



**CONTACT:** Dominick Miller  
[millerd44@michigan.gov](mailto:millerd44@michigan.gov)  
Mackinac State Historic Parks  
Phone: (906) 847-3328  
[www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com)

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## **Michelle Walk Hired as Membership and Grants Coordinator**

MACKINAW CITY, Mich. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the hiring of Michelle Walk as Membership and Grants Coordinator, replacing Diane Dombroski, who retired July 31. Michelle started on Monday, August 27, and her office is located at the Petersen Center Administrative Building in Mackinaw City.

Michelle has worked in community development for over 20 years. Most recently she has spent 14 years with MSU Extension as an Extension Educator focusing primarily in the areas of tourism and community food systems across the Upper Peninsula. Her worked included providing education and technical assistance to local units of government, businesses, and community members, as well as seeking out relevant funding to support local projects and events.

After serving for 10 years, Michelle recently completed her term of service on the board for the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula and has served with the following organizations as part of her responsibilities with MSU Extension: Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) Professional Development Committee, and as an advisor on the Michigan Agritourism Association Board of Directors.

Michelle moved to the Upper Peninsula in 2000 and currently resides in Cedarville. She loves the outdoors and has a passion for tourism and local food. She has a B.S. in Economics from Oakland University and an M.A. in Economics from Michigan State University.

“Michelle brings a combination of experience and skills to this job that will make for a seamless and positive transition for Mackinac Associates,” said Phil Porter, director for Mackinac State Historic Parks.

“I’m excited to be able to work for an organization that I’ve been passionate about for a long time,” Walk said. “I look forward to continue growing Mackinac Associates.”

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Association of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island State Park, Historic Downtown, and The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at 231-436-4100 or on the web at [www.MackinacParks.com](http://www.MackinacParks.com).*

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