

# Agenda

## Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, July 9, 2025

6:00 PM

Community Room at City Hall – 241 West South Street

### A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.
  - Kaila Akina
  - Fred Edison
  - Nora Harris
  - Kyle Hibbard - *Chair*
  - Dusti Morton
  - Melissa Paduk
  - Patrick Vail

### B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on 11 June 2025

### D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### E. REPORTS

1. Financial Report
2. O'Connor Fund Report
3. City Hall Designation Effort
4. MI SHPO Preservation Plan Workshop Summary
5. Threats to Historic Preservation

6. Section 106 Reviews - Quarter 2

7. Gravestone Cleaning Report

**F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Sexton's Lodge Financial Support

2. **Encouraging Community Wide Engagement Document Review**

**G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

1. Coordinator's Report

**H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The mission of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission is to educate the public and city leaders on the value of preserving the City's historic resources and to advise the City Commission accordingly. Questions and comments regarding this agenda should be directed to the Historic Preservation Coordinator at 337-8804.

Comments under the "Public Comments" section of the agenda are limited to four minutes per speaker. During agenda items, comments from members of the public are also limited to four minutes each, unless the speaker is invited to join in the discussion by the Commission.

**Minutes**  
**Historic Preservation Commission**  
City of Kalamazoo



**Wednesday, June 11th<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street**

**A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Called to order at 6:00pm.

**B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA**

Edison approved  
Vail 2<sup>nd</sup>

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Paduk in H start new paragraph. Hibbard Commissioner Comments Dusti with I not Y. F2 Hibbard had our heads needs to be wrapped our hands around this. Edison food sovereignty coordinator. Wyatt with Gun Lake tribe from the Little River Band. Mount Home cemeteries should be Mountain Home.  
Vail motion to approve as amended .  
Harris 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

O'Connor glad the budget has been worked out and I understand how its going to work. I think it also calls for a group that we brought together last year to work on whether or not we would have gift program and how we would figure that out to put together some sort of budget so we are not running around at the last minute. Need to have a regular planning calendar for the KHPC. That will help guide us budget discussions. Question about encouraging communitywide engagement discussion not able to exactly understand whats going on. I think I missed a meeting, but I see that's F2 so it will be discussed later. I may be working with an old work plan for 2025 mine at the top still says diversity, inclusion and whatever. That hasn't been amended and replaced with this or whatever this comes with and should be for clarity.

**E. REPORTS**

1. Financial Report  
Pena read report

2. O'Connor Fund Report  
Pena looks like a bigger gap then usual. Not a substantial amount of money \$500.00 down for the OKN one and \$90.00 down from the other. We will bounce back. Hibbard we are meeting tomorrow about the grants for the year are we going to trust the applicants schedules then request to move the money two months before they their expected end date? Pena we can wait as long as we want

no stipulation written that I am aware of. We could wait even until the four month mark. Hibbard it's a matter of filtering it through the new City account? Pena yes. O'Connor we should wait until the job has been approved, assuming that we make a grant. The money is still available between 15 and 30 days from the request day.

3. City Hall Designation Effort

O'Connor submitted report on what happened and still needs to happen. Hibbard there was an updated noted on 5/27. Akina says the subcommittee and former KHPC member met with the City Commissioner Chris Pradle was it because his schedule was open? Luis mentioned there was a City Commissioner liaison for different committees within the city it that connected to that to? Pena I don't think we have one anymore at one point there probably was a direct liaison.

4. Cemetery Cleaning Report

Morton I joined with Garys group on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Stryker does quite a bit with cleaning Veterans stones. They were at Riverside and several stones were raised that were sunk. He has a cleaning on the 14<sup>th</sup> working on pioneer stones that's at 9:30 at Mountain Home. Evan has had some input on book we are working on. Will talk to Gary about that as well. The JC's are doing a cemetery tour in the fall. They do Kalamazoo Ghost Tours. Gary is looking into doing an interactive actor-driven cemetery tour for Mountain Home.

**F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

1. Historic Preservation Awards of Merit Expenditures

Pena reached out to Michelle Johnson and have not heard back. We can print out award and give to her then next year include in the award ceremony. Hibbard when we make contact with that organization we can discuss that.

Vail move to recommend approving the budget for the Historic Preservation Awards of Merit not to exceed \$350.00 and on a recurring basis from the O'Connor one account from the spendable portion.

Unanimous

2. Encouraging Community-Wide Engagement Discussion

Edison I talked to individuals the meeting didn't happen. What was discussed in the individual conversations was on there and what we are doing moving forward.

Pena it was just a change in name so everything can be on the same page. The next steps we got a letter put together and wanted to mail to the groups that were identified or affiliated with minority individuals in the community. Steering them to Kalamazoo Public Library you can get on the entire Kalamazoo Gazette if you have a library card.

**G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Pena didn't include

**H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Edison on the ancient garden beds committee with Kalamazoo in Bloom we got some information on Menominee Michigan put out by NPR and a study done by Dartmouth some ancient garden beds are existed up there.

Akina there are two folks that joined that work with the Gun Lake Tribe and are tribal members that work with your garden group. That is due to their affiliation with the tribe. The second person who joined the garden group is Rebecca Roupe.

Harris Western will be tearing down a few buildings on East Campus, Vander Cook Hall demolition has started on that on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Hazardous waste and material abatement has started and moving into demolition July through August.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Hibbard moved to adjourn 6:50 pm.

The mission of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission is to educate the public and city leaders on the value of preserving the City's historic resources and to advise the City Commission accordingly. Questions and comments regarding this agenda should be directed to the Historic Preservation Coordinator at 337-8804.

Comments under the "Public Comments" section of the agenda are limited to four minutes per speaker. During agenda items, comments from members of the public are also limited to four minutes each, unless the speaker is invited to join in the discussion by the Commission.

