



LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS

737



Route 66
Black History
Souvenirs

THE
ARCH

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Cover: Gina Lathan and Stacy Grundy, President and Vice President of Route History, Inc., respectively, stand in front of their museum, visitor center and shop in Springfield. Route History is dedicated to telling the stories of Black people along Route 66 and in Springfield. Turn to page 2 to read more.

Above right: Lisa DiChiera with preservation architect John Vinci.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO OUR MEMBERS

One year ago, Landmarks Illinois adopted the tagline, "People Saving Places for People," adding the "for people" to the existing expression of our mission. We've incorporated people into our advocacy, our social media, newsletters, blog posts and photos. The people of preservation were even the focus of the 2019 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards. This issue of *The Arch* continues to tell the stories of those making a resounding impact in preservation that benefits their community.

In 2020 we are excited to be celebrating Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera's 20th work anniversary with Landmarks Illinois. Lisa's name is continually invoked when we ask, "Why do you support Landmarks Illinois?" To work with Lisa is to know that she is tirelessly helpful and infinitely effective. Her name carries a national reputation as a leading local advocate who also advances national public policy. She's trained countless community members in advocacy practices and has built lasting relationships with local officials, regulatory agency staff and pro bono service providers. Name a significant Illinois preservation battle of the last two decades and, invariably, Lisa was part of the action. I hope you'll enjoy our interview with Lisa on Page 7 of this newsletter. Please send her an email with your congratulations to ldichiera@landmarks.org.

People – including our members and other generous donors – are the reason we can sustain Lisa's position. Special thanks to our nearly 20 Annual Corporate Sponsors that support LI at a significant level. When launching this giving program last year, we had no idea it would grow so quickly. Our gratitude goes to those companies who were the first to join the program, many of which are LI board members' firms and organizations. You can learn about the program and sponsors at Landmarks.org/Meet-Our-Annual-Corporate-Sponsors, and we encourage you to thank these important supporters at a future LI event.

"We're always proud to feature people who are working on-the-ground preserving places to share often untold history."

We're always proud to feature people who are working on-the-ground preserving places to share often untold history. Such is the work of Route History, a Springfield-based nonprofit visitor center and museum, engaging people in the stories of Black entrepreneurs and the experiences of Black travelers along Route 66. Co-owners Stacy Grundy, Gina Lathan and Kenneth Lockhart are passion personified. You'll be inspired to visit Route History after reading about their exciting efforts on the next page of this newsletter.

Rounding out the inspirational stories included in this issue are the three 2020 Legendary Landmark honorees who will be feted at the 15th annual celebration taking place March 5. Among the three honorees is Timuel Black, Jr., a WWII veteran who was among the first to liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, profoundly influencing him to dedicate his life to civil rights activism and preserving the history of Chicago's Bronzeville community. Join us to celebrate our three honorees and their impact saving places for others.

Best regards,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald
President & CEO



PEOPLE SAVING PLACES

ROUTE HISTORY IN SPRINGFIELD HIGHLIGHTS AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE ON 'MOTHER ROAD'

As Gina Lathan, President of Route History, Inc. in Springfield pointed out, history in our state's capitol is frequently linked to Abraham Lincoln or Route 66. The African American perspective is often missing. Route History, Inc., opened last year as a museum, visitor center and shop dedicated to sharing the often forgotten or unknown stories of African Americans along the historic highway and in the city of Springfield. Landmarks Illinois Board Members were treated to a tour of the museum in May 2019. And, last month, Landmarks Illinois asked Lathan, along with Stacy Grundy, Vice President of Route History, Inc., to share more about their mission and the stories they aim to tell.

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS: Tell us about the focus of Route History and why it is important?

GINA LATHAN: Route History tells the untold stories of local African American history, including the city of Springfield's role in the Underground Railroad and the Black entrepreneurs who played a big part in it, the 1908 Springfield Race Riot and how the city was a safe haven for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era.

