We’re here to help, so do not hesitate to reach out for advice or guidance. Together, we can ensure preservation is a continued priority in Illinois.

Our State Historic Tax Credit bill (SB2090/AB2090), proposing to give Illinois incentive parity with 34 other states, hangs in the balance as budget negotiations heat up. We can thank the strong leadership of bill sponsors Senator Pam Althoff (R-McHenry) and Representative Greg Harris (D-Chicago) for their continued dedication to this needed legislation that brings revenue to local and State governments.

Additionally, our existing pilot State Historic Tax Credit available in five communities (Aurora, Elgin, East St. Louis, Peoria, and Rockford) quickly approaches its five-year sunset on December 31, 2016. Senator Steve Stadelman (D-Rockford) (SB1181), and Representative Jeanne authentic. (D-Peoria) (HB1279), have introduced five-year extension bills to continue the catalytic impact of this incentive, which has already resulted in $100 million in private investment in Rockford’s historic places. We are working alongside the five pilot program cities to pass this important extension. The SHPO currently administers this program as well.

Our Most Endangered Historic Places List for Illinois, announced in Springfield on April 22, further illuminates the detrimental, erode community impact when our governmental partners fail to plan or neglect to act. We can accept that the time may come when a governmental body no longer needs a building; however, the opportunity to engage in a community planning process - and to partner with other public or private players – around the disposition and reuse of those structures is vital. We have best practices to provide and this year’s list calls attention to ongoing opportunities for dialogue, action, and collaboration to help our elected officials and staff.

All the aforementioned items have something in common – the need for your voice. The time is now to ensure our leadership knows that their constituents support and value preservation. Please take just 10 minutes to reach out to your elected officials, particularly your State Senator and Representative, to let them know that preservation is a budget priority for you. Every person who reaches out is considered the equivalent of 10 community members who are nervous to make that call. Be the one who picks up the phone – please – to ensure that we can effectively forward a preservation agenda for our community.

Visit Landmarks Illinois State Legislative Issues web page for more information: http://www.landmarks.org/legislative_current_state_bills.htm. We’re here to help, so do not hesitate to reach out for advice or assistance and we thank you.

Together, we can ensure preservation is a continued priority in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McDonald
President
Despite several repairs and patches over the decades, the now 104-year-old statue is in a desperate need of full conservation – its concrete body in some places is so deteriorated that if not addressed immediately there is a risk that the damage will quickly accelerate and the majority of its original details will be lost. “The 50-foot exposed crushed granite, concrete statue illustrates progressive use of cement and formwork for concrete construction at the turn of the century. It would be a monumental loss if restoration is postponed,” said Amy Lamb Woods, a preservation and forensic engineer with Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, who has worked on the project for several years.

Friends of the Black Hawk Statue Committee, formed in 2009, have galvanized financial and pro-bono support for Black Hawk’s $825,000 restoration price tag. With $740,000 raised in private funds from corporations, foundations and individuals, the Committee has partnered with the Illinois Conservation Foundation – the private fundraising arm of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – to hold the funds in a restricted account. Unfortunately, the bleak outlook for next year’s IDNR budget, along with bureaucratic procedures that have slowed the contracting process and elevated the budget, has already delayed the scheduled restoration by nearly a year. Now committed private funds are at risk due to missed deadlines.

Frank Rousa, a spokesperson for Friends of the Black Hawk Statue Committee, says “We are racing against time and money and hope the restoration will be completed by October, 2015. Otherwise, we’re faced with further deterioration of the statue and the need for more dollars to complete the project.”

A successful restoration of this treasured Illinois monument will likely require pressure from financial contributors, local officials, and the general public. Li urges Governor Rauner, his leadership team, and IDNR to help facilitate an accelerated work plan that will allow Black Hawk to stand proud once again.

“The 50-foot exposed crushed granite, concrete statue illustrates progressive use of cement and formwork for concrete construction at the turn of the century. It would be a monumental loss if restoration is postponed.”
Bartonville

**BOWEN BUILDING, PEORIA STATE HOSPITAL**

The Bowen Building, the centerpiece building of the former Peoria State Hospital campus, has been largely unoccupied since the closure of the hospital in 1973. Built in 1902 by the firm of Reeves and Baillie, the 3-story limestone building is currently owned by the non-profit organization Save the Bowen. This local group facilitated the reopening of the building in recent years for group tours, but they have been unable to achieve their larger goal of rehabilitation. With no more money available for maintenance and repairs, the non-profit needs to find a developer for the project in 2019 to avoid condemnation and demolition. Rehabilitation of the Bowen Building would be eligible for federal historic tax credits, as the building is contributing to a National Register Historic District.

(photocredit: Frank Butterfield)

The Bowen Building in recent years for group tours, but they have been unable to achieve their larger goal of rehabilitation. With no more money available for maintenance and repairs, the non-profit needs to find a developer for the project in 2019 to avoid condemnation and demolition. Rehabilitation of the Bowen Building would be eligible for federal historic tax credits, as the building is contributing to a National Register Historic District.

(photocredit: Frank Butterfield)

**IN THE FIELD**

**CHICAGO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

While the Michigan Boulevard Historic District was given Chicago Landmark status in 2002, Landmarks Illinois included its streetwall on the 2008 most endangered historic places list due to a hotel proposal that sought to demolish more than half of the Chicago Athletic Association building and attach a glass tower behind it. With the completion of Millennium Park, Michigan Avenue had become one of the most desirable real estate opportunities in the nation. Li objected to visible tower additions that would have set a precedent for degradation of the district’s architectural integrity. Luckily, the proposal was withdrawn and now the Henry Ives Cobb-designed Venetian-Gothic landmark at 12 S. Michigan Avenue has been fully renovated with the use of federal historic tax credits. It opens in June as a boutique hotel. Li’s Real Estate and Building Industry Council (RBIC) will honor the developer, A.J. Capital, on July 16 at the transformed building.