**Expenditure Detail Report**  
 City of Kalamazoo  
 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025

270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND  
 803 HISTORIC COMMISSION

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Adjusted Appropriation</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Prct Used</u>
270-803-00.000	HISTORIC COMMISSION						
270-803-00.000	HISTORIC COMMISSION						
270-803-00.000-729.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
5/19/2025	budadj BA 2918	-13.25					
	Line Description: XFER FRM O'CONNOR FUND BALANCE						
	Document Description: O'CONNOR DON TO HISTORIC PRES						
270-803-00.000-729.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	486.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	486.75	0.00
270-803-00.000-801.000	PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
2/17/2025	po PO P-050651				150.00		
	Line Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PR						
	Vendor: 033635 KALAMAZOO NONPROFIT ADVOCACY, COALITION						
	Document Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PI						
	Check # 0						
2/17/2025	invoice IN 3410		236.55				
	Line Description: HPC MEETING CATERING						
	Vendor: 023596 JIMMY JOHNS						
	Document Description: HPC MEETING CATERING						
	Check # 1154855						
3/17/2025	invoice IN 3410 - 021925		260.20				
	Line Description: HPC MEETING CATERING						
	Vendor: 023596 JIMMY JOHNS						
	Document Description: CPED - HPC MEETING CATERING						
	Check # 1155582						
3/27/2025	invoice IN 1787		150.00				
	Line Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PR						
	Vendor: 033635 KALAMAZOO NONPROFIT ADVOCACY, COALITION						
	Document Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PI						
	Check # 1155652						
3/27/2025	po LI 1787				-150.00		
	Line Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PR						
	Vendor: 033635 KALAMAZOO NONPROFIT ADVOCACY, COALITION						
	Document Description: ROOM RENTAL - O'CONNOR FUND PI						
	Check # 1155652						
270-803-00.000-801.000	PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	500.00	646.75	646.75	0.00	-146.75	129.35
270-803-00.000-810.003	MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
270-803-00.000-810.003	MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
270-803-00.000-811.000	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
5/15/2025	invoice IN 142		1,114.56				
	Line Description: MI HISTORIC PRES NETWORK CONF						
	Vendor: 003962 MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION						
	Document Description: CPED - MI HISTORIC PRES NETWORK						
	Check # 1157067						
5/16/2025	genjnl GJ 26373		-1,114.56				
	Line Description: MOVE HISTRIC COMMISSION INV142						
	Document Description: MOVE HISTORIC COMMISSION INVOI						
5/19/2025	budadj BA 2918		-100.00				
	Line Description: XFER FRM O'CONNOR FUND BALANCE						
	Document Description: O'CONNOR DON TO HISTORIC PRES						

**Expenditure Detail Report**  
 City of Kalamazoo  
 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025

**270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND**  
**803 HISTORIC COMMISSION**

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Adjusted Appropriation</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Prct Used</u>
<b>Total</b>	HISTORIC COMMISSION	1,186.75	646.75	646.75	0.00	540.00	54.50
270-803-03.000	KCF O'CONNOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION						
270-803-03.000	KCF O'CONNOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION						
270-803-03.000-729.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/19/2025	budadj BA 2918	2,786.75					
5/19/2025	Line Description: HISTORIC PRESERVATON AMENDMENT budadj BA 2918	13.25					
5/19/2025	Line Description: XFER FRM O'CONNOR FUND BALANCE						
270-803-03.000-729.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	2,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.00	0.00
270-803-03.000-811.000	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/16/2025	genjrl GJ 26373		1,114.56				
5/19/2025	Line Description: MOVE HISTRIC COMMISSION INV142 budadj BA 2918	2,100.00					
5/19/2025	Line Description: HISTORIC PRESERVATON AMENDMENT budadj BA 2918	100.00					
6/16/2025	Line Description: XFER FRM O'CONNOR FUND BALANCE invoice IN 145110		270.30				
6/16/2025	Line Description: LODGING DURING MI HISTORICAL P Vendor: 011304 BEST WESTERN SAULT STE MARIE						
270-803-03.000-811.000	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	2,200.00	1,384.86	1,384.86	0.00	815.14	62.95
270-803-03.000-882.000	SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/19/2025	budadj BA 2918	10,000.00					
5/19/2025	Line Description: HISTORIC PRESERVATON AMENDMENT						
270-803-03.000-882.000	SPONSORSHIPS	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
270-803-03.000-956.000	GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5/19/2025	budadj BA 2918	10,000.00					
5/19/2025	Line Description: HISTORIC PRESERVATON AMENDMENT						
270-803-03.000-956.000	GRANTS	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	KCF O'CONNOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION	25,000.00	1,384.86	1,384.86	0.00	23,615.14	5.54
<b>Total</b>	HISTORIC COMMISSION	26,186.75	2,031.61	2,031.61	0.00	24,155.14	7.76

**Expenditure Detail Report**  
 City of Kalamazoo  
 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025

270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND  
 970 TRANSFERS OUT - OPERATING

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Adjusted Appropriation</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Expenditures</u>	<u>Year-to-date Encumbrances</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Prct Used</u>
270-970-00.000	TRANSFERS OUT - OPERATING						
270-970-00.000	TRANSFERS OUT - OPERATING						
<b>Total</b>	TRANSFERS OUT - OPERATING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND	26,186.75	2,031.61	2,031.61	0.00	24,155.14	7.76
	<b>Grand Total</b>	26,186.75	2,031.61	2,031.61	0.00	24,155.14	7.76

