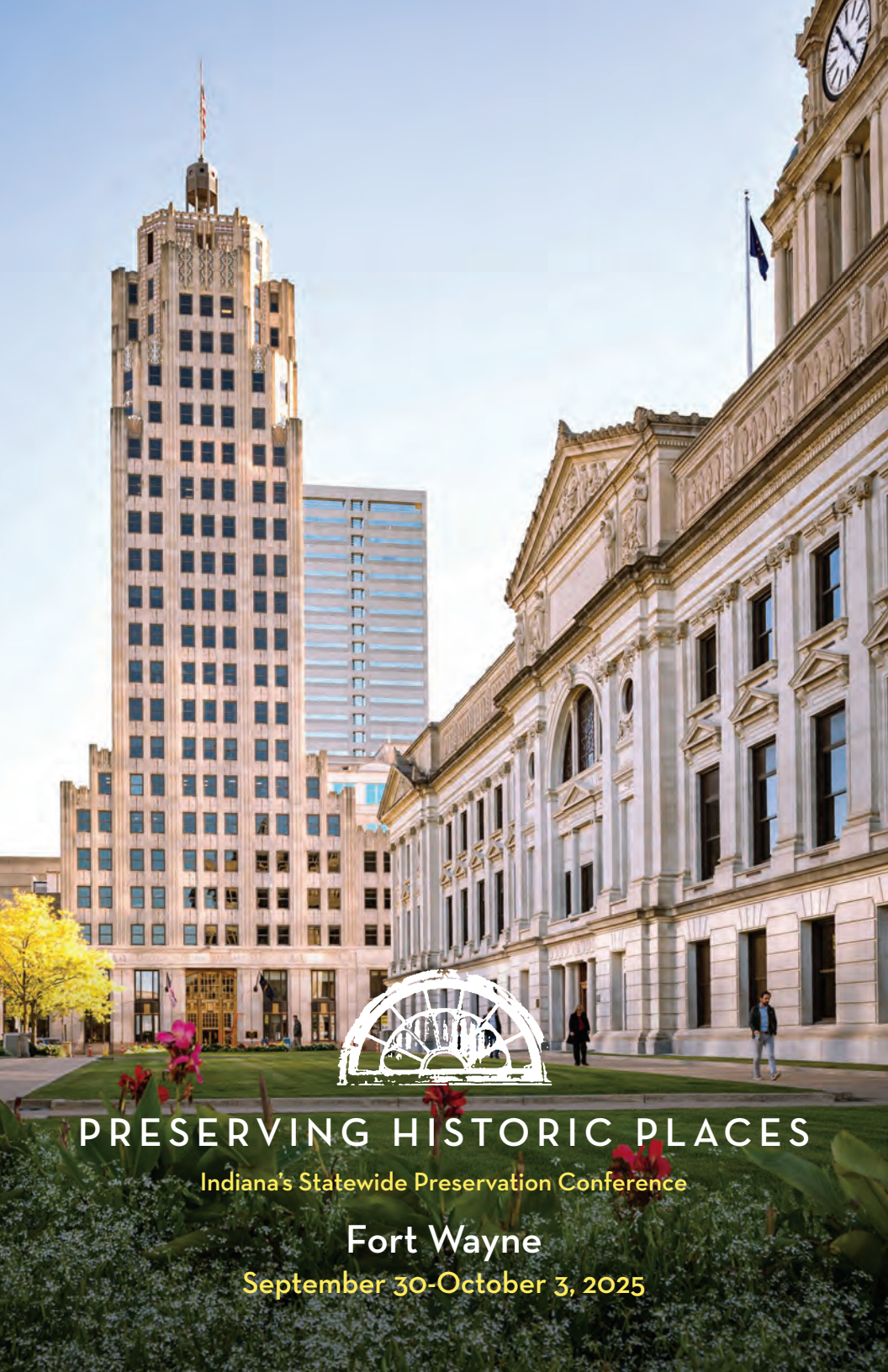




PRESERVING HISTORIC PLACES

Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference

Fort Wayne

September 30-October 3, 2025



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

SHARON TUCKER, MAYOR

Welcome friends!

I am excited that Fort Wayne is hosting the 2025 Preserving Historic Places Conference. The conference was last held in Fort Wayne in 2003, so we have had time to prepare to welcome you back! In that period there has been a transformation in downtown Fort Wayne, while we have carefully managed change in our local historic districts.

This fall we are marking 60 years since the first adoption of a historic preservation ordinance in Fort Wayne. Our first two local historic districts were The Landing downtown, and the Chief Richardville House, or in the Myaamia language the akima pinšiwa awiiki. The house was named a National Historic Landmark in 2012. I know you will visit the Landing—and on Thursday evening you will have the opportunity for exploration of the Allen County Courthouse, also a National Historic Landmark.

