MPA RESCUES BROADWAY APTS!!

♦ New Hope for Lewistown Landmark

On Friday, October 16 MPA took a dramatic step, and purchased the Broadway Apartments in Lewistown, a building that had been on MPA’s Endangered List since 2001. With a favorable feasibility study in hand, many supporters, and lots of enthusiasm, MPA will make the Broadway a demonstration project for building rehabilitation and put it back into use. A century ago, the Broadway was an upper-middle class apartment building for young professionals and newlyweds, but has been vacant and unmaintained for the last 25 years. In early 2015, a section of its rear wall collapsed threatening the entire building’s stability.

Lewistown officials called MPA, and after High Plains Architects of Billings determined that the building was still structurally sound, MPA worked closely with the owner, city officials, Duane Ferdinand of the Lewistown Historic Resources Commission, and Lewistown Local Development to come to a purchase agreement. This is the first time in our 28 year history that MPA has acquired a building in order to save it. “We see the Broadway as the first of many buildings that MPA will rescue through a revolving fund model,” said MPA Director, Chere Jiusto.

The wheels are already in motion to breathe new life into the building. MPA’s Restoration Director, Matt Morgan is developing renovation plans, and Executive Director Chere Jiusto is raising funds for initial work as we seek a sensitive new owner who will return this local landmark to the proud list of beautiful downtown Lewistown masonry buildings. Stay tuned to the MPA website and our Facebook page for the latest on the Broadway Apartments, and don’t forget to click LIKE when you do!

ACTIONS ALERT!

Federal Preservation Funds in Danger!
In October, Congress failed to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the main source of funds for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, which are the backbone of our country’s historic preservation programs. The HPF has facilitated over 80,000 listings on the National Register and $109 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit. The HPF receives funding through Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenue, not tax dollars, but will no longer be able to receive new funding until the HPF is reauthorized.

You can send your Congressmen a letter through www.preservationaction.org/action-alert-reauthorize-hpf/.
Dear Friends,

Preservation happens when people embrace history and support the notion of leaving a legacy for future generations. In September, a crisis arose in Washington DC when the federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was allowed by Congress to expire, the only time this has occurred in its almost-50-year history. While expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund made headlines, many do not know that the HPF met the same fate. **Now, unless Congress reauthorizes and appropriates funding, there will no longer be State Historic Preservation Offices, tribal preservation funding, or federal funds for cities and counties with their own historic preservation programs.**

Earlier this month I attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s annual conference in Washington DC. While there, people from every state were visiting Capitol Hill to alert their delegation to this crisis. I am proud to say that Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, and Congressman Ryan Zinke all share our deep concern over expiration of this essential funding that makes so much preservation possible in Montana and across our country, and are helping to remedy the situation. **If you have stories of how much these funds help your community,** we invite you to share them with us and with our esteemed representatives in Washington. Next year, instead of mourning the loss of this critical funding, we intend to celebrate the HPF, and hope that in honor of its 50 year anniversary, for the first time ever, it will be fully funded at the $150 million level. Thanks for all you do to cherish, embrace and preserve our past.

Chere Jiusto

**MPA Books Center Stage in DC**

On her recent visit to Montana’s Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. MPA’s Chere Jiusto was overjoyed to find our book, *Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana*, and former MPA Board member, Charlotte Caldwell’s book, *Visions & Voices: Montana’s One-Room Schoolhouses* on display, front and center, in Senator Tester’s waiting area, and on Congressman Zinke’s coffee table. We are so proud of our delegation’s support for Montana’s historic places! You can stop by MPA in Helena’s Reeder’s Alley to purchase your copies or visit PreserveMontana.org or MThistory.org. Proceeds benefit preservation all across MT!

**Two New Grants!**

*Butte Ethnic Atlas*

MPA is overjoyed to announce two new grants coming our way for 2016! The National Park Service awarded $56,000 to MPA and the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives to enhance documentation of Butte’s ethnic resources, through the Butte, Montana Ethnic Atlas and National Register project. MPA and BSB will inventory and map the ethnic heritage of the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark, with special attention on enclaves of African-American, Chinese, and Arabic-speaking (Lebanese) peoples.

*Big Sky Schoolhouse Survey*

We are also elated to receive continued funding for MPA’s Big Sky Schoolhouse Survey. Many thanks to long-standing supporters of historic preservation – the Montana Land Title Association Foundation – for a grant of $10,000 to help MPA document and preserve Montana’s signature one-room schoolhouses.
Another year, another amazing group of dedicated preservationists! We are lucky in Montana to have such a large pool of preservation-minded folks, willing to go above and beyond to preserve the cherished heritage that makes our state so special. On September 23, MPA was proud to unveil this year’s group of Excellence Award winners at the Shane Center for the Arts in Livingston, formerly the East Side School. MPA helped save the elegant brick building in 2003 and the community repurposed it beginning in 2010.