Route History also celebrates and recognizes Eva Carroll Monroe's role in founding the Lincoln Colored Home, the first black orphanage in the city of Springfield and the state of Illinois. Furthermore, Route History highlights the appreciation of math and science in the Black community in the early 1900s and the Ambidexter Institute, an industrial school patterned after Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute, which emphasized teaching math, science and a trade.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that the contributions African Americans have made to the city of Springfield and the state of Illinois are recognized, celebrated and remembered.

LI: How are you telling these stories at the Route History museum and shop? Are there specific exhibits you are particularly proud of or excited about?

STACY GRUNDY: We sought to make Route History an engaging space where people of all ages could experience and learn about the tragedy, resilience

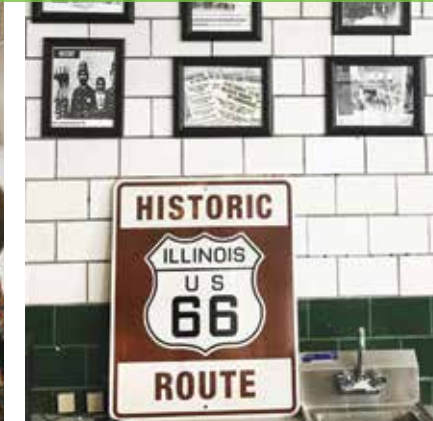
and excellence of Black people along the Historic Route 66 and in the city of Springfield Illinois. We use exhibits, digital media, events, educational materials and collectible items to educate, train and engage people of all ages using positive and relevant images and experiences.

This fall we implemented our Junior Historian curriculum in partnership with the Springfield Urban League 21st Century program. Through this curriculum, the students learn about the significance of Route 66, the Negro Motorist Green Book and Black historical treasures such as the Lincoln Colored Home, Springfield's Black Firehouse and the Ambidexter Institute.

We are very proud of all of exhibits as they all share a piece of the Route History experience. For instance, our "Windows to History" exhibit tells the story of the Great Migration, how Jim Crow affected African American life and the significance of Black businesses. We are especially excited about a new exhibit that will be released in the spring where we will be recognizing the three Black men who were conductors on the Springfield leg of the Underground Railroad.

LI: Your Route History Museum is housed in a reused, 1930s-era gas station in downtown Springfield. How and why did you select this historic place?

SG: We chose this location because of the historical significance of the building and location. Just one block from Historic Route 66, the former Texaco Gas Station was used during the height of Route 66



travel. The building, classified as a historic landmark by the Sangamon County Historical Preservation Commission, is also located in the historic Old Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood, two blocks from the Lincoln Home National Historic site and next door to the historic Elijah Iles Home.

LI: You plan to donate some of the shop's proceeds to help fund local preservation projects including the Lincoln Colored Home, an orphanage for African American children that operated from 1904 to 1933. Why is it important to you to save this historic place?

GL: In support of preservation, during February we will partner with several Springfield schools and host Route History Celebration events. These fun, interactive events will educate youth on Route History exhibits, promote self-awareness and self-pride and celebrate the Black history-makers of Springfield whose stories were often untold.

LI: How would you encourage people to stay engaged in Route History and continue learning about the Black experience along Route 66 in Illinois and throughout the nation?

GL: We encourage everyone to follow us on social media at Route History on Facebook and @visitroutehistory on Instagram. They can also join the email list located on our website, routehistory.net. We have some exciting things planned for the 2020, and there will be opportunities to learn and contribute. ■

"Ultimately, we want to ensure that the contributions African Americans have made to the city of Springfield and the state of Illinois are recognized, celebrated and remembered." GINA LATHAN

Clockwise from top left: The Landmarks Illinois Board visited Route History in the spring of 2019 during a tour of Springfield.

Exhibits inside Route History.

Gina Lathan (left) and Stacy Grundy inside their Route History shop in Springfield

Some of Route History's shop proceeds help fund preservation projects in Springfield, including at the Lincoln Colored Home (pictured), which LI

included on its 2013 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois.

