



Community Planning & Development

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Media Release

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Local preservation projects to be honored with Historic Preservation Awards of Merit

For Immediate Release

May 3, 2016, Kalamazoo, Michigan - The Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC) will present its 2016 Awards of Merit on Thursday, May 24, 2016, at 5:30 pm. The awards ceremony will be held at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Depot at 402 East Michigan, in the Stryker Winter Garden. The public is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For more than two decades the KHPC has presented awards for preservation related projects in the City of Kalamazoo. Past awards have been presented to the Woodward school, the Intermodal Transportation Center, Paris Cleaners (for their restored neon sign), as well as new infill houses and both rental and owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects.

These awards are given annually each May in local recognition of National Historic Preservation Month. This year's award recipients have done an outstanding job of rehabilitating a historic structure or have actively promoted or contributed to historic preservation in the City of Kalamazoo.

This year's six award winners include:

Residential Property projects

- Marlborough Apartments, 471 West South St. – Exterior rehabilitation and repairs to the 1924 apartment building including eaves, front steps and the repair of 840 wooden double hung windows.

Commercial & Institutional Property Projects

- Lincoln School, 912 North Burdick St. – Replacement of energy panels and minimal windows that were

installed in the 1970s with new windows that fill the historic openings of the school and maintain the exterior design while flooding the schoolrooms with light.

- Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd. – Built in 1955 and designed by Chicago architect Charles E. Stade, this mid-century modern church is situated on a hill overlooking downtown and serves as a gateway to scenic Bronson Boulevard.

Individual or Institutional Recognition

- Ladies Library Association (LLA) – In March 2016, the LLA published a 220-page pictorial guide titled, “The Library Ladies of Kalamazoo: Their Home and History”. The book highlights every aspect of the landmark LLA building, its contents, and its history.
- Westwood Garden Club – Using grants and donated labor and materials, the Westwood Garden Club took on rebirth of the long neglected Veterans Memorial in Riverside cemetery. The memorial, which was originally dedicated in 1948, kept many of the original features in the new design while making the site more readily accessible. The memorial was re-dedicated on November 11, 2015.
- The Kalamazoo County Land Bank – The property at 1523 Riverview Dr that would become Riverview Launch was acquired by the Kalamazoo County Land Bank through a tax foreclosure. The site, which is located on the bank of the Kalamazoo River, contained a home in poor condition, a greenhouse, and a barn when it was acquired. The Riverview Launch project adapted and reused the existing historic structures with attention to sustainability and energy efficiency. The original character of the barn was maintained and the greenhouse was given a new life, now serving as the heart of community programming and beautification projects. The facility is now home to the Open Roads Bike Program and the Land Bank.

Attachments: Photos (Marlborough, Lincoln School, Riverview Launch, Zion Lutheran Church)

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