

PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106
Review of the
Gchi Mshiiiken Deh Minising/Heart of the Great Turtle Island: Heritage
Site in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, a grant to develop the Gchi Mshiiiken Deh Minising/Heart of the Great Turtle Island: Heritage Site in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The proposed undertaking involves architectural and landscape plans, site preparation and utilities and completion of the Heritage Circle (Pow Wow and demonstration) area and the interpretive/learning center. This will include landscaping, ADA compliant access for visitors, entrance and drum-circle structures, storage, restroom facilities, and interpretive nodes/shelters, and Phase I of building the central interpretive/learning center. The project site is located at 592 Boulevard Dr, St Ignace, MI 49781. Its location is in Moran Township, Mackinac County, on land that is part of the DNR's Straits State Park, and location of the Father Marquette National Memorial. It has been developed by a collaborative including the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Moran Township, Lake Superior State University and the Mackinac Straits Health System.

On May 27, 2020, Martha MacFarlane Faes, Michigan's Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, advised that the project will have no adverse effect to historic properties as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Deputy SHPO conditioned their opinion on the following conditions:

- Area of Potential Effects (APE) environmental characteristics and partial prior archaeological survey suggest limited potential for the presence of eligible archaeological resources. A federally qualified archaeologist will conduct a targeted survey in an effort to relocate previously reported sites and identify any additional sites present within, or immediately adjacent to, the Direct Effects APE. Survey will employ a combination of shovel testing and pedestrian survey, as ground conditions allow. Previously disturbed (e.g. location of former museum), wet, and sloped (>15%) areas will not be surveyed. Any archaeological sites relocated or newly identified will be evaluated for NRHP eligibility. Adverse impacts to eligible sites must be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. A survey report will be submitted to the SHPO for review and comment prior to the initiation of project-related ground disturbance. Survey and reporting will follow the Secretary of Interior Standards and Michigan's draft standards for archaeological documentation. Note that archaeological exploration on state-owned land requires a permit unless conducted by qualified state staff.

- All project personnel will employ an unanticipated discovery plan in the event of construction related discoveries. If artifacts, bones, or other archaeological materials are discovered, work in the immediate area will pause, the find will be protected, and the project archaeologist will be contacted to evaluate the location prior to the commencement of work. A summary of any unanticipated discoveries will be submitted as an addendum to the survey report.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is September 7, 2020.