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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING

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Governor Granholm Announces Historic Preservation Fund and Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Grants

Governor Granholm today joined Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) Director William Anderson and Michigan Historical Center (MHC) Director Sandra Clark in announcing more than \$195,000 in historic preservation grants for 2004. MHC's State Historic Preservation Office (SPHO) administers both federal Historic Preservation Fund grants and Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grants, supported with funds from the sale of lighthouse license places.

"Michigan wants cool cities and the expertise and know-how of our historic preservation experts will certainly help in getting there," said Granholm. "We need to make development decisions that not only protect these historic assets, but also find new and creative uses for them."

The State Historic Preservation Office receives federal Historic Preservation Fund monies to operate the state's historic preservation programs. Each year 10 percent of the SHPO's federal grant is awarded to Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Sixteen Michigan communities have CLG status. Communities are required to contribute 40 percent of the total project cost.

"From an economic-development standpoint, rehabilitating historic buildings leverages private capital, creates jobs, revitalizes neighborhoods and business districts, and stimulates a wide range of other economic activities," said Dr. Anderson. "We're talking about much more than preserving history; we're promoting growth and shining a spotlight on some of our most treasured lighthouses."

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In 2004, funds will be granted to the following Certified Local Governments:

- **\$45,000 – City of Allegan – Griswold Auditorium Restoration and Education Project**

Built in 1929, the historic Griswold Auditorium is located in the Griswold Civic Center Historic District, in the heart of downtown Allegan on the Kalamazoo River. The 730-seat performance auditorium is a regional cultural and meeting facility used for a variety of events serving Allegan County and surrounding communities. This grant will help the city of Allegan make masonry repairs, perform window restoration and clean and repair limestone. A unique educational component of the grant is to provide hands-on workshops that walk participants through the step-by-step process of restoration work as it is being performed.

- **\$25,000 – County of Washtenaw – Historic Resources on Geographic Information System**

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and Planning Department will continue to develop its Web-based geographic information system (GIS) site called HistWeb during phase II of this project. The county will upgrade the Web site to make it more user-friendly as well as add new survey information to the system. The county will conduct new field survey work and use survey information created over the last 20 years to supplement the current information posted on the site. The Web site – available to the public and to city, county and state planners – is a model for other communities across the state.

In addition, \$3,000 will be offered as travel scholarships to CLG staff and commissioners to attend a national preservation conference, and another \$4,000 will be earmarked for a one-day workshop focusing on historic district design guideline development and the application of the Secretary of the Interior's historic preservation standards to local projects.

The Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) is funded by proceeds from the sale of the "Save our Lights" license plate. Lighthouse grants are given to state and local governments or nonprofit organizations that are maintaining or restoring a lighthouse.

Five lighthouse grants totaling more than \$118,000 are being given this year. Recipients must provide 50 percent of the grant award as matching funds.

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Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant recipients include:

- **\$32,387 – DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society – DeTour Reef Light**
With its third MLAP grant, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society will restore the interior of the lighthouse by refurbishing cabinetry and by fabricating, installing and painting base molding, door and window molding, and picture molding.
- **\$9,950 – Keweenaw County Historical Society – Eagle Harbor Lighthouse**
The Keweenaw County Historical Society will restore the exterior of the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse assistant lightkeeper's quarters. The grant funds will be used to repair or replace roof shingles, repair or replace deteriorated siding, and to paint or stain the siding to match the existing siding. This the third MLAP grant awarded for preservation of the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse.
- **\$36,033 – Benzie County – Point Betsie Light Station**
Exterior restoration of the storage shed and oil storage buildings, as well as design and engineering services for the interior restoration of historic buildings on the lighthouse site, will be completed at the Point Betsie Light Station with its second MLAP grant.
- **\$30,900 – Huron County Parks Commission – Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse**
Grant funds will be used to prepare a historic structures report for the Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse. This report will guide future restoration efforts. Engineering plans and specifications will be developed for foundation repair of the keeper's dwelling and a heating and cooling system.
- **\$9,600 – Fruitland Township – White River Light Station**
The White River Light Station, after surviving a 2002 electrical fire, will receive a much-needed electrical system upgrade and new light fixtures with this grant project. This is the second MLAP grant awarded to preserve the White River Light Station.

The State Historic Preservation Office is a division of the Michigan Historical Center, part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Dedicated to enriching the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity, the department also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Film Office and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

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