City of Kalamazoo  
 1/ 1/2025 through 12/31/2025

270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND

<i>Account Number</i>	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Debits</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>YTD Debits</i>	<i>YTD Credits</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<b>Assets</b>						
270-000-00.000-001.001 BANK 1 CASH (OPERATING-POC	1,259.75	0.00	2,104.61	0.00	2,104.61	844.86 CR
<b>Total Assets</b>	1,259.75	0.00	2,104.61	0.00	2,104.61	844.86 CR
<b>Liabilities</b>						
270-000-00.000-202.000 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	73.00 CR	2,104.61	2,031.61	2,104.61	2,031.61	0.00
270-000-00.000-214.705 DUE TO DISBURSEMENT FUND	0.00	2,104.61	2,104.61	2,104.61	2,104.61	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	73.00 CR	4,209.22	4,136.22	4,209.22	4,136.22	0.00
<b>Equities</b>						
270-000-00.000-385.001 FUND BALANCE - ASSIGNED FO	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
270-000-00.000-390.000 FUND BALANCE - UNASSIGNED	1,186.75 CR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,186.75 CR
<b>Total Equities</b>	1,186.75 CR	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,186.75 CR
<b>Operating</b>						
270-000-00.000-700.000 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE CONTR	0.00	3,146.17	1,114.56	3,146.17	1,114.56	2,031.61
270-000-00.000-700.002 ENCUMBRANCE CONTROL	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
<b>Total Operating</b>	0.00	3,296.17	1,264.56	3,296.17	1,264.56	2,031.61
<b>Budgetary</b>						
270-000-00.000-390.001 FUND BALANCE - BUDGETARY F	0.00	25,000.00	25,113.25	25,000.00	25,113.25	113.25 CR
270-000-00.000-400.001 BUDGET REVENUE CONTROL	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
270-000-00.000-700.001 BUDGET EXPENDITURE CONTR	0.00	113.25	25,000.00	113.25	25,000.00	24,886.75 CR

City of Kalamazoo  
 1/ 1/2025 through 12/31/2025

270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND

<i>Account Number</i>	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Debits</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>YTD Debits</i>	<i>YTD Credits</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<b>Total Budgetary</b>	0.00	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	0.00
<b>Assets</b>	1,259.75	0.00	2,104.61	0.00	2,104.61	844.86 CR
<b>Liabilities</b>	73.00 CR	4,209.22	4,136.22	4,209.22	4,136.22	0.00
<b>Equities</b>	1,186.75 CR	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,186.75 CR
<b>Operating</b>	0.00	3,296.17	1,264.56	3,296.17	1,264.56	2,031.61
<b>Budgetary</b>	0.00	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	0.00
<b>Total HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND</b>	0.00	57,768.64	57,768.64	57,768.64	57,768.64	0.00

City of Kalamazoo  
 1/ 1/2025 through 12/31/2025

---

**Grand Totals**

---

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Debits</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>YTD Debits</i>	<i>YTD Credits</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<b>Total Assets</b>	1,259.75	0.00	2,104.61	0.00	2,104.61	844.86 CR
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	73.00 CR	4,209.22	4,136.22	4,209.22	4,136.22	0.00
<b>Total Equities</b>	1,186.75 CR	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,186.75 CR
<b>Total Operating</b>	0.00	3,296.17	1,264.56	3,296.17	1,264.56	2,031.61
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Budgetary</b>	0.00	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	50,113.25	0.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	0.00	57,768.64	57,768.64	57,768.64	57,768.64	0.00

**Fund Summaries**

<b>OCON 1</b>	July		June	
Net Assets		\$71,598.60	\$	70,055.59
Current Available Balance	\$	16,088.94	\$	<b>17,318.94</b>
<b>OCON 2</b>				
Net Assets	\$	458,489.30	\$	444,033.16
Current Available Balance	\$	53,579.24	\$	53,579.24

# O'Connor Fund Report to KHPC For the July 2025 Meeting

Pam O'Connor

Prepared 7-1-25

## 1. Goal: Manage grants and gifts programs for the O'Connor Fund

Committee Leader: Pam O'Connor

Committee Members: Katherine White, Kyle Hibbard, Kaila Akina

- a. ~~Create a special COK "holding" account for O'Connor Funds from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation that are earmarked for grants, gifts and other projects until they are disbursed. This task is urgent – the intention is to have this account in place before the KHPC make 2025 grants or gifts.~~ **COMPLETE: Luis reports that new accounts are in place.**  
**UPDATE 6-2025: Pam met with KZCF staff to discuss this new process, its difficulties, seeking ways to clarify and streamline this process. She and Luis will meet with them on July 9 to explore ideas and options.**
- b. ~~Ensure the 2024 revisions to O'Connor Fund grant programs are published on the City's O'Connor Fund web page and applications. It appears from a glance that these have been instituted. Have had no committee review to date.~~ **Completed.**
- c. ~~Ensure the new GIFT-making policy is published on the O'Connor Fund and KHPC web pages.~~ **COMPLETE: The Gift-making Policy can now be accessed from the home page for the O'Connor Fund.**
- d. ~~Hold an informational meeting in early February 2025 for potential applicants. Luis scheduled the info meeting at KNAC for February 19 and the invites have been sent.~~ **Completed 2-19-25**
- e. ~~Open the grant round and publicize.~~
  - i. ~~Close the grant round and review applications.~~
  - ii. ~~Select grantees, if appropriate.~~

### **GRANT AWARD Recommendation**

**The Grant-Making Committee met on June 12 and selected a proposed awardee for this year. Please see the meeting notes and award recommendation on pages 2 & 3 of this report. The KHPC is required to vote on this recommendation in order to approve the award.**

- iii. Publicize grants made, per the calendar.
- f. In conjunction with Goal #1, investigate options to financially support historic preservation programs for the City of Kalamazoo, including a possible Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan.
  - i. Look for examples (Austin, et al)
  - ii. Review processes for those examples
    - 1. What did they do?
    - 2. How did they do it?
    - 3. How was it funded?

**As noted in my notes to the KHPC on Goal #1 this month, I have not been able to take up Item F for this goal, and it may need to be pushed into 2026.**

- iii. Produce a report by the end of the year.
- g. Write, print, stuff, stamp & and mail annual O'Connor Fund solicitation in early November.
- h. Make a monthly Committee status report in writing for KHPC meetings, when necessary.