(photocredit: Courtesy of A.J. Capital Partners)

**RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE INITIATIVE**

In 2009, the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust awarded Landmarks Illinois $1 million to create the County Courthouse Initiative. This four-year effort established a grant program that assisted communities throughout Illinois in restoring their historic county courthouses. The grants went towards the restoration of critical features, such as clocks, bell towers, cupolas, and ornament, as well as to support cutting-edge and energy-efficient exterior lighting technologies. A principal program goal was to showcase these public buildings through improvements and dramatic lighting, thereby helping to revitalize the surrounding town squares and leverage local financial support. The program awarded a total of $840,000 to 19 projects throughout Illinois from 2009 - 2014.

To finalize the program Landmarks Illinois is working with PlaceEconomics to conduct an economic impact study, which will quantify the economic impact of each grant on its community. Also, the Richard H. Driehaus County Courthouse Initiative will be showcased in a film produced by Tom Rosister, which will be screened at Landmarks Illinois’ Annual Meeting on June 22.

**WILLIAM H. COVENTRY HOUSE & BARN**

Currently for sale as part of a 287-acre, commercially-zoned tract, the William H. Coventry House & Barn, 7704 Rt. 14 N., lies at Harvard’s northern gateway. The 1895 house and its outbuildings were rehabilitated in 1994 by Motorola as housing for visiting executives to its Harvard manufacturing facility. Closed in 2003 and under different ownership, the former Motorola campus and Coventry buildings have deteriorated significantly, diminishing their property value and placing the historic residence and barn in danger. Local preservationists from the Harvard community have voluntarily made minor repairs, but without full access to this privately-owned property, any further stabilization is difficult. New and dedicated ownership is needed for this historic parcel, which could be divided from the larger campus. The city of Harvard, Harvard Economic Development Corp. and the McHenry County Historical Society are working together to identify possible buyers or solutions that would ensure the preservation of the historic Coventry property.

(photocredit: McHenry County Historical Society)

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Early Bird Registration rates end May 15. For more information and to register: http://www.regonline.com/illinoismainstreetandpreservationconference

Keynote speaker Ed McMahon will be featured on the “Unseen South” Tour on Thursday, June 25.

http://www.regonline.com/illinoismainstreetandpreservationconference

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State Senator Pam Althoff, of McHenry, Illinois, has served as a member of the Illinois State Senate since March 2003. She has championed legislation to increase open space, save historic places and promote statewide economic growth. Althoff also serves as a co-chair of the Illinois Historic Preservation Legislative Caucus, created in 2005. Recognizing that historic preservation is good for the economy, this year she introduced a statewide historic tax credit bill (SB1250). Landmarks Illinois continues to advocate for this legislation (see “To Our Members”) so that eligible historic buildings throughout Illinois may qualify for this important financing tool. Illinois is one of the few states in the nation without a statewide historic tax credit program.

Prior to coming to the Senate, you served as mayor of the city of McHenry from 2001 to 2003. Cities across the state continue to struggle financially and often planning historic preservation staffs are early targets for layoffs, yet provide much needed services to help our communities manage growth. What advice can you give to preservation advocates working in hometowns with limited staff resources?

PA: The key is to identify a civic leader who can take a leadership role and work with local advocates. Work with that person to help identify resources, other than city funding, that can help a preservation effort. Work with that person to form a strategic committee, reach out to surrounding communities to share expertise, organize events that the local government can co-sponsor. The historic Peterson Farm in McHenry receives foundation and volunteer support, while the city of McHenry provides legal assistance when needed and policing for the annual “Day at Petersen Farm” event. It’s a true partnership of community.

You have a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Illinois State University and a Master’s Degree in Education from Northeastern Illinois University. How should local preservation advocates engage students in their communities about the importance of historic preservation?

PA: This is an absolute must! Students thrive on “living history.” In McHenry County, local historic societies work with teachers and 5th graders to tour historic buildings and neighborhoods and learn why they are important. Students at Landmark School in McHenry, built in 1894, learn about their building and the people who attended there. Kids need to understand the past to appreciate and help preserve our history.

You are a long-time advocate of saving historic places. We are fortunate that you chose this year to reintroduce the Illinois Rehabilitation and Revitalization Tax Credit Act (SB1250), which passed out of the Senate in 2013, but did not pass out of the House. How do preservation advocates convince their legislators that this financing tool is important to their local economies?

PA: Tell them historic rehabilitation creates good local jobs, but remind them that often it is more expensive to renovate than replace and we are losing our living history at a remarkable rate. We need to incentivize rehabilitation over building new to preserve our history and to promote sustainability. We need to save and reuse, not throw away. It is very moving when I see visitors show their joy and wonder looking at the restored Capitol…they see the value of this beautiful, historic place.
GET INVOLVED!

5.30
SKYLINE COUNCIL TOUR & RECEPTION

6.23-25
CONFERENCE ON ILLINOIS MAIN STREET AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

6.22
LANDMARKS ILLINOIS ANNUAL MEETING

7.1
RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE

7.16
REAL ESTATE & BUILDING INDUSTRY COUNCIL RECEPTION

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