Fort Wayne is home to over 400 neighborhoods, each with distinctive character. The rich diversity, and our dedication to strengthening neighborhoods are what helps make Fort Wayne a safe, fun and family-friendly city. Four of our neighborhoods contain local historic districts, and a total of 22 neighborhoods contain districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Be sure to visit our Riverfront, Promenade Park, and the historic Wells Street Bridge on the St. Marys River. Riverfront Fort Wayne is an ongoing, dynamic, and transformational project, made possible by public-private partnerships. The Riverfront is near the Historic Landing, with its shops and restaurants. Enjoy our historic restaurants during the lunch break on Thursday, such as the iconic Coney Island, Cindy's Diner, and Powers Hamburgers—but there are many others to choose from!

Please explore and enjoy all that Fort Wayne has to offer, and we hope you will come back to see us soon!

Sincerely,

Sharon Tucker, Mayor
City of Fort Wayne

ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

CITIZENS SQUARE

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ON THE COVER:

Two of Fort Wayne's iconic landmarks include the Art Deco Lincoln Tower and Beaux-Arts Allen County Courthouse. PHOTO COURTESY VISIT FORT WAYNE



Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260
www.miamination.com



August 15, 2025

Meentitohkaalilakakoki! On behalf of Leadership, elders, and citizens of the federally recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, I welcome you to Kiihkayonki - Fort Wayne, Indiana. The confluence of the three rivers marks Kiihkayonki, which sits within the heartland region of Myaamionki, the land of the Miami. This region holds great significance for our people, rich in history, stories, and a continued connection to us, the Myaamiaki - the Miami People. Today, Kiihkayonki represents a shared landscape with multiple community histories, and we come together at the Indiana Preserving Historic Places Conference around our shared love of this region.

Our people have walked this landscape since time immemorial, and our connection to these lands goes back beyond our cultural memory. Before the 1800s, we would not have conceived of our forced separation from our homeland, nor the creation of our tribal diaspora brought by removals. Following decades of warfare and federal Indian removal, the Miami Tribe's government now sits outside our traditional great lakes homelands, located instead within our contemporary homeland on the Myaamia-Peewaalia Reservation in Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

Since 2014, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has maintained a government presence here in Kiihkayonki. In 2021, the Tribe purchased a 45-acre property, now held in trust, where it operates a Cultural Resources Extension Office (CREO). The CREO offers cultural programming to over 1,200 tribal citizens residing in our homelands in Indiana. The CREO also serves as the home of the Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). The Tribe is actively involved in preserving historic properties within the homeland. For example, in Kiihkayonki, the Tribe remains a partner with the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, which owns the Akima Pinsiwa Awiiki, also known as the Chief Richardville Treaty House. The Historical Society has been instrumental in the restoration and listing of the Akima Pinsiwa Awiiki as a National Historic Landmark. The Tribe has supported their work with financial contributions to repair the roof, as well as assistance with historical interpretation and docent training. Preserving historic places requires strong relationships and a shared love of and commitment to place.

While here, we invite you to connect with the place we call "Kiihkayonki." Visit some of the sites that shaped Kiihkayonki's history, such as the confluences of the Saint Mary's, Saint Joseph, and Maumee Rivers, as well as the Akima Pinsiwa Awiiki. Again, Meentitohkaalilakakoki! Welcome to Kiihkayonki!

kikwehsitoole, 'respectfully,'

Douglas G. Lankford, Chief
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

EMBASSY THEATRE



Welcome to

PRESERVING HISTORIC PLACES

Indiana's Statewide Preservation Conference 2025

Exciting changes have happened in Fort Wayne since the city last hosted Preserving Historic Places in 2003.

Among them is the conversion of the former GE factory to the Electric Works—an award-winning multi-use facility that serves as the location for our conference meet-up and plenary dinner. Throughout the conference, enjoy sessions that explore the legacies of Native Americans, fur traders, ethnic groups, industrial pioneers, and a vibrant post-industrial revival.

LOCATION OF EVENTS

You'll find the conference registration desk and educational sessions in the Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 West Jefferson Boulevard. Parking is available at the Civic Center Garage, 1021 Calhoun Street, or the Harrison Square Garage, 1210 South Harrison Street.

Pre-conference workshop locations include the Grand Wayne Convention Center and Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Citizens Square. Education and plenary sessions, and meal loca-

tions include the Grand Wayne Convention Center, Electric Works, Embassy Theatre, and the Allen County Courthouse. Check the schedule for times, dates, and parking information.

Friday features tours of the Louis Kahn-designed Arts United Center, and Eero Saarinen's Concordia Theological Seminary.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Check the flyer at the registration desk and session descriptions for information on continuing education credits with certification by the following organizations:

- American Institute of Architects, Indiana Chapter
- American Planning Association, Indiana Chapter
- American Society of Landscape Architects, Indiana Chapter
- Indiana State Library
- Indiana Professional Licensing Agency for Realtors



Show your conference name badge and enjoy complimentary admission to The History Center (302 East Berry Street) Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Schedule at a Glance

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9 A.M.-4 P.M. — **Grow Your Own Storytellers, pre-registration required** (Harrison B-C)

10 A.M.-4 P.M. — **Section 106 Training, pre-registration required** (Harrison D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. — **Conference Registration & Break Room** (Harrison A)

9-10:15 A.M.

