

Cityscape Detroit E-News Issue #15 – Thursday, 15 July 2004

Cityscape Detroit advocates for improving Detroit's quality of life through architecture, urban design, urban planning, and historic preservation. Our built environment affects us daily, and it is our goal to demonstrate how through improving these four key design elements, Detroit will become a dynamic and wonderful place to live, work, and play for all its area residents.

Cityscape Detroit's E-news periodically reports on items of interest in each of these four urban disciplines. Included in this issue of the Cityscape Detroit E-News are the following 11 news items.

- 1) Transportation Riders United (TRU) Honor Jack Schram – 15 July 2004, TONIGHT**
- 2) Congressional Hearing Set for Federal Preservation Funding – 20 July 2004**
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- 11) Oakland County’s “Heritage – Take VII: Behind the Scenes” Conference – 22 September 2004**

1) Transportation Riders United (TRU) Honor Jack Schram – 15 July 2004, TONIGHT

Transportation Riders United (TRU) will hold the First Annual Jack Edward Schramm Transit Award Benefit tonight, July 15th from 6-8PM at the International Institute, in Detroit's Cultural Center. The International Institute is at 111 E Kirby, just north of the Detroit Institute of the Arts. It is less than a block from the Woodward Bus line with adjacent secure parking.

Mr. Schramm is being recognized for his lifetime of advocacy and scholarship as it relates to Detroit's once expansive transit network. Through stewardship of the City of Detroit's Department of Street Railway archive and several books and numerous other publications, Mr. Schramm has educated generations about Detroit's rich transit history. Selected personal items from Mr. Schramm's collection will be on view, including DSR badges, schedules, streetcar models, and videos showing Detroit's system in action. Mr. Schramm will be on hand for questions and recollections.

Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be available beginning at 6PM. Award presentation will be at 7PM with a special raffle of DSR farebox collection vaults and signed copies of When Eastern Michigan Rode the Rails will be at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$20 for members of TRU, \$30 for non-members (price includes TRU membership). Please contact TRU at 313.963.8872 for more information.

2) Congressional Hearing Set for Federal Preservation Funding – 20 July 2004

On July 20th, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on the Americans Outdoors Act, S. 2590, a bill to ensure that royalties from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil lease revenues are directed to resource protection activities including Coastal Mitigation programs, stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants, wildlife programs, and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program (UPARR). The bill is a successor to the popular, yet never fully funded, Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) and joins the House's Get Outdoors Act (GO Act) in trying to create a permanent funding stream for those programs funded by OCS revenues.

Unfortunately, absent from the Senate bill is funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF – which funds the State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices among other things), which has always derived its revenue from OCS and was part of CARA.

Even the bill's sponsors acknowledge that historic preservation should be part of the package. In her introductory floor statement, Americans Outdoors Act co-sponsor Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) noted, "In addition, other worthy programs that are not part of the legislation we introduce today but ideally would be part of a larger more comprehensive effort include Historic Preservation, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILoT), and the Forest Legacy Program." The bill's sponsors, Landrieu and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), have told preservationists that they excluded several programs from their original bill as a way to keep its overall cost down and to secure a full committee hearing before the summer recess. However, in spite of assurances that the HPF can be made part of the bill, preservationists will need to press this issue with every member of the Resources committee and the larger Senate as the bill moves forward. Please consider writing Senators Levin and Stabenow, calling for their support of an amended Americans Outdoors Act that includes funding the Historic Preservation Fund.

3) Congress Continues to Drag Regarding Re-Authorization of TEA-21 Program

During a somewhat contentious meeting in early July, House and Senate conferees on the reauthorization the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), continued to wrangle over the cost of the six year package. The TEA-21 program and its predecessor, ISTEA, have been tremendously successful programs in supporting historic preservation on a Federal level. Prior to the meeting, the Senate had aggressively re-stated its intention to stand by its \$318 billion funding figure and urged the House to concede to this higher number. But the House refused to make a commitment one way or the other. In the absence of any statements to the contrary, the House appears intent on standing by its \$283 billion package. Both figures are veto-bait for the President who has said he will not approve any plan the costs more \$256 billion.

As the legislative calendar runs thin -- there is just a week of legislative action planned before the August recess -- hopes are fading that a conference report can be prepared, acted upon by both chambers, and sent to the President before Congress adjourns in October. This leaves only one option, a long-term extension that puts off decision making to a new congress and a new or renewed administration thus threatening the hard work that preservationists have made to preserve Transportation Enhancement funding (the major TEA-21 preservation funding) in the recent past.

