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Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors names Jim Peters as new president and chief executive officer

Chicago, Ill., Thursday, July 10, 2008—Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors Chairman, Rolf Achilles, announced today Jim Peters as the new president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Landmarks Illinois, the state’s leading voice for historic preservation. Previously serving as director of Preservation Planning, Peters will succeed outgoing President and CEO, David Bahlman, who announced his retirement in February 2008.

“The Executive Search Committee and Board of Directors had a challenging decision to make among the pool of candidates,” said Achilles. “Jim is respected statewide and nationally for his preservation experience and leadership. We are confident he is the right candidate to lead Landmarks Illinois and its dedicated and talented staff.”

Peters has been with Landmarks Illinois since 2001 and is an adjunct professor with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to joining Landmarks, Peters worked for the Chicago Department of Planning and Development for 11 years in a variety of roles including director of Central Area Planning, Long-Range Planning Division; coordinating planner, Landmarks Division; and deputy commissioner, Landmarks Division. With a Bachelors degree in architecture from Texas A&M University and a Masters in city planning from the University of Illinois-Urbana, Peters has over 30 years experience as a city planner and preservationist.

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Jim Peters named president and CEO of Landmarks Illinois—page two

“Jim is a proven leader who has served as an integral part of the Landmarks Illinois team for many years,” said Bahlman. “He is a strong advocate and a preservationist at heart. His impressive track record of working with developers, planners, and the public throughout Illinois will help continue the success of Landmarks Illinois.”

Peters will take over as president and CEO on July 15, where he will be in charge of the organization’s budget, staff, advocacy, fundraising, marketing, programs, and management/operation of the historic Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House.

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Landmarks Illinois is the state’s leading voice for historic preservation. Since its founding in 1971, the 2,500-member statewide organization has gone on to save countless architectural and historic treasures throughout Illinois. Landmarks Illinois’ mission today focuses on saving buildings, facilitating preservation, and educating the public through innovative programs and promotion. For more information, visit www.Landmarks.org.

Landmarks Illinois operates and manages legendary architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House located in Plano, Illinois. The house is open to visitors weekly, Tuesday – Sunday, April through November, and is one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 29 nation-wide sites. For more information visit www.FarnsworthHouse.org.