

Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Michigan Strategic Fund
State Historic Preservation Office

Public Hearing
Friday, December 10, 2021
10:00 A.M.

Present From the State Historic
Preservation Office

Ms. Martha MacFarlane-Faes
Mr. Robbert McKay
Mr. Nathaniel Nietering

Present From the Office of the
Attorney General

Mr. Jon Stuckey
Mr. Austin Wright

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MR. MCKAY: This hearing is called the order. It is 10:05 on December 10th, 2021, at the MEDC building in Lansing. My name is Robbert McKay. I will be facilitating hearing. With me this morning at the front table is Martha MacFarlane-Faes, our Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

This is public hearing on the proposed administrative rules entitled Historic Tax Credit Certification. This hearing is being conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, on behalf of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, The Michigan Strategic Fund and the State Historic Preservation Office.

We are here today to receive your comments on the proposed rules. If you wish to speak, please make sure that you have signed in on the sign in sheet by the door include your willingness to speak on that. We will call speakers in the order in which their names appear on the sign in sheet. When you come forward to speak, please identify yourself with your name, the organization you represent, and both your mailing and e-mail address so that this information may be transcribed into the hearing report. If you have additional comments to submit in writing, you may leave them with me or submit them electronically to our department no later than 5:00 p.m. today. Our email address is: preservation@michigan.gov

We ask that each speaker limit their comments to no more than five minutes.

At this point I do not believe that there is anybody here to speak, so we will wait.

The time is currently 10:15 a.m. Seeing no individuals who wish to speak, we will take a short recess.

MR. MCKAY: The time is currently 10:19 a.m. I call the hearing back to order. We have a new individual who has arrived that would like to speak to the committee.

I remind everybody that, if you have comments to submit in writing, you can either leave them with me today or you need to submit them

1 electronically, no later than 5:00 PM today. You should use the
2 preservation@michigan.gov email address.

3 Reminder, you need to state your name, the organization
4 that you represent, if there is one, your mailing address and your email address, so
5 that it can be included in the hearing record. Jessica Flores.

6 MS. FLORES: Hi. Good morning. My name is Jessica
7 Flores and I'm here to represent my small historic preservation firm, Preservation
8 Forward my email address is Jessica, like my first name, @preservationforward.com.
9 I reside in East Lansing, Michigan.

10 Anything additional that you'd like for me to provide?

11 MR MCKAY: That's good. Thank you.

12 MS. FLORES: OK, perfect.

13 I am just here to thank you for your hard work. Your
14 efforts and time, diligently being on top of this. We desperately need the State
15 Historic Tax Credit across all of our 83 counties here in Michigan. Communities
16 depend on the State Historic Tax Credit. As a consultant that's traveling the upper and
17 lower peninsula of Michigan, I want you to know that this is a critical tool in our
18 toolbox. I'm kind of just here to thank you today and, to tell you the importance of
19 this tool and hopefully that we can show you over the course of 2 to 3 to 4 years that
20 it's a successful tool in that we could have the cap lifted. I think that's the biggest
21 criticism, I'm facing, in the streets and the communities across Michigan. We know
22 that it's important. We want to use it. It's first come first serve and, that's I'm, that's
23 how it is for right now and thankful that it's back. We have our foot in the door. But
24 let's open the door the whole way. So that we can lift the cap on the status, or Tax
25 Credits and use it. Because, I guess, our biggest concern in the field is that one
26 medium to larger size project is going to absorb our commercial funding that's been
27 allocated for commercial projects.

1 I think that's all that I had the share. It pairs favorably, just
2 in case anyone else wonders why we're so adamant preservationists, to get this tool
3 back it pairs favorably as you all know with our different LIHTC and New Markets
4 and Federal tax credits, CDBG funds coming out of HUD and, hopefully any of the
5 ARP funds that are being appropriate to Michigan, now. So, is this a good time for
6 me to ask you a question? Can't...or you can't accept question?

7 MR MCKAY: We are not excepting questions at this
8 time. I'm sorry.

9 MS. FLORES: OK, that's OK. I'll put it on the record that,
10 I'm curious that if it can be, if ARP funds can be allocated for capital improvements
11 on historic buildings. Something to consider.

12 MR. MCKAY: We will have to talk to the unit that's
13 controlling that.

14 MS FLORES: I know it's going to a lot of infrastructure
15 or job creation and that sort of thing, but I would love to see a line item something
16 earmarked for historic buildings and just another side note. Thank you very much for
17 MDC. My Place Main Street community, putting that new program for funding for
18 smaller communities. Underutilized buildings vacant parcels really excited about that
19 this morning so.

20 At this point, I just want to say thank you.

21 I love our SHPO and spreading the good word of
22 preservation in the State of Michigan.

23 MR. MCKAY: Thank you.

24 MS. FLORES: Thank you.

25 MR. MCKAY: All right, the time is 10:24. Seeing no
26 additional individuals who wish to speak. We will take a short recess.

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MR. MCKAY: I call the meeting back to order at 12:01. Seeing that there are no additional people who want to address the committee or provide comments. I declare the hearing closed any additional comments regarding the proposed rules can be submitted in writing up to 5:00 p.m. today.

I did want to verify for the record that the notice of the hearing was published in 3 Newspapers of general circulation, including 1 in the UP, as well as the Michigan Register, Issued 20, published on November 15th 2021.

The record will remain open until 5:00 p.m. today.

The current time is 12:02. I declare their hearing closed.

Thanks everybody for coming.