

# BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE



The Campaign for the  
**HARBOR SPRINGS**  
HISTORICAL CORRIDOR

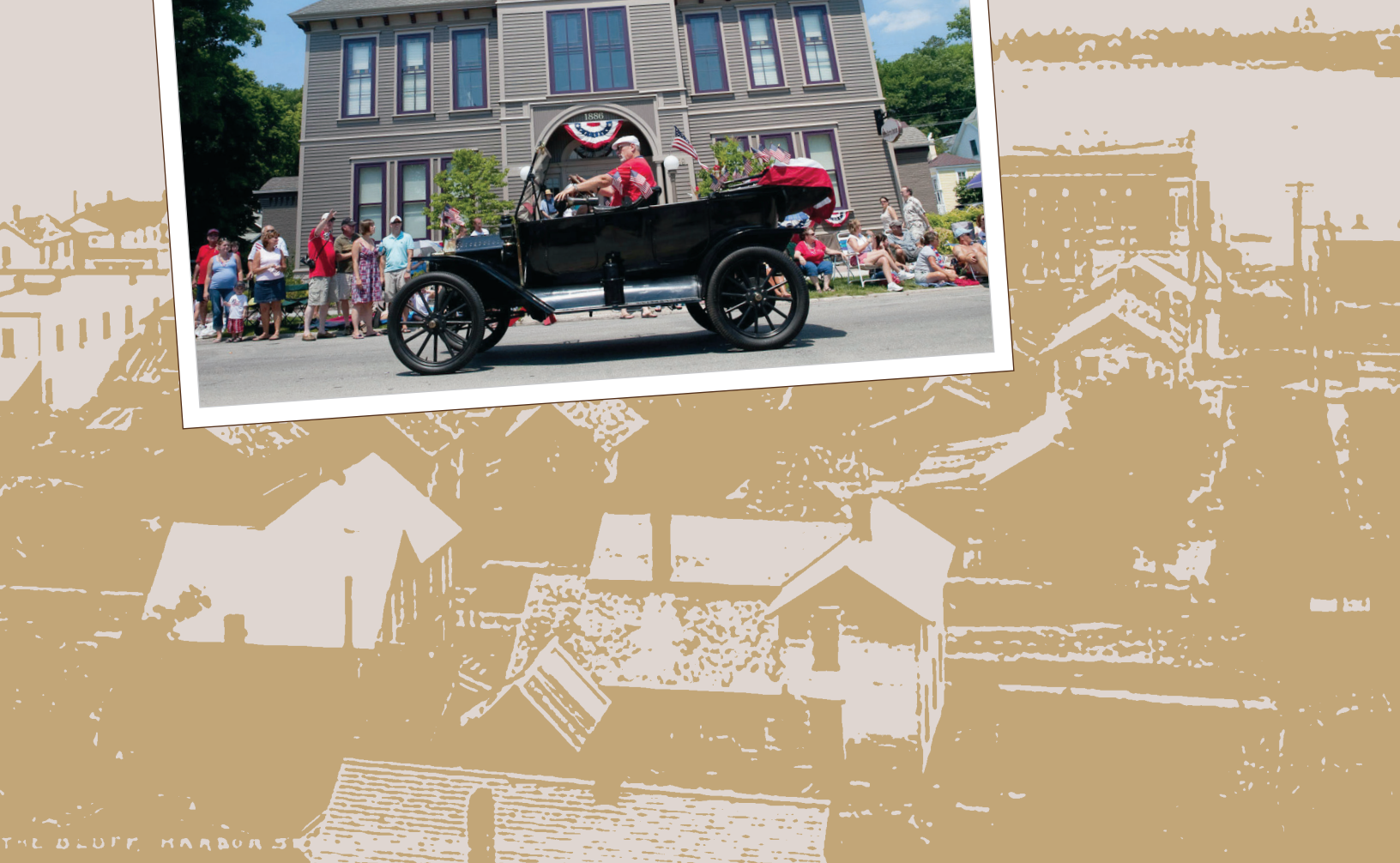
---



HARBOR SPRINGS AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*"We shape our buildings; thereafter, our buildings shape us."*

Winston Churchill



BRINGING  
HISTORY  
TO LIFE

The Campaign for the  
**HARBOR SPRINGS**  
HISTORICAL CORRIDOR

---

OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$3 MILLION

---



**Ephraim Shay  
Hexagon House**

Restoration and initial  
exhibit design and  
installation

*Goal: \$1.8 Million*



**Harbor Springs  
History Museum**

Preservation maintenance  
and exhibit re-installation  
and upgrades

*Goal: \$700,000*



**Preservation and  
Operating Endowment**

Supplemental income  
stream

*Goal: \$500,000*

---

*“Preservation is simply having the good sense to  
hold on to things that are well designed, that link us  
with our past in a meaningful way, and that have  
plenty of good use left in them.”*

Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

---



## BUILDING A COMMUNITY LEGACY

### THE CASE FOR THE CAMPAIGN

The history of Harbor Springs represents a small, yet rich, example of the settlement and generational growth of Michigan and the Midwest. Beginning in 1990, the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society has both stewarded and promoted that compelling history and the lessons it can impart to an appreciative public.