PreservINg Main Street: Revitalizing Kendallville's Historic Heart
(Convention Hall A)

Preservation Pathways: Navigating Modern Challenges to Historic Sites
(Harrison B-C)

Preserving Indiana's Canal Heritage
(Harrison D-E)

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Full Disclosure: Improving Historic District Property Disclosure
(Convention Hall A)

Myaamia Kaakiihsitaakiaki: Preserving Miami Culture and Heritage (Harrison B-C)

Saving St. Adalbert Church
(Harrison D-E)

NOON-1:30 P.M.

Lunch
(Yergens Rogers Foundation Ballroom, Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd.)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. — **Conference Registration & Break Room** (Harrison A)

9-10:15 A.M.

Developing a Downtown Cultural District (Convention Hall A)

New Grist for an Old Mill
(Harrison B-C)

Remembering and Honoring Ethnic Communities (Harrison D-E)

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Transforming Sheridan through Collaboration (Convention Hall A)

Hands on History: Engaging Communities Through Experimental Archaeology (Harrison B-C)

Healthy, Historic Buildings
(Harrison D-E)

NOON-2 P.M.

Lunch on your own

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

9-10:15 A.M. — **Plenary: Icons of Modernism in Fort Wayne**
(Convention Hall A)

10:30 A.M.-NOON — **Arts United Center Tour** (303 E. Main St.)

10:30 A.M.-1 P.M. — **Concordia Theological Seminary Tour**
(6600 N. Clinton St.)

	2-4:30 P.M. — Conference Registration & Break Room (Harrison A)	5-7 P.M. Conference Meet-Up, Union Street Market at Electric Works (Union Parking Garage, 1450 Van Buren St.)
1-4:30 P.M. — Local Historic Preservation Commission Training, pre-registration required (Harrison E)	2-4:30 P.M. — Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Crafting Neighborhood Stories Through Historic Research, pre-registration required (Omni Room, Citizens Square, 200 East Berry St.)	
	2:30-4 P.M. — Exploring Fort Wayne's Synagogue Architecture, pre-registration required (Congregation Achduth Vesholom, 5200 Old Mill Rd.)	

1:45-3:30 P.M. Welcome & Plenary Session: The Embassy Theatre through Historic Images, and the Economic Impact of Heritage Tourism (Embassy Theatre)	3:45-5 P.M. Unlocking Development Potential: Fort Wayne's Approach to Attracting Developers (Convention Hall A) Growing Heritage Trades Training (Harrison B-C)	5:30-8 P.M. Dinner & Plenary: Reviving a Landmark: The GE Campus Transformation (GE Club at Electric Works, 1040 Swinney Ave., surface parking) 8-10 P.M. After-Hours Gathering Chapman's Brewing Company (Electric Works)
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1-1:45 P.M. Documentary: The Foot: A Community Remembered (Allen County Public Library Theater, 900 Library Plaza)	2-3:15 P.M. Plenary: Restoring the Allen County Courthouse (Convention Hall A)	3:30-5:30 P.M. Sacred Spaces Walking Tour (Meet at Conference Registration, Harrison A) Miami Nations Cultural Resources Extension Office Tour (8222 Fritz Rd.) Indiana Main Street: Shaping the Future Together (Harrison B-C)	5:30-8 P.M. Legal Splendor: An Evening at the Allen County Courthouse (715 S. Calhoun St.)
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Follow the Conversation **#INPHP2025**

SCIENCE
CENTRAL



Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 30

Conference Registration & Break Room

2-4:30 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center
(Harrison A)

120 West Jefferson Boulevard

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Grow Your Own Storytellers

9 A.M.-4 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center,
Harrison B-C

Pre-registration required; lunch
included

Learn how to harness the power of storytelling to market your historic commercial district in this hands-on workshop led by Phil Eich, founder of Storyville. Designed for Main Street leaders and preservationists, this session will show you how to tell authentic, impactful stories—without needing professional writing or photography skills. You'll walk away with practical tools to uplift your community, celebrate the people behind the places you love, and integrate storytelling into your marketing with ease.

*Sponsored by the Indiana Office of
Community and Rural Affairs*

Moderator: Arline Nation, Board of
Directors Vice President, ARCH

Speaker: Phil Eich, Founder, Storyville

PHOTO COURTESY VISIT FORT WAYNE

Section 106 Training

10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center,
Harrison D

**Pre-registration required; lunch on
your own**

Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) staff offer basic instruction on the Section 106/Environmental Review process. Participants will also review resources contained in the Indiana State Historic Architectural & Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) and the Indiana Historic Buildings, Bridges, and Cemeteries (IHBBC) Map.