Customers line up to purchase merchandise at Route History's grand opening in February 2019. (Courtesy Route History)

Route History is located in a former, 1930s era Texaco Gas Station in Springfield.



THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

1000 BLOCK S. CLAREMONT CHICAGO

This grouping of 1884 Queen Anne cottages in Chicago's Tri-Taylor neighborhood was designated a Chicago Landmark District in November. Homeowners first reached out to Landmarks Illinois in 2015 for assistance after a developer purchased a cottage to demolish it, which would have been the second historic cottage lost on the block. Residents mobilized and raised funds to match an LI Preservation Heritage Grant, and with further assistance from Alderman Jason Ervin and the Tri Taylor Neighborhood Association, hired a consultant to prepare a landmark designation report. Since the successful designation, LI continues to provide technical assistance to homeowners about repair opportunities and potential financial incentives available for rehabilitation.



CHICAGO

KROEHLER MANSION NAPERVILLE

As the historic Kroehler Mansion in Naperville faced possible demolition late last year, city officials approved an offer in December that would provide up to \$562,000 in incentives to a developer that would reuse the 105-year-old building in the Naperville Historic District. Current mansion owner Little Friends, a nonprofit group, previously sought to demolish the home to sell the site for land value, and the Naperville City Council initially approved that request. Following successful advocacy efforts against demolition, led by residents of the historic district and Naperville Preservation, Inc., the city council offered the financial incentive as a compromise if Little Friends sells to a developer that will preserve the Kroehler Mansion. (Credit: Bill Simon)



NAPERVILLE

REDDICK MANSION OTTAWA

In 2019, the Reddick Mansion Association (RMA) in Ottawa began a \$1.4 million exterior restoration of this historic house, built in 1856 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Two years ago, the City of Ottawa agreed to transfer ownership of the mansion to RMA with the agreement that the group would invest \$700,000 in restoration efforts within six years. The project cost increased following estimates for lead and asbestos removal and a full rebuild of the east balconies. The project also includes restoration of the cornice, windows, balconies and doors. The mansion remains open throughout the project, which will be completed this year.



OTTAWA

IN THE FIELD



JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER CHICAGO

In December, the State of Illinois announced it had selected Ernst & Young to oversee the sale of the state-owned James R. Thompson Center in Chicago's Loop. As the sale process progresses, LI and preservation partners continue to call for retention and reuse of this irreplaceable building in any future sale of the site. The Thompson Center was determined eligible in 2009 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and, if listed, a developer could use Federal Historic Tax Credits for its rehabilitation. Local landmark designation could provide additional incentives. In 2018, LI released renderings of one reuse solution. LI is happy to be partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Chicago, AIA Chicago, DOCOMOMO US & DOCOMOMO Chicago, James R. Thompson Center Historical Society and International Building Performance Simulation Association on this important preservation effort.

KEN NORDINE HOME CHICAGO

One of the few remaining single-family homes in its dense Edgewater neighborhood, the longtime home of word jazz broadcaster Ken Nordine at 6106 N. Kenmore was listed for sale last summer. Its high listing price encouraged replacement with a multi-unit building based on the residential multi-unit (RM-5) zoning. Designed by renowned architects Pond and Pond in 1902, the Edgewater Historical Society notified the city about its vulnerability after Nordine's passing in early 2019. LI brought the home to the attention of a preservation-minded developer who made a competitive offer, but a subsequent offer by a developer to replace the property was accepted. On December 12, 2019, the estate applied for a demolition permit. A 90-day demolition hold is now in place as the home is orange-rated (potentially significant) in the city's historic resources survey. The City of Chicago Historic Preservation Division staff is evaluating the property to determine its eligibility for landmark designation. (Credit: Bob Remer)



DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT THREATENED SPRINGFIELD

In November, representatives of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance approached building owners in the downtown Springfield historic district with a preliminary concept to purchase and demolish four blocks of buildings for a joint University of Illinois Springfield and Southern Illinois University presence. Alarmed by possible demolition and the removal of numerous small businesses, local business and building owners reached out to Landmarks Illinois for assistance. Landmarks Illinois is working with AIA Illinois, the Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation and the local Main Street organization, Downtown Springfield, Inc., to advocate for prioritizing reuse of historic buildings and new construction on vacant lots. LI's preliminary research identified more than 30 acres of vacant or surface parking lots within 0.25 miles of the targeted location. Thanks to this advocacy, it appears alternative proposals for the university presence will be considered, though at press time the process remains unclear. Follow this developing story at Landmarks.org.



Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund

VICTORY GARDENS THEATER CHICAGO

The Biograph Theater, located in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, is a two-story brick building designed to accommodate stores and a theater space originally intended for the exhibition of motion pictures. It was finished in 1915 from plans prepared by Chicago architect, Samuel N. Crowen. One of only two remaining examples of Chicago's early film theaters, the Biograph retains many of the distinguishing characteristics of the earliest movie houses, including a simple storefront-width lobby, recessed entrance, free-standing ticket booth and canopy marquee.

Today, the Biograph Theater is synonymous with Victory Gardens Theater (VG), which purchased the historic structure in 2004 after the property had sat vacant for years. Following a successful \$11.8 million capital campaign and extensive renovation, VG opened its theater center in 2006. Despite continuous operation in the facility, there have been a number of deferred maintenance needs over the last decade that have left the building in a precarious condition. Facilities staff continually struggle with emergency maintenance issues and lack a sustainable long-term plan for upkeep of the building. VG plans to use Landmarks Illinois' \$1,000 matching grant through the Barbara and Thomas Donnelley Preservation Fund to hire Chicago architectural firm Bauer Latoza Studio to conduct a building assessment, which will guide a plan for rehabilitation and maintenance.



(Credit: Victory Gardens Theater)



KIND WORDS FROM LISA'S COLLEAGUES...

"Lisa is such an amazing resource of information and assistance, no matter how complex or out-there the project might be. Even with an endless list of advocacy efforts, she always takes the time to talk it through and make connections to experts and resources. I certainly couldn't have taken on some challenging projects without the assistance and dedication of Lisa and Landmarks Illinois!"

-Chris Enck, architect, historic preservation consultant and LI Skyline Council Member

"Too often groups find themselves embroiled in preservation battles for the first time; and Lisa mentors us with a confident and pleasant demeanor that encourages and empowers. Her extensive knowledge, experience and passion is exceeded only by the contagious enthusiasm and tenacity with which she approaches challenges."

-Don Bissell, preservation advocate, Rockford

"A kind, smart and influential leader in our community, Lisa has been a mentor and role model to me in my career. Long ago, she encouraged me to pursue a graduate degree in preservation and then an internship at Landmarks Illinois. Since then we have been close colleagues, with a relationship that I believe has strengthened both our great organizations."

-Zurich Esposito, Executive Vice President, AIA Chicago

MEET

LISA DiCHIERA

Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera recently celebrated 20 years working for the organization. A Detroit native, Lisa has devoted two decades to helping people in Illinois save the places that matter to them and their communities. We asked Lisa to reflect on her time with Landmarks Illinois and tell us what it is like leading LI's advocacy programs – the heart of our organization's mission.

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS: Tell us what a typical day in the life of LI's Director of Advocacy looks like. Is there such a thing as a "typical day?"

LISA DiCHIERA: I am on the phone 50 percent of the day talking to anyone from public officials, building owners, local community advocates, realtors, developers, architects, planners, attorneys and students. My teenage sons have heard me doing this work all their lives. One of my sons recently told me sometimes I sound like a psychologist because I have to calm down panicked people who call our office for help. No day is typical, no building is typical, no scenario is typical – that's what keeps this work interesting and challenging.