# O'Connor Fund Report to KHPC For the July 2025 Meeting

Pam O'Connor

Prepared 7-1-25

Estimated Completion Date: Annual, Ongoing

Core Value Alignment: DEI, Education, Sustainability, Stewardship

Ordinance Duties Alignment: 1, 5, 6, 7

## O'CONNOR FUND VALUE UPDATES

2025 Grants Disbursed from 02 account: None to date for 2025

**Agency Account 01** Asset Balance as of 5-31-25: \$ 70,055.59  
Grant Making Value as of 7-1-25: \$ 16,088.94

**"Regular" Account 02** Asset Balance as of 5-31-25: \$458,489.30  
Grant Making Value as of 7-1-25: \$ 53,579.24

---

## 2025 O'Connor Fund Meeting Notes & Grant Recommendation June 12, 2025

The meeting for O'Connor Fund Grant makers and pre-reviewers commenced at 2:15 pm with the following present: Pre-reviewer Luis Pena, reviewers Curt Aardema, Kyle Hibbard, Pam O'Connor (Sub-Committee Chair), Maria Perez-Stable and Katherine Kirby White. Pre-reviewer Kaila Akina joined the meeting at approximately 2:30 pm.

### Pre-Reviewers' Comments

Overall, applications were better prepared this year, but some still lacking an understanding of the SOI's Standards, photos or other required materials.

### Reviews & Recommendation

All applications were reviewed and scores totaled. Katherine White moved the Committee make a grant this year to the Kalamazoo Nonprofit Advocacy Coalition (KNAC) for work on the exterior of the historic First Baptist Church building on Michigan Avenue. The motion was supported by Maria Perez-Stable. During conversation, Pam O'Connor suggested the committee consider making a larger grant to KNAC, based on the very high-scoring application, and the fact that one of the grants made in 2024 was not accepted by the applicant, and therefore the O'Connor Fund was not debited for that grant. **Following further discussion, the committee agreed to recommend a grant of \$15,000 to KNAC for its work to the KHPC for its approval at its July 2025 meeting.**

### Other Discussion

Question: should pre-reviewers "SCORE" what they believe is an incomplete application **OR** identify why they believe an application is incomplete and pass these notes on to the reviewers with application paperwork? Following discussion on this topic, the Sub-Committee agreed that the existing process was working well and it would be maintained.

Question: potentially good small projects did not score well, which we believed may have happened because the small organizations that submitted were under-staffed and may not have had grant-

## **O'Connor Fund Report to KHPC For the July 2025 Meeting**

Pam O'Connor

Prepared 7-1-25

writing experience, so is there a way to help them submit more complete applications? After discussion of several ideas, the committee agreed to re-arrange the review schedule and allow for two reviews. The first review would be a quick look at the application to see if it does not qualify or is incomplete. If either or both of those circumstances are present, the pre-reviewers will return the application and point out what is needed. This provides the applicant with direct feedback and an opportunity to correct/clarify information or provide missing materials. They will be required to re-submit the application within a two-week time period if they want it to be considered when the grant-making committee meets to make decisions.

This decision requires adjusting the grant-making cycle and modifying the website to reflect this policy change. Pam and Luis will work on the scheduling change and a general shift to avoid coinciding with the annual MHPC conference; Pam, Luis and Neil Conway will work on new messaging for the O'Connor Fund web pages regarding the new 2-round review system.

## Monthly Report for KHPC - City Hall Local Historic District Designation

Prepared July 1, 2025 by Pam O'Connor

### **6. Goal: Complete the process of listing Kalamazoo City Hall as a local historic district in 2025.**

Committee Leader: Pam O'Connor

Committee Members: Kyle Hibbard, Fred Edison, Curt Aardema

Note: The first public info meeting on this nomination was conducted on 9-14-22, [making the effort nearly 3 years old.](#)

- a. Get Dep. City Manager's advice on communicating with the City Commission about next steps. This has been on hold since DCM Chamberlin retired in December 2024, and we won't proceed until his replacement is chosen.

UPDATE 5-27-2025:

The sub-committee and former KHPC member Curt Aardema met with City Commissioner Chris Praedel to discuss this initiative's lack of movement over the past several years. Comm. Praedel said he'd ask some questions at City Hall to see what he can learn about why the effort has been delayed and will get back to us in a couple weeks.

UPDATE 6-1-2025:

[We are in the process of setting up a late July meeting with Commissioner Praedel, new Assistant City Manager Rebekah Kik and the sub-committee members and hope to determine a path forward at that time.](#)

- b. Communicate with the City Commission about process, next steps and timeline, using DCM's advice and some of the Narrative Points\* developed in April 2024
- c. Move forward with process:
  - i. Hold a public hearing on the nomination
  - ii. Submit a final report to the City Commission within a year of the public hearing
  - iii. City Commission votes to approve or reject the district
- d. Seek information on and consider requesting permission to erect a historical marker outside City Hall that commemorates the building, its history, and the Bronson Park National Register Historic District
- e. Make a monthly Committee status report in writing for KHPC meetings, when necessary.

*Estimated Completion Date: September 2025*

*Core Values Alignment: Education, Sustainability, Stewardship*

*Ordinance Duties Alignment: 1, 5, 6, 7*

## Michigan Statewide Historic Preservation Plan (2027-2034) - West Michigan Public Workshop

### Background

- The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office is hosting five (5) in-person workshops to gather input to shape the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, a requirement for their regular grant funding.
- The first occurred on Thursday, June 26, 2025, 5:30pm-8:30pm at St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids.
- Approximately twelve (12) people attended the one in Grand Rapids, including Kyle Hibbard, Pam O'Connor, and Kaila Akina of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC). Also in attendance were architects Nelson Nave, who operates in Kalamazoo including on the board of KNAC and formerly on the O'Connor Fund Grant Review sub-committee and Kalamazoo Historic District Commission, and Randy Case, who operates in Battle Creek, formerly sat on the MHPN board and whose apartment project The Milton received the 2022 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation.