Speakers: Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology staff

Local Historic Preservation Commission Training

1-4:30 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center,
Harrison E

Pre-registration required

Join staff from the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA) and Indiana Landmarks, along with local preservation commissioners from across the state, for an informative session focused on strengthening local preservation efforts. This session will cover essential topics including preservation fundamentals, financial incentives, and the economic benefits of historic preservation. A round-table discussion offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, challenges, and successes with fellow commissioners.

Participation in this session qualifies for continuing education credit for Certified Local Government (CLG) communities.

Speakers: Deb Parcell, Northern Regional Office Community Preservation Specialist, Indiana Landmarks; Laura Renwick, Southern Regional Office Community Preservation Specialist, Indiana Landmarks; Ashley Thomas, Tax Credit and CLG Manager, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology; Ross Van Overberghe, Historic Preservation Administrator, City of South Bend; and Shannon Hill Zuercher, Historic Review Board, City of Huntington

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

(CONTINUED)

Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Crafting Neighborhood Stories Through Historic Research

2-4:30 P.M.

Omni Room, Citizens Square, 200 East Berry Street

Pre-registration required; Paid parking available in the Town Center Garage, 828 South Clinton Street

Turn your local or National Register historic district documentation into engaging neighborhood stories in this hands-on workshop. Using Fort Wayne's Williams-Woodland Park as a case study, participants will learn practical techniques for house history research, blending maps, photos, records, and oral histories into compelling narratives. The session includes a virtual walking tour and step-by-step guidance on developing your own research-based tours—perfect for preservationists, local historians, and community advocates looking to make history more accessible and meaningful.

Moderator: Beth Walker, ARCH Board President, and Managing Broker and Realtor, Fairfield Group Realtors, Inc.

Speakers: Allison DePrey Singleton, Genealogy Services Manager, Allen County Public Library and Elizabeth Hodges, Assistant Manager of Genealogy Services, Allen County Public Library

This session qualifies for 2 Realtor credit hours.

Exploring Fort Wayne's Synagogue Architecture

2:30-4:00 P.M.

Congregation Achduth Vesholom,
5200 Old Mill Road

Pre-registration required; On-site parking available

Explore Fort Wayne's Jewish architectural heritage with a look at six purpose-built synagogues designed by renowned Jewish regional architects. This engaging field session includes a look at the Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project and a tour of the 1960 Congregation Achduth Vesholom (CAV), a Mid-Century Modern design recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. As the only remaining synagogue of Indiana's oldest Jewish congregation, founded in 1848, the building offers a unique look at Fort Wayne's history and community.

Moderator: Jeannie Regan Dinius,
Director of Historic Preservation,
Crown Hill Foundation

Speaker: Wendy Soltz, Associate
Professor & Director, Public History
Program, Ball State University

Conference Meet-Up

5-7 P.M.

Union Street Market at Electric Works
(Union Parking Garage, 1450 Van
Buren Street)

Kick off the conference by reconnecting and networking in a relaxed atmosphere at the award-winning Electric Works — a dynamic mixed-use campus at the heart of innovation and revitalization. Enjoy dinner and drinks on your own from a variety of local food vendors while mingling with fellow attendees.



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

9-10:15 A.M.

PreservINg Main Street: Revitalizing Kendallville's Historic Heart

Convention Hall A

Explore how the PreservINg Main Street initiative is transforming Kendallville's historic downtown through strategic facade improvements. In collaboration with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Indiana Landmarks, and Indiana Humanities, this program equips business and property owners to enhance the character and curb appeal of their storefronts—sparking economic development and strengthening community engagement. Discover ways a collaborative process, creative design solutions, funding mechanisms, and success stories stimulate local commerce, attract visitors, and foster civic pride.

Moderator: Deb Parcell, Northern Regional Office Community Preservation Specialist, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Jessica Franke, Architect, MartinRiley; Lisa Gulick, Architect, MartinRiley; and Kristen Johnson, Executive Director, Historic Downtown Kendallville

This session qualifies for 1.5 AIA and Realtor credit hours, and 1.25 APA hours.

Wednesday

OCTOBER 1

All Wednesday sessions are located at the Grand Wayne Convention Center unless noted.

Conference Registration & Break Room

8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center
(Harrison A)

120 West Jefferson Boulevard

Breakfast on your own—Explore Fort Wayne's locally owned coffee shops and cafes.

Preservation Pathways: Navigating Modern Challenges to Historic Sites

Harrison B-C

Historic resources located along modernizing transportation routes face unique preservation challenges. This session explores such issues through the case study of the Baker-Johnson-Pickett Farmstead, a property situated at a historic crossroads in Hamilton County and closely tied to the region's abolitionist history. Learn how collaborative efforts between community and agencies led to innovative mitigation strategies, including archaeological investigations, archival documentation of the landscape and structures, and the relocation and interpretation of the historic house and barn. This session highlights how coordination can safeguard significant cultural resources while accommodating necessary infrastructure improvements.