LI: What is the best advice you can give to people trying to save places in Illinois based on your two decades of experience providing resources to residents hoping to preserve important places in their communities?

LD: Don't go it alone. Building a coalition is essential. Elected officials need to hear from many constituents. Also, don't just focus on the aesthetics argument for a historic building's value – focus on the economic, environmental, cultural and community benefit of historic preservation.

LI: You have seen a lot of preservation wins throughout your career at LI, as well as some losses. What preservation projects have had the biggest impact on you personally?

LD: While we lost the building, and it had great personal meaning to me because I gave birth there, the advocacy effort to save Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital was the most rewarding effort in which I have been involved. The number of partners and supporters we had, which ranged from citizens to world-

famous architects, was remarkable. What was more remarkable was in the end, political influence still won out, despite everything we did to demonstrate the building's viability.

However, there were still great wins – a new recognition of Chicago's important modern design legacy (Goldberg's Marina City was landmarked soon after), national attention on our coalition's effort and incredible comradery within the preservation advocacy and architecture community.

Recently, I have had the joy of working with homeowners on the 1000 S. Claremont block in the Tri-Taylor neighborhood who truly engaged in a grassroots effort to protect their homes. These homeowners, some of whom have lived in their cottages or on the block for over 50 years, all passionately believed in the need to protect their homes from future demolition threats and fundraised among each other to help pay for the services of an architectural historian to write the designation report. Now that the landmark designation is complete, there is immense pride and gratefulness for LI's assistance. That makes my work completely worthwhile.

LI: What do you hope your lasting legacy at Landmarks Illinois will be?

LD: I hope people will remember me as always accessible, helpful, sympathetic and friendly.

LI: How do you want to see historic preservation evolve in the future?

LD: With urban planners, economic development professionals, developers and elected officials understanding that protecting and reusing older buildings is sound land-use planning – it's about managing change, not preventing it. 🇺🇸



Clockwise from top left: Lisa with a "Save the Magnificent Mile" poster during her first months on the job at LI.

Lisa with Charlie Pipal and preservation supporters at a protest in 1995 to save Chicago's 600 block of N. Michigan Avenue.

Lisa with LI Membership Manager Marija Rich in the mid-1990s. Marija marked her 30th anniversary with LI in 2019.

Lisa with Chicago Cultural Historian Tim Samuelson at the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac, Ill.

Lisa with her husband John and son Julian at a Prentice Hospital preservation rally.



GRANTS

Preservation Heritage Fund

CUNNINGHAM BARN AT CLAYVILLE HISTORIC SITE PLEASANT PLAINS

Clayville Historic Site is a collection of historic buildings from central Illinois that were moved to the site in the 1960s to recreate an early frontier pioneer village. The village is located on the site of the Broadwell Inn, constructed in 1824 by the Broadwell family as a stagecoach stop between Springfield and Beardstown. After years of neglect, the historic site was listed on Landmarks Illinois' 2007 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The property was later purchased by the current owners, the Pleasant Plains Historical Society, which was honored with a 2012 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Advocacy for efforts to preserve this historic site.



Although not original to the Clayville Historic Site, the Cunningham Barn is a classic example of barns from the time period of the Broadwell Inn. It was built in Cass County, Illinois, in the 1850s. In the 1960s, the barn was dismantled, moved and reassembled at the Clayville Historic Site. This barn is currently used for educational programs for school field trips and houses exhibits demonstrating pioneer skills

during festivals. It is also a venue for rentals such as corporate meetings and private events. The Historical Society will use the \$2,500 Preservation Heritage Fund Grant to hire structural engineers to create a plan for new flooring in this significant barn.