### Summary

- SHPO staff welcomed participants, and Khamai Strategies, the consultant group, led the evening's discussion and small-group exercises.
- Everyone was split into groups and worked through a few exercises. A couple of SHPO staff helped facilitate discussion in each group.
  - Discussion of the definition of historic preservation
    - A standard definition was provided to each group, which groups then edited and made into a more comprehensive one together
  - Discussion of what is going well in historic preservation in MI
    - Individual projects were highlighted
  - Discussion of what is not going well
    - Lack of knowledge and/or interest in historic preservation
    - Lack of underrepresented histories
  - Discussion of threats and risks
    - Cuts to and lack of funding
    - Perception of difficulty in accessing resources such as tax credits
  - Discussion of possibilities
    - Using social media to enhance efforts
    - Expansion of tax credits and grant programs
    - Reusing historic buildings as multi-use places for community-building events and activities
    - Tapping into ongoing efforts from advocacy groups and other groups
- Other ways to provide feedback
  - Selecting/voting for important topics that were listed
  - Answering the question: what's an important place to you?
  - Participate in a recorded video

Ways to get involved:

- Attend one of the remaining four workshops (two more in-person & two virtual)
- Take an [online survey](#) on historic preservation initiatives in MI
  - The website says it's through June 30, but SHPO staff said the survey will be open through July
    - [https://medc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7OJnSNB0A4B8Sp0](https://medc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OJnSNB0A4B8Sp0)

For more information:

- MI SHPO's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan [webpage](#)
  - <https://www.miplace.org/historic-preservation/about-shpo/statewide-preservation-plan/>
- MI SHPO [flyer](#)
  - [https://www.miplace.org/49b4c1/globalassets/documents/shpo/shpo\\_plan\\_flyer\\_public-participation.pdf](https://www.miplace.org/49b4c1/globalassets/documents/shpo/shpo_plan_flyer_public-participation.pdf)

## Threats to Historic Preservation

Ways to be involved and learn more

- Check out the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and join to be aware of threats nationally and at the state level
  - Potential option to have NTHP membership reimbursed for Commissioners
    - <https://savingplaces.org/action-center>
  - NTHP's Forum Webinar on July 16, 2025
    - During this session, the National Trust's Government Relations team will give a federal advocacy update focused on timely actions advocates can take to support historic preservation efforts and progress to date. This briefing will provide the latest info on federal policy developments, preservation-related tax legislation, fiscal years 2025 and 2026 appropriations, and other key priorities. The discussion will focus on historic preservation's most critical advocacy needs and provide a concise overview of the political landscape to help maximize our advocacy impact. The Government Relations team will answer submitted questions following the briefing. [Register](#) at: [https://savingplaces-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/4917497442100/WN\\_5pZcm3NnTYaROLC\\_Pbqut6w#/registration](https://savingplaces-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/4917497442100/WN_5pZcm3NnTYaROLC_Pbqut6w#/registration)
  - Legislative update on 7/2/25
    - Yesterday, the Senate voted and passed the budget reconciliation tax bill. The House is taking up the bill now and there will be intense pressure for House Republicans to pass the Senate bill. Despite an outpouring of advocacy, no components of [HTC-GO](#) were included in the Senate passed bill.

We are incredibly thankful for your advocacy efforts and attention to improving the Historic Tax Credit. There may be opportunities in a bipartisan tax bill later this year or possibly another reconciliation bill. At the moment, we are reflecting and looking to retool our efforts to be successful. Also, we should not overlook that we were not targeted for a rollback or elimination as we were in 2017. Our work is not done, there were many tax credits in the tax code that were eliminated in the reconciliation bill, and to remain in the tax code and to enact improvements, our advocacy must continue and ramp up at the next opportunity.

We will gather advocates this summer to update you on future opportunities and begin building support in Congress that is broader and deeper to enact improvements.

- Tune into Preservation Action updates
  - From a couple of weeks ago:
 

This week, Preservation Action submitted [testimony](#) to the [Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee](#) in support of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and other preservation priorities, as they work on drafting the FY26 Interior Appropriations bill. Preservation Action is urging the Committee to reject the request from the administration to nearly eliminate funding for the program and instead support **\$225 million for the Historic Preservation Fund**, including much-needed increases for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. The testimony also requests support for important grants and competitive programs that are helping to preserve places that tell our nation's rich history. In our testimony we also highlight the ongoing delay in the release of FY25 HPF funding, the devastating impact the delay is having on preservation efforts, and urges the immediate release of this critical funding.

Our HPF request also highlights the need to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund, which expired in September. Previous FY25 draft appropriations bills included 1 year HPF authorization, but it was not included in the most recent Continuing Resolution.
  
- Send letters and make calls to legislators

Other Resources/Info:

- From Dusti: [Historic Preservation Under Threat](#)
  - <https://ncshpo.org/2025/05/05/hpunderthreat/>
- Follow Dr. Allyson Brooks on LinkedIn for HP updates
  - SHPO for Washington (state) and Vice President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- [Ohio History Connection lays off 12 after federal officials withhold \\$1.5M in appropriated funds](#)
  - <https://www.wosu.org/politics-government/2025-05-12/ohio-history-connection-lays-off-12-after-federal-officials-withhold-1-5m-in-appropriated-funds>
- [Threats to Arizona SHPO](#)
  - <https://www.azpreservation.org/post/arizona-s-state-historic-preservation-office-faces-shutdown-by-august-without-emergency-state-fundin>

**2024 All reviews                      ER 96-713                      106 Review Log**  
**City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County – A Certified Local Government**  
**Date                      Address                      Neighborhood                      Sub-recipient**

**\*ALSO REVIEWED – No Historic Property – end of this document**

1. 02/27/2025 414 PARK PL Vine KNHS

PROPOSED WORK: Roof replacement. No painted surfaces disturbed.

