the Sheriff's Residence for the Luce County Historical Society; the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station in Milford; the Detroit Fire Department's Engine 11; to the Perkins-Copland Log Cabin; the new home of the Chippewa County Historical Society in Sault Ste Marie; the 1928 "Outdoor Room" at the William E. Scripps Estate in Lake Orion; and to the Charlevoix South Pier Lighthouse Restoration.

After reading a touching tribute to David Evans, Park Smith gathered his "big check" and made the announcement of the 2011 winners...

Michigan Historic Preservation Network and our project to purchase and restore the Thelma Joyce Osteen Comfort Station in Lansing's Old Town Neighborhood! As you can see by the accompanying photograph—MHPN's President, Janet Kreger and Executive Director, Nancy Finegood, were surprised, and pleased, to accept the honor.



Can you think of a project or person worthy of winning an award at next May's 2012 conference in Flint? The Call for Award Submissions will be available in November!

*We just can't get enough of that big check! From left to right: Ruth Mills, Park Smith, Gary Scheuren, Janet Kreger, Elaine Robinson, Nan Taylor, Melissa Milton-Pung, and Nancy Finegood.*

## “Model Change-Over: A New Era for Historic Preservation in Michigan”

### 32nd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

May 10-12, 2012, Masonic Temple, Flint, Michigan

A model change-over, for those of us who have lived in the automobile capitol of the world for any length of time, is a time of expectation. It happens every fall when the assembly lines are stopped and re-tooled. At the North American International Auto Show in January, you then may find that your long-time favorite has some subtle restyling, or there's the flashbulb-popping excitement of a completely new model. When the concept of model change-over is applied to historic preservation, however, and is introduced at a time of economic uncertainty and a significant change in our state's political direction, it is anything but benign. In the work we do—in which an impossibly delicate balance is maintained saving irreplaceable historic buildings while using their preservation as a sturdy tool of economic revitalization—ill-designed adjustments under the hood can cause more harm than good...or inspire fresh, creative thinking.

So it's good that we make our way to Flint for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's 32nd annual conference. Plenty of Michigan communities are suffering their share of economic blows. As the state works to reclaim its fiscal health, leadership is using new methods and proposing different opportunities. Flint—the home of the nation's first sit-down strike—is hardly one to sit it out, and preservation is part of its own plan to jumpstart its economic engine. This efficient redevelopment tool that keeps people in their traditional neighborhoods and downtowns, intensifies use of urban infrastructure, and keeps sprawl in check, appeals to a community that's always done a lot with a little.

This year's conference is not just for Flint and its large, industrialized peers because we are witness to creative and effective model change-overs everywhere as Michigan residents rally their knack for moving on, reinventing themselves with little fanfare or the need for much help. Small and medium communities, rural districts, and large cities

alike have been slammed by economic uncertainty, but are finding ways not just to hold their own, but to move forward. Vacant structures are found on streetscapes everywhere, but one community's success at reusing buildings inspires its neighbors to do the same. Everyone is experiencing leaner budgets, loss of government support, and fewer donations, yet tapping creative ways to start filling the gaps.

But perhaps best of all, Michigan communities, no matter what their size, share opportunities unexplored until faced with crisis. Everyone is open to greater collaboration for increased funding, for example, often among partners that have never been involved in preservation before. Design professionals are more firmly connecting preservation with the Green Movement and LEED rating systems as a means to show their clients that old buildings can be top-notch energy savers. And all of us are experiencing the excitement of discovering an entirely new generation of historic buildings—the Mid-Century Moderns that are bringing Michigan to international attention, and that we can spare from the cycle of public disinterest and loss before we wake up to their importance.

The conference includes four tracks. Track One explores the conference theme of historic properties and cultural developments influenced by water. Track Two looks at the policies, designations, incentives,

and laws you need to protect often-fragile resources. Track Three studies hands-on techniques that make preservation possible. Track Four presents tours of the host communities that will inspire you. Also included is your invitation to the community open house, the vendors' showcase, Saturday sessions for historic district commissioners, and presentation of MHPN's annual preservation awards.

Come celebrate with us in Flint in 2012!



*The Masonic Temple, Flint  
Site of MHPN's 2012 Annual Conference*

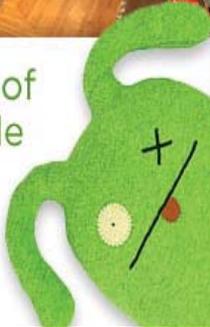
## Join us at Leon and Lulu's!

Get ready to do some holiday shopping on Thursday November 3rd to benefit MHPN! Leon and Lulu's in downtown Clawson will be hosting a house party for MHPN and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to MHPN. Watch your e-mails for more details this fall!



Leon & Lulu is an eclectic mix of upscale furniture, unforgettable gifts, and accessories in an environment unlike any other.

live well. laugh much. shop often.



## MHPN Wish List

While MHPN is always grateful for financial donations, sometimes we just need stuff! Below is a recent list from the MHPN office staff and board members on our current needs.

- PowerPoint projector (ours died a nasty death in 2009!)
- Kitchen/storage cabinet with doors (24" wide x 36" tall or 48" wide x 36" tall)
- An upright vacuum (we do our own cleaning to keep costs down and the one we have is a loaner on its last legs).
- Ink cartridges for two different printers (HP 61 black and color; HP 96 black/ 97 color)
- Computer networking system (two or more computers and printers) and IT assistance for Lansing office
- Pre-paid gas credit cards (Michigan is a big state and our staff travels to much of it every year!)
- Items for our annual Silent and Live Auctions. Used items/antiques must be clean and in good condition. Prefer delivery to Lansing office, but pick-up may be arranged. Lodging/travel is always a popular item in our auctions.

For news of upcoming events or to join  
MHPN online, go to our  
NEW WEBSITE at  
[www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org)

Please  
Join us!  
  
Complete  
and return  
the attached  
membership  
form today.

### For Individuals and 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)

### Method of Payment:

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

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date M/Y \_\_\_\_\_

CVV (3 digit verification code on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ (required to process card)

### For other entities:

- \$75 Organization/ Institution/  
Government  
 \$120 Historic Resource Council  
 \$150 Historic District Commission or  
Committee (up to 10 members)

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## Join Our Social Network!



Since May 2011, MHPN has increased its social networking presence to facilitate preservation efforts, share the latest MHPN news, and interact with MHPN members and the public. Check out our new blog, Facebook, and Twitter!

Read about the latest MHPN events and news and learn about local preservation efforts on our new blog at [mhpn.wordpress.com](http://mhpn.wordpress.com). We are looking for guest bloggers! If you're interested in contributing to the blog, contact Elaine Robinson at [ehrobinson@crginc.com](mailto:ehrobinson@crginc.com).



"Like" us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Historic-Preservation-Network/164028190326738](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Historic-Preservation-Network/164028190326738). Or join our Facebook group, <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16858588940>.

Follow our tweets at [twitter.com/mihpn](http://twitter.com/mihpn).



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