To continue to offer valuable interpretation of our unique history, for the community's benefit, the Historical Society has embarked on a comprehensive fundraising campaign – “Bringing History to Life” – with the dual goals of developing a Harbor Springs historical corridor and building a preservation and operational endowment. A fully realized corridor

will ensure that Harbor Springs' fascinating stories of early Native American cultures, 19th-Century settlement, logging, 20th-Century lifestyles, maritime activity and tourism will convey a vibrant sense of place and tradition for year-round and seasonal residents and visitors.

The emerging corridor sits at the eastern approach to Main Street, anchored by two iconic buildings – the unique hexagonal home of noted Harbor Springs resident and inventor Ephraim Shay and the 1886 former city hall, which since 2008 has served as the home of the Harbor Springs History Museum.

However, to serve as a solid foundation for meaningful storytelling, both buildings require significant capital funding – to restore and install innovative experiential exhibits in the Shay House





*“There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody.”*

Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

and to undertake essential preservation repairs and technology-driven gallery updates in the History Museum. These critical improvements, coupled with a successful preservation endowment, will enable society staff to have state-of-the-art facilities from which to present captivating new exhibits and educational programs to current and future generations.

Finally, the History Museum houses a comprehensive archive of Harbor Springs area history and an extensive collection of one-of-a-kind artifacts. To properly care for these thousands of valuable items, and provide access to them for research and interpretive projects, the campaign seeks to create a much-needed operational endowment.

We ask that you join us in helping to preserve and share the history of our “town like no other.” Your gifts of time and treasure, however large or small, are welcomed!

**Kristyn Balog**  
Executive Director



# SHAY HEXAGON HOUSE

EST 1892

## EPHRAIM SHAY INNOVATION MUSEUM

2024

ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

## EPHRAIM SHAY HEXAGON HOUSE

Through a gift of philanthropy in 2016, the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society assumed ownership of the 1892 Shay House. It has since set as one of its major campaign goals, the restoration and interpretation of the landmark building for creative educational programming and activities, permanent and rotating thematic exhibits, and hosting community events.

Upon successful completion of the campaign, the former home of famed inventor, entrepreneur and community leader Ephraim Shay will serve as a regional museum of ingenuity and innovation, reflecting the enterprising spirit and accomplishments of its owner and builder.

Interactive and hands-on exhibit galleries in the main floor rooms of the stamped-steel hexagon house will demonstrate the importance of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) to economic and societal progress.

The open lower level of the house, originally Ephraim Shay's office, will be renovated to serve as a learning space and event venue, including a catering kitchen and walkout event lawnscapes.



*“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”*

George S. Patton




## CAMPAIGN FUNDING GOAL OF \$1,800,000 WILL ADDRESS:

- Restoration and preservation of the unique hexagonal structure
- Construction and installation of STEAM-inspired interactive exhibits
- Creation of a Shay-inspired ingenuity store
- Renovation of the lower-level community learning and event space
- Addition of Bay Street deck and lawnscaping
- Landscape and garden improvements throughout the grounds







ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

## THE HARBOR SPRINGS HISTORY MUSEUM

HARBOR SPRINGS  
**HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

The Harbor Springs History Museum offers year-round public access to both permanent and rotating exhibits on the first floor of the 136-year-old building, including interactive displays for children.

The “Bringing History to Life” campaign seeks to raise immediate funds for needed preservation maintenance projects and an innovative redesign and installation of the two main exhibit galleries. Funding will also address the addition of dramatic façade and entry signage and a user-friendly repurposing of the lobby, museum store and second floor spaces.