Moderator: Chad Slider, Assistant Director for Environmental Review, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Speakers: Bethany Natali, Senior Historian, Weintraut & Associates, Inc.; Craig Arnold, Principal Investigator, Weintraut & Associates, Inc.; and Mark Dollase, Vice President of Preservation Services, Indiana Landmarks

Preserving Indiana's Canal Heritage

Harrison D-E

Join members of the Canal Society of Indiana (CSI) for a look at Fort Wayne's role in the Wabash and Erie Canal—the longest canal in North America. Explore how the canal shaped Indiana's early banking, commerce, government, immigration, and transportation systems and the dynamic ways CSI interprets the story through interactive media, a website, educational programming, and interpretive signage.

Moderator: Stevie Meyer, Eastern Regional Office Community Preservation Specialist, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Ronald Morris, President, Canal Society of Indiana; and Robert Schmidt, Treasurer, Canal Society of Indiana

This session qualifies for 1 ASLA credit hour.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Full Disclosure: Improving Historic District Property Disclosure

Convention Hall A

Historic preservation commissions often struggle to ensure new owners in local historic districts understand their responsibility to obtain approval for exterior changes. Since residential sales disclosures rarely include historic designations, this information is frequently missed at closing. Learn how the Fort Wayne Historic Preservation Commission developed tools to help Realtors and buyers better understand preservation requirements. Hear insights from HPC staff, a Realtor, and a broker on improving communication and compliance through collaboration.

Moderator: Ashley Thomas, Tax Credit & CLG Manager, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Speakers: Nate Lefever, Historic Preservation Planner I, City of Fort Wayne; Creager Smith, Historic Preservation Planner II, City of Fort Wayne; and Beth Walker, ARCH Board President, and Managing Broker & Realtor, Fairfield Group Realtors, Inc.

This session qualifies for 1.5 Realtor credit hours.

Myaamia Kaakiihsitaakiaki: Preserving Miami Culture and Heritage

Harrison B-C

Meentitohkaalilaankiki! The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma welcomes you to Kiihkayonki—Fort Wayne, Indiana—a place with deep and enduring Myaamia presence. It is home to the Tribe's Cultural Resources Extension Office which serves over 1,200 tribal citizens in Indiana and operates as an extension of the Tribe to protect and perpetuate Myaamia culture and sovereignty. In this session, Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Cultural Resources staff share the Tribe's history and ongoing connection to Indiana, discuss current efforts to protect and preserve cultural resources, and explore how the Myaamia community is represented through a museum and archives.

Moderator: Calvin Nguyen, Indianapolis Preservation Coordinator, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Morgan Lippert, Curator of Exhibitions & Programming Myaamia Heritage Museum and Archives, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Jared Nally, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; and Logan York, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Saving Saint Adalbert Church

Harrison D-E

St. Adalbert Church, an iconic Neo-Gothic masonry structure completed in 1926, serves a large and vibrant congregation in South Bend's historic west side. As the church approaches its centennial, a team of architects and engineers collaborated to assess the building and develop a vision for its comprehensive restoration and renovation. Hear from team members who discuss their work using advanced technology and hands-on field inspections to form design solutions aimed at enhancing the church's strength and durability while preserving its architectural character for future generations.

Moderator: Todd Zeiger, Northern Regional Office Director, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Joe Klatt, Project Engineer, Frost Engineering & Consulting; David Pirchio, Project Engineer, Frost Engineering & Consulting; and Eric Stalheim, Director of Historic Preservation, KIL Architecture

This session qualifies for 1.5 AIA credit hours.

Lunch & Welcome

NOON-1:30 P.M.

Yergens Rogers Foundation Ballroom, Embassy Theatre, 125 West Jefferson Boulevard

Step back into the elegance of the 1920s in the stunning Yergens Rogers Foundation Ballroom, perched atop the historic Embassy Theatre. Enjoy lunch as you reconnect with friends, catch up with colleagues, and build new professional connections. This special gathering is the perfect prelude to the afternoon plenary session in the iconic theatre below.

Welcome & Plenary

1:45-3:30 P.M.

Embassy Theatre, 125 West Jefferson Boulevard

As the Embassy Theatre nears its centennial anniversary in 2028, it's hard to believe that it was nearly lost to the wrecking ball in 1972 were it not for community leaders and grassroots support. The building's most recent update came in 2016 with a \$10 million renovation that opened previously closed spaces including the two-story ballroom, rooftop patio, and rooms for meetings, education programs, and staff.