(Credit: Pleasant Plains Historical Society)

UPCOMING EVENT

Legendary Landmarks Celebration Marks 15 Years

The **Legendary Landmarks Celebration**, Landmarks Illinois' largest annual fundraising event, is celebrating its 15th Anniversary at the Hilton Chicago on March 5. This unrivaled event honors the people and corporations who continue to devote their time and resources to ensure our city's history, its neighborhoods and its skyline are preserved. The anniversary will honor civil rights leader and educator **Timuel D. Black Jr.**; civic leader **Joseph P. Gromacki**, a senior partner at Jenner & Block LLP. and **Matthew and Daniel Walsh** will accept the corporate landmark honor on behalf of **The Walsh Group**. For reservations and table sponsorships, visit Landmarks.org.

MARCH 5, 2020
Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom
 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
 5:30 p.m.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Skyline Council Fall & Winter Events

The **Skyline Council of Landmarks Illinois** — the organization's young and emerging professionals committee — hosted its 8th Annual Skyline Social November 6, 2019, at Wintrust's Grand Banking Hall in the historic Continental Illinois Bank Building in the Loop's Financial District. The event, which drew a crowd of 200, once again hit a new fundraising record, with the Skyline Council raising more than \$60,000. A portion of the funds will go directly to Skyline Council's Whitney Schoolhouse Service Project in Kane County. The council also held a holiday Pub Crawl in Portage Park on December 13, 2019, in partnership with Six Corners Association and Forgotten Chicago. In late January, the council once again hosted Two Nights of Trivia at Revolution Brewpub in Logan Square. See pictures of Skyline Council events at LI's Flickr page at [Flickr.com/People/Landmarks_Illinois](https://www.flickr.com/photos/people/landmarks_illinois/).

(Credit: Pivot-Photography)

Tributes

Phyllis Herndon Brissenden (Springfield, IL)
 Landmarks Illinois was saddened to learn of the passing of Phyllis Herndon Brissenden on December 17, 2019. Mrs. Brissenden, 86, was one of LI's longest members having joined in May 1974. Going beyond membership support, she made a major gift this May toward the work of Frank Butterfield, Director of LI's Springfield Office. Mrs. Brissenden will be missed for her sense of humor, her wit and her passionate support for several nonprofit causes.

Wesley (Wes) Snyder (Sarasota, FL)
 Wes Snyder, a dedicated Landmarks Illinois Board Member in the 1970s, passed away in March 2019 at the age of 83. Mr. Snyder was born in Chicago and joined the LI Board in 1973. Over the next five years, Mr. Snyder served on the LI Executive Committee, chaired the Membership Activities Committee and co-chaired the Public Education and Communications Committee. Current LI Board Member Marty Tangora served alongside Wes and remembers him fondly as an avid traveler who organized and helped to run a travel program for LI members as part of his service to the membership committee.

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SEPTEMBER 15-DECEMBER 20, 2019 Through membership dues, contributions, event sponsorship and grants, Landmarks Illinois is able to preserve, protect and promote Illinois' historic buildings and sites. The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff sincerely thank all our supporters for their contributions. However, space allows us to only list the following.

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 Daniel A. Fortman, Weiss + Company, LLP
 Kristine Westerberg
 Charles A. White
 Shauna Wiet
 W. D. Winston, RPHOnTheGo
 Ted Witte
 A. Virginia Witucke
 Ernest Wong, Site Design Group, Ltd.
 Robert E. Woodworth, Jr.
 Claudia & Leo Zinanni

BEQUEST

Anonymous

IN-KIND GIFTS

Ziad Salameh, ZS Architectural Engineering
 Jack Tribbia, Berglund Construction

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Alphawood Foundation Chicago
 National Trust for Historic Preservation:
 Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Franz Schulze

IN HONOR OF

Erika Block
 Frank Butterfield
 Lisa DiChiera
 Amy Ege
 William R. Host



Preservation Snapshots Lectures

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Preservation 2020

Speaker: Shanon Shea Miller, City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Most Endangered Historic Places

Speakers: Lisa DiChiera and Frank Butterfield, Landmarks Illinois

Look for details at Landmarks.org



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