



News Release

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State to Hold Planning Workshop in Grand Rapids Seeking Public Input about the Future of Historic Preservation in Michigan

Grand Rapids - The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Michigan State Housing Development Authority, will hold a workshop in Grand Rapids, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17, at the Women's City Club, 254 East Fulton Street. The workshop, which is free and open to the public, will be facilitated by Alan Levy and Kristine Kidorf of Goaltrac, Inc. Refreshments will be provided.

Since 1927 the Women's City Club has been located in the Martin Sweet House, a two-story Italianate Villa built in the 1860s.

"Grand Rapids is proof of how the rehabilitation of historic buildings contributes to vibrant communities. We are offering workshop participants an opportunity to meet with others who are interested in preserving our history and to discuss the future of historic preservation in this state," said State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway. "Public input that we gather at this workshop will help shape the preservation agenda for the next five years."

Similar discussions have taken place around the state in Kalamazoo, Midland, Traverse City, and Detroit. The workshops give Michigan residents a chance to share their vision for historic preservation in Michigan, identify the threats and opportunities facing Michigan's historic resources, and set the direction for historic preservation activities throughout the state for the next five years.

There is no charge for the workshop, however, registration is required. Visit <http://www.regonline.com/SHPOPlanGrandRapids> to register for the Grand Rapids workshop by November 14. For more information contact the SHPO at 517-373-1630.

The State Historic Preservation Office is part of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) , which provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve decent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents and to engage in community economic development activities to revitalize urban and rural communities.*

*MSHDA's loans and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds as well as notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. Proceeds are loaned at below-market interest rates to developers of rental housing, and help fund mortgages and home improvement loans. MSHDA also administers several federal housing programs. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mshda

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