After a welcome by Fort Wayne Mayor Sharon Tucker and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Logan York of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, join Randy Harter, historian and author, for a look at the Embassy's history through a collection of historic images.

Donovan Rypkema concludes the plenary with the results of a recent study showing the economic impact of heritage tourism in Fort Wayne.

Moderator: Meg Galasso, Associate Librarian for History, Jewish Studies, and Religious Studies, Indiana University; and Chair, Indiana University Committee on Historic Preservation

Speakers: Randy Harter, Historian and Author; and Donovan Rypkema, Principal and CEO, PlaceEconomics

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

3:45-5 P.M.

Unlocking Development Potential: Fort Wayne's Approach to Attracting Developers

Convention Hall A

Fort Wayne has seen notable success in attracting regional developers through a transparent and strategic request-for-qualifications (RFQ) process. This session will walk participants through the city's approach—from crafting a compelling development vision and marketing key sites to understanding what developers value and effectively managing the RFQ process. While the session focuses on mixed-use projects, the principles and lessons shared are broadly applicable to a range of development types.

Moderator: Greg Sekula, Southern Regional Office Director, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Joe Giant, Economic Development Director, City of Ann Arbor; and Kirk Moriarity, Director of Downtown and Urban Development, Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.

This session qualifies for 1.5 Realtor credit hours, and 1.25 APA hours.

Growing Heritage Trades Training

Harrison B-C

A recent study by Ivy Tech Community College highlights the growing crisis in historic preservation of a severe shortage of skilled tradespeople. In response, local and statewide organizations are creating innovative programs to bridge this gap. This session explores how you can turn your own preservation trades expertise into a teaching opportunity with Ivy Tech and support Indiana Landmarks in developing a comprehensive toolkit that introduces traditional trades to middle and high school students and adult learners.

Moderator: Anne Schneider, Associate, RATIO Architects, LLC

Speakers: Randy Wooldridge, Employer Consultant, Ivy Tech Community College; and Todd Zeiger, Northern Regional Office Director, Indiana Landmarks

This session qualifies for 1.5 AIA credit hours.

DINNER & PLENARY

Reviving a Landmark: The GE Campus Transformation

5:30-8 P.M.

GE Club at Electric Works, 1040 Swinney Avenue (Surface parking)

Lace up your Chuck Taylors and step into history at the GE Club, the former rec center for General Electric employees. Enjoy a casual dinner in the historic gymnasium, then hear the inside story of one of Indiana's largest adaptive reuse projects. Learn how the long-vacant GE campus is being reimagined as Electric Works—a dynamic hub for living, working, and gathering. Our speaker will share the vision, challenges, and successes behind the transformation and what it means for the future of Fort Wayne's east side.

Master of Ceremonies: Brad Ward, President, Indiana Landmarks

Speaker: Kevan Biggs, Owner & President, Biggs Group

After-Hours Gathering

8-10 P.M.

Chapman's Brewing Company

Keep the Electric Works energy going at Chapman's Brewing Company, located on Dynamo Alley just behind the Swinney Avenue lot. Connect with colleagues and new friends over conversation, networking, and good company. Enjoy a cash bar, light snacks, and desserts.

Sponsored by Architectural Revivalist

Thursday

OCTOBER 2

All Thursday sessions are located at the Grand Wayne Convention Center unless noted.

Conference Registration & Break Room

8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Grand Wayne Convention Center
(Harrison A), 120 West Jefferson
Boulevard

Breakfast on your own; explore Fort
Wayne's locally owned coffee shops
and cafes

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

9-10:15 A.M.

Developing a Downtown Cultural District

Convention Hall A

Explore how Warsaw Main Street's 2030 strategic plan identifies underutilized spaces—such as vacant upper stories—as opportunities for adaptive reuse and community revitalization. This session offers a case study of transforming these spaces into artist lofts, highlighting public engagement strategies, plan development, and the architectural design process. Hear from city, county economic development, and Main Street staff as they review the challenges and successes of project planning, cost estimating, funding strategies, branding, and creating and managing events.

Moderator: Glenn Faris, Preservation Coordinator, Franklin Heritage Inc.

Speakers: Suzie Light, Leadership Partner, Kosciusko Economic Development; Jeremy Skinner, Community and Economic Development Director, City of Warsaw; and Terry Sweeney, Downtown Development Director, Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce.

This session qualifies for 1.5 Realtor credit hours and 1.25 APA hours.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS *(CONTINUED)*

9-10:15 A.M.

New Grist for an Old Mill

Harrison B-C

Discover how Indiana's iconic Spring Mill State Park grist mill—a significant part of Indiana history—continues to thrive through continued maintenance and repairs. This session explores the unique challenges of maintaining a working historic mill, highlighting the collaboration between state agencies, to address wear from water and time. Learn how targeted repairs, not full restoration, are keeping the wheels turning while honoring the past.