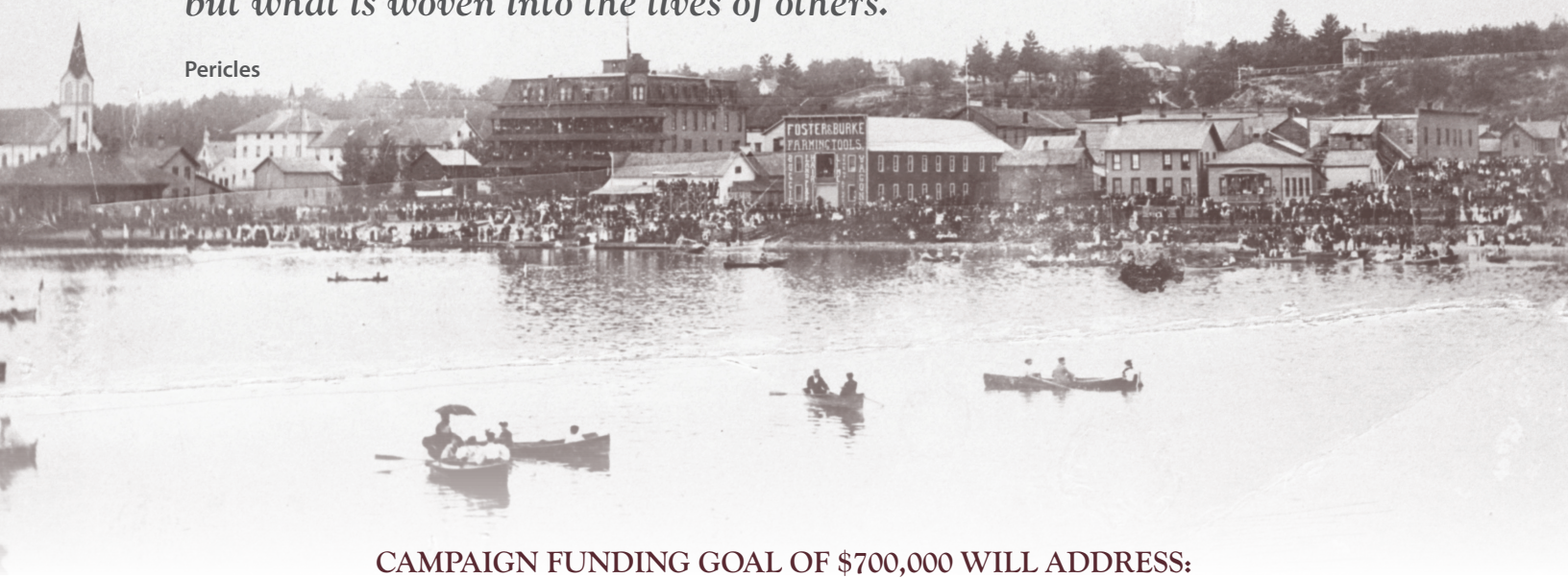
The campaign has also identified the cataloguing and conservation of the core of the museum’s collections – its thousands of archival records and artifacts that tell the city’s history in three dimensions – as a pressing goal. Further campaign strategies target support of research and publishing activities and interpretive programming, including rotating exhibit preparation and video creation, as central to the society’s educational mission.





*“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”*

Pericles



CAMPAIGN FUNDING GOAL OF \$700,000 WILL ADDRESS:

- **History Museum**
  - Critical building preservation projects
  - Entrance, lobby and second floor signage and lighting
  - Main galleries redesign and installation
- **Interpretive Programming**
  - Rotating and traveling exhibit support
  - Publishing program development
  - Video production and content marketing
- **Collections Conservation**
  - Artifact accessioning, cataloguing and care
  - Archival conservation and storage system upgrade



- **Future Collections Conservation and Programming**
  - Shay Locomotive
    - Restoration of the 1907 engine and tender
    - Installation and exhibit in Shay Park
  - Aha boat in Shay Park Programs
  - Historical Corridor Walking Tour
    - Research historic downtown buildings
    - Develop a matching fund program with building owners
    - Design, production and hanging of plaques on buildings
    - Plan route, create map and tour script





## ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

### PRESERVATION AND OPERATING ENDOWMENT

The Harbor Springs Area Historical Society's operating revenue includes income from program ticket sales, retail sales, membership fees and donations. As preservation and operational costs continue to increase on an annual basis, the pressure to grow these revenue lines increases. For the society to realize its vision of sharing the lessons of the past to strengthen the Harbor Springs community, it needs to add significant investment income to its portfolio of financial resources, a staple of successful nonprofit organizations.

To that end, a major focus of the "Bringing History to Life" campaign is to create a preservation and operating endowment. Such a fund, when invested wisely, will have the capability of providing an underlying financial health to museum operations.



### CAMPAIGN FUNDING OF \$500,000 WILL ADDRESS:

- **Preservation endowments for the 1892 Ephraim Shay House, the 1886 Harbor Springs History Museum (former city hall building) and special collections such as the Aha boat and potentially the Shay Locomotive**
- **Operating endowments for permanent and rotating exhibit installations and educational programming, including the popular History Talk series**
- **Conservation endowment for the society's archival and artifact collections**
- **Creative communications endowment for publishing, electronic communications and video production**





*“It became a house museum in the hands of a nonprofit organization without an adequate endowment. And this is unfortunately too common a practice. These houses really need endowments, because visitation alone will never support them.”*

**Richard Moe**, National Trust for Historic Preservation



*"If you want to understand today  
you have to search yesterday."*

**Pearl S. Buck**, American novelist (1892-1973)

*Harbor Springs about 1910*



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Kristyn Balog

231-526-9771

kristyn@harborspringshistory.org

**CAMPAIGN CABINET**

Ann Baruch, Co-Chair

David Lyle, Co-Chair

Sue Barkhausen

Matt Clarke

Sarah Cohen

Wendy Fershee

Will FitzSimons

Gardiner Garrard

Jinny McCoy

Becky Melander

Vince Mihalik

Tracy Souder

**HONORARY CHAIRS**

Robert Clarke

Jim Offield

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Matt Clarke, President

Matt Parmenter, Vice President

Bob Laakman, Treasurer

Molly Jones, Secretary

Sue Conlon

Jack Deegan

Kelly Dutcher

Lee Ford

Nate Graham

David Kuckelman

Jay Neff

John Pennell

Marci Reyes

Tracy Souder

Melissa Wiatroluk