Charlotte Caldwell, Clyde Park
Outstanding Individual Achievement

Not only did Charlotte travel more than 14,000 miles to photograph Montana’s schoolhouses, and then self-publish Visions & Voices: Montana’s One-Room Schoolhouses in 2012, she also donated all the profits from book sales to the Montana History Foundation (MHF). Over the past four years, the MHF has given out more than $65,000, specifically for schoolhouse preservation. Thanks to Charlotte’s generosity, the steady stream of disappearing schoolhouses has been broken.

Zane Fulbright, Bureau of Land Management
Outstanding Federal Preservation Project

Many locals thought the weathered walls of the Wartzenluft Homestead and barn in the Missouri Breaks area of Central Montana would always be ruins, but Zane Fulbright, archaeologist at the Lewistown BLM office knew he could revive this local landmark. Zane partnered with Forest Service Preservation Crews and between 2012 and 2014, crews helped stabilize everything from the foundation, to the walls and roofs of the Wartzenluft buildings. With future funding, BLM hopes to offer the property as a rental so visitors can stay overnight and soak in history at this Missouri Breaks time capsule property.

Becki Miller, Havre
Outstanding Local Preservation Projects

In just a few short years, architect Becki Miller has made a big difference as the Preservation Officer for the Havre-Hill County Historic Preservation Commission. From her work to promote downtown Havre’s historic buildings and preserve Fort Assiniboine, to her initiative to save the historic Kiwanis Chapel in Beaver Creek Park, her positive attitude keeps the Preservation Commission focused on the belief that they can succeed, no matter what the obstacles. MPA is delighted to recognize Becki for her many outstanding efforts in the Havre area; we look forward to seeing more of her excellent work in the future.

Peter Jennings/Randy Hafer for Arvon Block, Great Falls
Outstanding Commercial Preservation Project

Many kudos go to Great Falls residents, Peter Jennings, Wayne Thares, Channing Hartelius, Mac Smith and Billings architect, Randy Hafer for their rescue of the Arvon Block in downtown Great Falls. Though the 1890s commercial building was drowning in water, Jennings and partners could see that the building had much historic character and reuse potential. The developers followed a model process, conducting a feasibility study, and then using historic preservation tax credits to help finance the project. We applaud Jennings and partners for gifting Great Falls a new stretch of real estate that attracts tourists, invites neighbors to upgrade their buildings, and contributes to downtown vitality.

Carl Davis, Missoula
Outstanding Individual Achievement

Carl Davis, Region 1 Forest Service Archaeologist, recently retired, leaving behind an impressive list of accomplishments. Carl helped document, stabilize, and interpret multiple historic sites on Forest Service land, including the Charter Oak Mine & Mill, Wikuip Cave, and the Moose Creek Cabin near Rimini. He also worked tirelessly to promote historic preservation through the Forest Service’s Heritage Stewardship Enhancement program. One of those key partnerships was with MPA in developing our bi-annual Historic Preservation Road Show, enabling the Forest Service and MPA together to reach out to a broad audience and raise awareness about Montana’s history and culture.

Lon Johnson, Columbia Falls
Outstanding Individual Achievement

Lon Johnson was not able to attend the 2015 ceremony, but will be honored next year during the Montana Preservation Road Show in Red Lodge, June 3.

More at PreserveMontana.org/preservation-excellence-awards/
MPA Goes Mobile!

This summer, MPA went mobile, the old-fashioned way! With a grant from the Treacy Foundation, we purchased a restoration trailer that we can fill with tools and take onsite to repair endangered buildings. MPA will soon be rolling through Montana to fix the weathered schoolhouses, abandoned churches, dilapidated barns, and vacant downtown buildings that we all care about, before they are lost for good.

The trailer will enable our effective restoration program to hit the road and take our crews where they are most needed. We already have an impressive list of places where we have stabilized buildings -- the Flathead, Stevensville, Dillon, Danvers, Nevada City and Helena. Just recently, we bought our first building, the Broadway Apartments in Lewistown – to repair and save it.

The Gift That Keeps on Giving!

Now that we have a mobile workshop, our Holiday Wish List includes tools and funds to outfit our crew and the growing circle of students, interns, carpenters, masons and volunteers ready to work alongside us. The first gift came from our own staffer, Christine Brown, and her husband Pete -- a big extension ladder that they didn’t use any more. Instead of putting that ladder on Craigslist they generously decided to make a meaningful donation to MPA and our growing restoration program.

Thanks to Kimmy and Lee Skiftun at the Treacy Foundation and thanks to Christine and Pete, we will be well equipped to save even more buildings in the years to come.

Stuff the Trailer!

Please support our Restore MT! program with donations of tools, time, and of course, funding. Together we will preserve the best of Montana’s heritage for future generations. To donate time or tools, please call Matt Morgan at 406-457-2822 to discuss needs.

Or donate online at www.PreserveMontana.org/donate-now.