Moderator: Beth McCord, Director, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Speakers: Benjamin Clark, Cultural Resources Manager, Indiana State Parks; Cathy Draeger-Williams, Archaeologist, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology; Dean Illingworth, Assistant Director, Engineering Division, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

This session qualifies for 1.5 AIA credit hours.

Remembering and Honoring Ethnic Communities

Harrison D-E

Explore how historic preservation can honor the legacy of displaced or transformed ethnic neighborhoods through two powerful case studies: Irishtown in Fort Wayne and The Foot in Jefferson City, Missouri. Though much of the physical fabric has vanished, these communities live on through research, oral histories, interpretive signage, and documentary storytelling. Learn how preservation tools can help reclaim and celebrate cultural memory.

The Foot: A Community Remembered documentary will also be shown in full from 1-1:45 p.m. at the Allen County Public Library.

Moderator: Holly Tate, Architectural Historian, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Speakers: Robert O'Donoghue-Stone, author & historian; Dan Baisden, Neighborhood Planner and Community Development Administrator, City of Fort Wayne; Gary Quigg, Senior Cultural Resources Investigator, Lochmueller Group; and Hannah Blad, Historian/Section 106 Specialist III, Lochmueller Group

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Transforming Sheridan Through Collaboration

Convention Hall A

This session highlights the successful revitalization of Sheridan, Indiana, where collaboration among the town government, Sheridan Main Street, private building owners, philanthropy, and students in Ball State University's Center for Historic Preservation led to design assistance for over 20 historic buildings. Through immersive learning and strong public-private partnerships, the initiative has spurred economic development, strengthened community identity, and preserved historic character. Attendees will hear directly from key stakeholders, gaining practical insight into how similar efforts can be implemented in their own communities.

Moderator: Stephanie Richard, Southwest Field Office Director, Indiana Landmarks

Speakers: Cynthia Keever, President, Sheridan Main Street; Ellen Swisher Crabb, Board Chair, United Animal Health and Board Member, Indiana Landmarks; and J. P. Hall, Associate Professor/Director, Center for Historic Preservation, Ball State University

This session qualifies for 1.5 Realtor credit hours.

Hands-On History: Engaging Communities Through Experimental Archaeology

Harrison B-C

Public and experimental archaeology offer powerful tools for connecting communities with their cultural heritage in meaningful, hands-on ways. This session demonstrates how involving the public in ancient techniques can build social cohesion, promote sustainable heritage practices, and make archaeological research more accessible. Presenters will share strategies for bridging academic research and everyday life while addressing challenges such as cultural sensitivity, limited resources, and sustaining long-term community partnerships.

Moderator: Amy Johnson, State Archaeologist, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Speakers: Christy Brocken, Historical Resource Manager, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation; Louis Herzner, Archaeology Coordinator, Archaeological Research Institute; and Rachel Sharkey, Director of Public Archaeology, Archaeological Research Institute

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS (CONTINUED)

10:30-11:45 A.M.

Healthy, Historic Buildings

Harrison D-E

While hazards like lead and asbestos are well-known, historic buildings also offer surprising health benefits. This session examines how traditional materials, design, and neighborhood context can support physical, cognitive, and social well-being. From improved air quality and natural light to reduced stress and stronger community ties, historic buildings often promote healthier living environments. Attendees will gain a new perspective on preservation by considering historic structures not just as cultural assets, but as contributors to public health.

Moderator: Jessica Franke, Architect, MartinRiley

Speaker: Bryan D. Orthel, Associate Professor, Indiana University

This session qualifies for 1.5 AIA HSW, and Realtor credit hours, and 1.25 APA hours.

Lunch On Your Own

NOON-2 P.M.

Refer to the handout at the registration desk for a list of downtown restaurants.

Documentary Showing *The Foot: A Community Remembered*

1-1:45 P.M.

Allen County Public Library Theater,
900 Library Plaza

This documentary highlights the Missouri community featured in the educational session “Remembering and Honoring Ethnic Communities.” As part of a Section 106 mitigation effort, Lochmueller Group’s Cultural Resources team partnered with MoDOT and the Jefferson City community to tell the story of a once-thriving African American neighborhood lost to 1960s highway construction and urban renewal. Featuring oral histories, archival footage, and period music, the film preserves the legacy of a community once central to Black life in Jefferson City.

Sponsored by Lochmueller Group

PLENARY

Restoring the Allen County Courthouse

2-3:15 P.M.

Convention Hall A

Before visiting the courthouse for an evening reception, get a behind-the-scenes look at how architects and artisans repaired and restored the building’s beautiful encaustic floor tiles.

Moderator: Robyn Zimmerman, Executive Director, Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust

Speakers: George Bachnivsky, architect (retired), MSKTD & Associates; Paul Lindsay, Architect, MSKTD & Associates; and Robert Wilson, Owner, Wilson Custom Tiles

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

3:30-5:30 P.M.