SPECS: Remove ALL roof layers to deck. Remove existing flashing. Repair or replace existing deteriorated sheathing with material to match existing. Repair or replace any missing or deteriorated fascia, soffit, rafter tails using materials to match existing. INSTALL 7/16" OSB OVER THE ENTIRE ROOF. Install 15 lb. felt or synthetic underlay, and fiberglass/ asphalt DIMENSIONAL strip shingles , minimum 30 year. Replace all flashing with .019 aluminum. All wall/roof intersections to include new metal flashing, neatly cut into siding with the counter flashing installed in conformance with the shingle manufacturer's specifications and all plumbing vents shall include a new metal flashing at base, with a new flexible vinyl boot properly sized to seal pipe and roof intersection. Step-flash and counter-flash chimney with aluminum. New metal counter flashing around the base of chimney shall be neatly cut into the mortar joints with a counter flashing properly sealed with urethane caulk. Install "Grace" brand (or approved equivalent) ice and water shield in valleys and 3 feet up from heated edge of house on eave edge. Shingle color choice by owner from standard stock. Shall install continuous ridge vent from rake edge to rake edge. If ridge vent alone will not provide adequate ventilation per code, include the installation of additional can vents.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the South Street – Vine Area Local Historic District.. This area is potentially **National Register eligible**. This house is **National Register (NR)** eligible. No review is required because the proposed work is covered under appendix C of the Programmatic Agreement between the city and SHPO

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No ADVERSE Effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review.

2. 02/27/2025                      1015 Lane                      Edison                      KNHS

PROPOSED WORK: Replace soffit and fascia. Dispose of existing soffit and fascia on entire garage. Replace with new soffit and fascia in white to match the soffit/fascia that was removed. Remove and replace any/all gutters and other fixtures/components that are in the way of installation.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This structure or area appears to be National Register eligible. We therefore, request an opportunity to review the work specifications before commenting further. This structure appears to meet National Register Criteria because: This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the Hays Park/South Park potential Historic District in the 2022 Reconnaissance Level Historic Survey. This Property is National Register Eligible. This is an Appendix C Project under the Programmatic agreement between the city of Kalamazoo and SHPO. No adverse effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review.

3. 02/21/2025                      411 ELM ST                      Stuart                      CHW

PROPOSED WORK: Furnace replacement, no heat

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This property is a contributing structure in the Stuart area Local and National Register Historic District.

Determination of Effect: no adverse effect - all proposed work falls under Appendix C of the programmatic agreement between the state historic preservation office and the city of Kalamazoo. Work may proceed without further review.

Work may proceed without further review

**2024 All reviews**                      **ER 96-713**                      **106 Review Log**  
**City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County – A Certified Local Government**  
**Date**                      **Address**                      **Neighborhood**                      **Sub-recipient**

4. 03/19/2025                      301 W VINE ST                      Vine                      CHW

PROPOSED WORK: Replace outlets that are smoking

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This house is a contributing structure in the South Street – Vine Area Local Historic District. This house and the area around it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Vine Area National Register Historic District.

Determination of Effect: No adverse effect, this work complies with appendix C.

Work may proceed without further review

5. 04/21/2025                      1613 E STOCKBRIDGE                      Edison                      Senior Services

PROPOSED WORK: Replace 2 storm and screen doors (front and back). Install 3 smoke/co2

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the South Edison study area in the 2021 Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey. This area is potentially National Register Eligible. This house is **National Register** (NR) eligible.

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No ADVERSE Effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review.

Work may proceed without further review

6. 05/13/2025 1208 E STOCKBRIDGE AVE Edison CHW

PROPOSED WORK: Upgrade service panel. Various electrical code upgrades.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT:

This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the South Edison study area in the 2021 Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey. This area is potentially **National Register eligible**. This house is **National Register** (NR) eligible.

**2024 All reviews                      ER 96-713                      106 Review Log**  
**City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County – A Certified Local Government**  
**Date                      Address                      Neighborhood                      Sub-recipient**

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No ADVERSE Effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review. The proposed work falls under appendix C of the programmatic agreement between the city of Kalamazoo and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. No further review is necessary.

Work may proceed without further review

7. 06/02/2025                      468 CLINTON AVE                      Edison                      Milestones

PROPOSED WORK: Handrails – main to 2nd and main to basement. Loose and/or missing pieces of railing. Porch door – glass is gone.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this house.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the Hays Park/ South Park study area in the 2019 Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey. This house is **National Register (NR)** eligible.

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No ADVERSE Effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review.

8. 07/03/2025                      1521 FULTON ST                      Edison                      CHW

PROPOSED WORK: Install new gutter system.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT: Limited to this property

HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT: This house was evaluated as being a contributing structure in the South Edison study area in the 2021 Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey. This house is National Register (NR) eligible.

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: No ADVERSE Effect on historic properties. Work may proceed without further review.

**2024 All reviews                      ER 96-713                      106 Review Log**  
**City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County – A Certified Local Government**  
**Date                      Address                      Neighborhood                      Sub-recipient**

**ALSO REVIEWED – No Historic Property**

1.	01/07/2025	1903 Southern	Milwood	KNHS
2.	01/08/2025	934 Cottage	Edison	KNHS
3.	01/21/2025	1508 Princeton	Northside	City of Kalamazoo
4.	01/22/2025	532 Harding Pl	Northside	CHW
5.	01/23/2025	1624 N Edwards	Northside	CHW
6.	01/24/2025	749 Mills	Edison	CHW
7.	02/04/2025	1020 E Crosstown	Southside	CHW
8.	02/04/2025	205 Wallace	Eastside	Senior Services
9.	02/04/2025	1319 N Edwards	Northside	Senior Services
10.	02/07/2025	740 Douglas	Douglas	CHW
11.	02/07/2025	824 Franklin	Edison	CHW
12.	02/10/2025	1410 N Rose	Northside	Senior Services
13.	02/13/2025	1619 N Westnedge	Northside	KNHS
14.	02/14/2025	2131 Springmont	Oakwood	CHW
15.	2/27/2025	1407 Hays Park	Edison	KNHS
16.	02/27/2025	1712 N Church	Northside	KNHS
17.	03/03/2025	1609 N Edwards	Northside	CHW
18.	03/03/2025	1907 N Edwards	Northside	CHW
19.	03/03/2025	1308 Sherwood	Eastside	CHW
20.	03/06/2025	715 Mills	Edison	CHW
21.	03/06/2025	740 Douglas	Douglas	Senior Services
22.	3/10/2025	626 Fairbanks	Eastside	KNHS
23.	03/18/2025	1411 N Burdick	Northside	KNHS
24.	03/19/2025	812 Simpson	Northside	KNHS
25.	03/19/2025	824 Simpson	Northside	KNHS
26.	03/19/2025	802 Simpson	Northside	KNHS
27.	03/19/2025	617 Ada	Northside	KNHS
28.	03/19/2025	611 Ada	Northside	KNHS
29.	03/19/2025	1635 Cobb	Northside	Senior Services
30.	03/25/2025	715 Mills	Edison	CHW
31.	03/26/2025	821 Fairbanks	Eastside	KNHS
32.	03/26/2025	1320 N Westnedge	Northside	KNHS
33.	03/31/2025	1808 Woodward	Northside	Senior Services
34.	04/02/2025	820 Staples	Northside	Senior Services
35.	04/02/2025	129 E Bush	Northside	Senior Services
36.	04/07/2025	1002 Prairie	Northside	Senior Services
37.	04/17/2025	1319 N Edwards	Northside	Senior Services