4) Detroit Opera House Summer Architectural Lecture Series

Encore! and the MOT Community Programs presents "Learning @ the Opera House." On Tuesday 20 July, topic is Detroit's Art Deco Architecture, from 7 – 9 PM. Rebecca Binno Savage, co-author of *Art Deco in Detroit* and President of Detroit Area Art Deco Society will present the City's most noteworthy art deco buildings. On Tuesday 27 July, topic is Detroit's New Center, from 7 – 9 PM. Author Randall Fogelman, of a newly published book on the history of New Center, will present the architecture of this great district. On Saturday 14 August, topic will be downtown's development, from 10 AM to Noon. Architect Michael Poris will lead a discussion and walking tour. To register online, go to www.motopera.org/community_prgms/learningatmot/enrollmentform.htm or call 313.237.SING.

5) Detroit Opera House Wins Scotchgard Contest

On the 14th of June, Scotchgard Protector from 3M and the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced the winners of the "Protecting America's Treasures" program winners, which were determined by a nation-wide voting initiative (included in Cityscape E-News #13). Five winners were selected from 20 time-honored locations such as theatres, opera houses, and historic hotels. The Detroit Opera House had the highest number of votes. Other winners included Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium, The Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, Central City Opera House in Denver, and the Cincinnati Music Hall. Each winner will receive a professional cleaning and treatment with Scotchgard products from top to bottom.

6) Whole Building Design Guide Available Online

The Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) is a web-based portal providing government and industry practitioners with one-stop access to up-to-date information on a wide range of building-related guidance, criteria, and technology from a "whole buildings" perspective. New information on preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings has been contributed to this effort by the National Park Service. Development of the WBDG is a collaborative effort among

federal agencies, private sector companies, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. Go to http://www.wbdg.org/news/news_hp.php for more information.

7) Heritage Health Index/Survey Arrives This Month

This month, the Heritage Health Index questionnaire will arrive at 15,000 archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and scientific organizations nationwide. The survey seeks to document the condition and preservation needs of collections and produce the first national picture of the state of artistic, historic, and scientific collections. The Heritage Health Index is administered by Heritage Preservation, Inc. in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Heritage Preservation estimates that about 40,000 institutions hold collections, including books, manuscripts, paintings, photographs, archeological artifacts, natural history specimens, historic objects, audiovisual materials, and digital media. Responses are due by the end of September. For more information contact Kristen Laise at Heritage Preservation at (202) 634-1422 or by email at: Klaise@heritagepreservation.org.

8) New Online Tool for Historic Siding

A new publication is available from Arkansas that provides a good time line for the use of siding materials along with a short history of their production. According to Michigan State Historic Preservation Office Staffer Amy Arnold, this information should be useful to Historic District Commissioners and their staffs. Log onto www.arkansaspreservation.com/history/siding_index.asp for this resource.

9) Upcoming Michigan Cool Cities Conference 4-6 August 2004 and Additional Cool Cities Info.

Michigan Economic Develop Association is hosting the "Economic Development & Michigan Today – Time for a Cool Change" Conference, 4-6 August 2004 at the Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs. For info., log onto www.medaweb.org. Also, "Cultural Economic Development: A Practical Guide for Communities," from the Governors office, can be downloaded from the MEDA website.

For more information on the Michigan Cool Cities Initiatives, log onto www.coolcities.com.

10) Michigan Historic Preservation Network's First Annual Golf Outing – 26 August 2004

MHPN is holding its first annual Golf Outing at the Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing, MI. It will be a four person scramble format. Cost is \$150 per person for golf, meals, and cocktail reception or \$45 for dinner with two drinks. For Registration and sponsorship information, contact Joanne Hartmeyer at 734.487.3090 or by email at joanne.hartmeyer@emich.edu.

11) Oakland County's "Heritage – Take VII: Behind the Scenes" Conference – 22 September 2004

The conference brings together individuals from various backgrounds who deal with the built and natural environment to discuss ways to improve their communities. The conference has attracted up to 200 local and regional governmental staff, elected officials, developers, architects, realtors, consultants, and small business owners as well as those representing environmental and historical interests in the past. Conference is organized by the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services Department. Timothy Butler, AICP, Esq. of Kentucky will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact Julie Skene at 248.858.5437. Space is limited.

If you no longer want to receive this Cityscape Detroit E-News newsletter, please send an email to Arthur Mullen at amullen@ExperienceEverythingAutomotive.org or call his daytime telephone number at 313.259.3425.