Sacred Spaces Walking Tour

Meet at the conference registration,
Harrison A

Enjoy a walking tour of Fort Wayne's downtown historic churches led by guides from ARCH, Fort Wayne's historic preservation nonprofit. You'll explore stunning exteriors and interiors of Trinity English Lutheran Church; First Presbyterian Church; Plymouth Congregational, United Church of Christ; and Trinity Episcopal Church, a participant in Indiana Landmarks Sacred Places program.

Miami Nation Cultural Resources Extension Office Tour

8222 Fritz Road (Transportation
on-your-own)

Travel 8 miles northwest of Fort Wayne to discover Miami heritage at the Cultural Resources Extension Office (CREO). The CREO provides tribal members living in the lower Great Lakes region an opportunity to reconnect with their Myaamia history, language, and culture. "Peehkahkionki" or "beautiful place" is a 45-acre property which includes cultural exhibits, and a 3.5-acre pond with 13 acres of woods and trails.

Indiana Main Street: Shaping the Future Together

Harrison B-C

This session is targeted at employees and board members of Indiana Main Street organizations, but all are welcome.

Indiana Main Street has always been driven by the collective vision of local leaders. With the 2025 strategic plan as our guide, this interactive session invites you to be part of charting the next chapter for the Indiana Main Street Program. Join Main Street America staff and OCRA in a facilitated conversation that acknowledges the challenges—and opportunities—of today's changing landscape. Through small group discussions and focused conversations, you'll share your insights, concerns, and aspirations. This session isn't just about reviewing the plan—it's about ensuring that Indiana Main Street continues to reflect the reality on the ground and remains responsive to the communities you know best. Let's work together to identify practical next steps, strengthen our statewide network, and reaffirm our shared commitment to vibrant downtowns.

Moderator: Danny Causey, Executive Director, Discover Downtown Franklin

Speakers: Jackie Swihart, Director of Network Capacity Building, Main Street America; and Indiana Main Street staff

RECEPTION

Legal Splendor: An Evening at the Allen County Courthouse

5:30-8 P.M.

Allen County Courthouse,
715 South Calhoun Street
(Use the east entrance on the
Courthouse Green)

Guests will be asked to pass
through a metal detector; Cell
phones and cameras are permitted

Step inside Indiana's only National Historic Landmark county courthouse for an unforgettable evening celebrating art, architecture, and preservation. Marvel at the building's interior—featuring exquisite scagliola, marble finishes, allegorical murals and sculpture, encaustic tilework, and art glass—that together form a masterpiece of civic design. Enjoy guided tours led by members of the Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1994 to ensure the ongoing preservation and stewardship of this architectural treasure for generations to come.



CONCORDIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Friday

OCTOBER 3

PLENARY

Icons of Modernism in Fort Wayne

9-10:15 A.M.

Convention Hall A

Fort Wayne is home to two internationally celebrated landmarks of Mid-Century Modern design. Our closing plenary offers an exclusive look inside these architectural treasures.

Begin with a guided look inside Louis Kahn's Arts United Center, where recent renovations have enhanced accessibility and technology while honoring Kahn's original design. Then, delve into the past, present, and future of Eero Saarinen's Concordia Theological Seminary, a thoughtfully designed campus inspired by the layout of a traditional northern European village.

Following the plenary, attendees are invited to experience these iconic sites firsthand and discover how Modern design continues to influence the built environment.

Moderator: Creager Smith, Historic Preservation Planner II, City of Fort Wayne

Speakers: Zach Benedict, President, MKM Architecture & Design; Miriam Morgan, Vice President of Operations and COO, Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne; and Robert Roethemeyer, Director of Library and Information Services, Concordia Theological Seminary

This session qualifies for 1 ASLA credit hour.

PHOTO COURTESY CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TOURS

Arts United Center

10:30 A.M.-NOON

303 East Main Street

Parking is available in a metered city lot east of Arts United Center on the north side of Freimann Square

Guided tour provided by Arts United Center staff and volunteers.

Concordia Theological Seminary

10:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

6600 North Clinton Street (Free parking available on site)

Self-guided tour. See campus map for details.

Guided tours offered at 11:00 a.m. and noon. Meet under the canopy between the Administration Building and Wyneken Hall.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bethany Baugh
Indiana Landmarks

Zachary Benedict
MKM Design

Tyler Bowers
Fort Wayne Historic Preservation
Commission

Madelane Elston
Allen County Courthouse
Preservation Trust

Jessica Franke
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LEE LEWELLEN

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in Franklin, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2026

Join us for Preserving Historic Places' first visit to Franklin! Explore the charm of its vibrant historic downtown and active preservation community. Adaptively reused buildings like the Garment Factory and Johnson County Historical Museum, blend innovation, with tradition in the iconic Artcraft Theatre and historic courthouse. Franklin offers the perfect backdrop for learning, networking, and inspiration.