**2024 All reviews                      ER 96-713                      106 Review Log**  
**City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County – A Certified Local Government**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Sub-recipient</b>
38.	04/28/2025	1012 Woodward	Northside	Senior Services
39.	04/28/2025	1012 Albert	Eastside	Senior Services
40.	04/28/2025	415 Parsons	Northside	Senior Services
41.	05/09/2025	712 W Paterson	Northside	Senior Services
42.	05/13/2025	432 Bessie	Northside	Senior Services
43.	05/13/2025	527 Edwin	Eastside	CHW
44.	05/13/2025	1620 Krom	Northside	CHW
45.	05/13/2025	1624 Krom	Northside	CHW
46.	05/13/2025	1422 Woodward	Northside	CHW
47.	05/13/2025	1722 N Church	Northside	CHW
48.	05/13/2025	1711 Princeton	Northside	Senior Services
49.	05/27/2025	1008 Southworth Terrace	Eastside	Senior Services
50.	05/27/2025	208 Phelps	Eastside	Senior Services
51.	06/02/2025	411 Wallace	Eastside	CHW
52.	06/02/2025	1713 N Park	Northside	CHW
53.	06/02/2025	923 N Park	Northside	CHW
54.	06/09/2025	1524 N Westnedge	Northside	Senior Services
55.	06/23/2025	718 Mabel	Northside	CHW
56.	06/23/2025	818 Woodbury	Northside	CHW
57.	06/23/2025	523 N Westnedge	Northside	CHW
58.	07/02/2025	1509 N Park	Northside	CHW
59.	07/03/2025	1541 E Main	Eastside	CHW
60.	07/03/2025	704 Lulu	Northside	CHW
61.	07/03/2025	1814 Humphrey	Eastside	CHW
62.	07/03/2025	724 Mabel	Northside	CHW

## Cemetery Committee Update

**Committee Members: Dusti Morton, Melissa Paduk**

The committee met with Luis Pena 6.26.25 to review the committee workplan for 2025.

- 1. Goal: Partner with local cemetery preservation groups to support their efforts; additionally, create educational resources for identifying and understanding cemetery structures.**

Committee Leader: Dusti Morton

Committee Members: Melissa Paduk

1. Take inventory of cleaning supplies and make available to other volunteer groups when necessary/requested.). *Luis will inventory supplies; there is not much left to distribute.*
2. Facilitate communication amongst volunteer groups
  - . Meet with group leaders (Friends of Kalamazoo Historic Cemeteries; Friends of Kalamazoo Catholic Cemeteries; potentially, the Kalamazoo Jaycees)  
Meetings will be scheduled for April 2025. *FoKCC is currently on hiatus.*  
*Communication via email with FKHC has resulted in information following these notes.*
3. Assist with communicating work days in cemeteries using the Grave Issues Squad email list, non-city-owned FB groups that focus on western Michigan volunteerism. *Email sent out over 4<sup>th</sup> of July week.*
4. Partner with FHKC and FKCC to increase outreach visibility
5. Attend events, ensuring supplies are handed out and new attendees are familiarized with the process of grave cleaning, as well as the core values and duties of the KHPC. *Dusti has attended two of FHKC's cleaning events.*
6. Produce a packet that consolidates local cemetery information for public use to be made available at the Kalamazoo Public Library and on our website. Topics to include:
  - a. Structures that are found on the ground
  - b. Iconography
  - c. Common metal grave markers and flag holders found in Kalamazoo cemeteries
  - d. General guidance on how to get involved in preservation efforts. *Reviewed work assignments and scope of project*
7. Make a monthly Committee status report in writing for KHPC meetings, when necessary.

We also discussed in our meeting that the Association of Gravestone Studies' annual conference for 2026 will be held in Grand Rapids, tentatively during the third week of June. There is a stated interest in bringing conference attendees to Mountain Home and Riverside to tour the cemeteries. More information to come.

Local cemetery preservation workshops and dates:

- July 12 – 9:30AM Cleaning in Riverside (FKHC)  
[www.friendsofkalamazoohistoriccemeteries.com](http://www.friendsofkalamazoohistoriccemeteries.com) for more information about FKHC events
- July 13 – 1PM – 3PM Free Gravestone Cleaning Class Mt Hope Cemetery, Lansing (FLHC); email [portunes@outlook.com](mailto:portunes@outlook.com) to register
- July 20 – 1PM-3PM Cleaning of the Boys’ Training School Markers, Mt Hope Cemetery, Lansing (Friends of Lansing’s Historic Cemeteries)  
[www.lansingcemfriends.org](http://www.lansingcemfriends.org) for information
- August 9 – 9:30AM cleaning in Mountain Home (FKHC)
- August 9 - 10AM-5PM Cemetery Symposium, Friends of Allegan’s Oakwood Cemetery; “A day of guided tours that focus on geology, cemetery iconography, cemetery history, white bronze monuments, as well as hands-on gravestone carving and a gravestone restoration demonstration. Free event; visit [www.friendsofallegansoakwoodcemetery.org](http://www.friendsofallegansoakwoodcemetery.org) to register
- September 6 – 1PM - 5PM – cemetery tour featuring actor-driven storytelling about Kalamazoo history, Mountain Home (FKHC)
- September 28 – 3PM-5PM – Annual Fall Walking Tour, Mt Hope Cemetery, Lansing (FLHC)
- October 4 – 1PM-4PM – cemetery tour featuring actor-driven storytelling about Vicksburg history, Vicksburg cemetery. [www.vicksburghistory.org](http://www.vicksburghistory.org) for information
- October 4 – 1PM-5PM – cemetery tour featuring actors telling the tale of 6 Paw Paw residents ‘now residing in Prospect Hill Cemetery.’ (Paw Paw District Library). [www.pawpawlib.org/events/3rd-annual-voices-from-the-past/](http://www.pawpawlib.org/events/3rd-annual-voices-from-the-past/) for information



# Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

---

City of Kalamazoo

**TO:** The Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Luis Pena, Historic Preservation Coordinator

**DATE:** July 9, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Sexton's Lodge Financial Support

## **SUMMARY:**

Request for funds to support security and maintenance of the Sexton's Lodge at Mountain Home Cemetery

## **BACKGROUND:**

Over the past few years, there have been issues with security at the Sexton's Lodge within Mountain Home Cemetery. While the windows have been boarded in the past, further security is necessary to help ensure that break ins can be prevented (rather than addressed afterwards). The installation of security cameras and additional boarding of windows (to HUD specifications) is necessary to secure the building further. Each break in could lead to further damage of the building, meaning that the repair of the building down the road could be more costly. The Sexton's Lodge is a wonderfully preserved building that deserves to see active use in the future.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission dedicate \$5,000 to preserve the Sexton's Lodge at Mountain Home Cemetery.



## Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission

### What we do:

- Work towards the preservation of Kalamazoo's history through advocacy of effective preservation practices; public education, research, compilation, publication, and maintenance of historic resources

### How we do it

- Grants
- Gifts
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Research and Support Services
- Workshops

### What have we done? ~~in the last year~~ ?

- Awarded Grants & Gifts
- Supported Historical Markers for the Bronson Park Mound
- Research for preservation of notable structures
- Published three books on Kazoo's architectural history
- Created OHOW videos for historic homeowners
- Gravestone cleaning at Mt. Home Cemetery
- Recognized individuals for their contributions to preservation in the City

### Get in Touch

- Public meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at 6 PM in City Hall
- City Liaison, Luis Pena [penal@kalamazoo.org](mailto:penal@kalamazoo.org)
- [Historic Preservation Commission City of Kalamazoo](#)

Have a historic preservation project? We can help connect you with research, grants if you are a 501 (c) 3 organization, connections with community resources, and information about available tax credits.

## Draft Letter to Community orgs./groups Pam's Edits

Dear ----

Greetings from the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC). May we introduce ourselves?

KHPC members are appointed by and report to the Kalamazoo City Commission. At monthly meetings, we discuss and report on historic preservation activities which relate to our annual preservation work plan and reflect our duties and responsibilities as directed by City ordinance. In other words, we are a "working" commission.

The KHPC's duties and responsibilities generally include helping to preserve Kalamazoo's historic resources using effective preservation practices, identifying, researching and documenting historic resources which warrant preservation, and offering various types of public education on historic preservation in person, digitally and on paper. For example:

- Since the KHPC was created, it has published three books on Kalamazoo's architectural history, which, with thanks to the Kalamazoo Public Library, can all be seen online at: <https://www.kpl.gov/category/local-history/online/pages-from-the-past/>
- In collaboration with our local Public Media Network and with additional help from the Kalamazoo Public Library, a series of architectural style and home repair videos for homeowners was created several years ago. OHOW (Old House Owners Workshops) videos can be viewed on KPL's site here: <https://www.kpl.gov/search/OHOW/?d=website>
- The KHPC also offers competitive grant opportunities to qualifying 501(c)(3) non-profits through its [O'Connor Fund/ Competitive Grant Program](#) for exterior building rehabilitation and preservation planning. Qualifying non-profits are invited to a pre-application grant writing workshop to help them prepare their applications before each annual grant cycle. Occasional gifts for projects not covered in the Grant program are also offered through the O'Connor Fund. In the past five years, the KHPC/O'Connor Fund has awarded gifts and grants valued at over \$40,000 for Kalamazoo's historic buildings and places, including emergency building repairs, masonry and roof work, and the upcoming historical markers in Bronson Park near the Mound.
- The KHPC also honors excellent preservation efforts in the City with annual public awards.

Within the city, we see historic preservation's benefits, and would love to hear from your organization about how we might be able to help you "do" historic preservation.

The KHPC meets at City Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. If you have an idea about how the KHPC might help your preservation work, please reach out, by attending meetings or emailing our City of Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Coordinator, Luis Pena at [penal@kalamazoocity.org](mailto:penal@kalamazoocity.org).

We look forward to growing our work in the City through connecting with you!

Thank you,



# Historic District Commission Staff Report

---

City of Kalamazoo

**TO:** The Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission  
**FROM:** Luis Pena, Historic Preservation Coordinator  
**DATE:** 09 July 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Coordinator's Report

## **Remains Reinterred**

On Monday (30 June 2025) the remains uncovered in South Westnedge Park were reinterred at Mountain Cemetery. The DAR, Boy Scouts and media outlets were present.

## **Vandercook Hall**

Demolition continues on Vandercook hall at Western Michigan University. MLive covered the story recently.

Community Planning and Economic Development Department | 245 N. Rose Street, Ste 100, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Voice: (269) 337-8744 | Fax: (269) 337-8513 | [www.kalamazoocity.org](http://www.kalamazoocity.org)