

ROTUNDA

THE ARCH

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2 WOMEN WHO BUILT ILLINOIS

4 THE STATE OF PRESERVATION



6 OUR 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

8 LI EVENTS
SHARING OUR "SACRED" SPACES

Cover: Inside O'Hare Airport's Rotunda Building, designed by architect Gertrude Kerbis in 1962. Landmarks Illinois is celebrating Kerbis and other female architects, designers, builders, engineers and more with our new "Women Who Built Illinois" project. Turn to page 2 to learn more.

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSOR CORNER

Landmarks Illinois thanks its Annual Corporate Sponsors. To learn more about this new program, please contact Tiffanie Williams at (312) 922-1742.



FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO OUR MEMBERS

Our current health crisis has forced many organizations to rethink how they operate, including Landmarks Illinois. I am grateful to report that our organization entered this "new normal" in a strong position. We have a professional, resourceful staff who have maintained their service to our stakeholders with little-to-no interruption in our work flow. Our board members are contributing expertise to help us plan for the future. The generosity of our members and donors combined with our prudent management has ensured we can weather the financial storm for a period of time.

Still, we will not come out of this unscathed. We have had to make some tough decisions to respond to the pandemic. This includes our decision to cancel the 2020 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois, marking the first time in 26 years we will not release the annual list of our state's most threatened historic sites. We felt this moment called for a focus on people's health and safety rather than on endangered buildings.

Another change we have had to make is planning to hold a virtual Annual Membership Meeting for the first time ever. We anticipate hosting the annual meeting in June through a digital platform. We are taking this unprecedented action because we value innovation. We are embracing inventive ideas and solutions. There is no better time to embrace new tools to ensure we keep our members and partners safe.

"We believe investing in historic places will be a principal aspect of the pandemic recovery."

We believe investing in historic places will be a principal aspect of the pandemic recovery. Historic preservation creates jobs and brings affordable housing to the market faster than new construction. Our historic main street buildings throughout Illinois will also serve as small-scale spaces for businesses to stabilize.

We also believe historic places play a special role in people's lives, and over the last couple of months we asked our community to tell us about those places through our #mysacredground social media campaign. The campaign was named in honor of our 2020 Legendary Landmark Timuel D. Black, who has long referred to his Chicago Bronzeville community as his "sacred ground." See page 8 in this newsletter for examples of #mysacredground posts.

We're proud to announce a new grant program named in Mr. Black's honor, thanks to funds raised at our 2020 Legendary Landmarks Celebration. A portion of the event's paddle raise proceeds are funding a grant program created specifically for projects in Mr. Black's "sacred ground" on Chicago's South Side. Turn to page 3 to read more about this new program.

In addition to the Timuel Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side, Landmarks Illinois also recently created the COVID-19 Organizational Relief Fund. Led by Director of Grants & Easements Suzanne Germann, the limited-time grant program was launched in May as a response to the pandemic and aligns with our organizational values of empowering people and improving lives throughout the state. The grant fund offered nonprofits the opportunity to apply for emergency relief grants of up to \$2,000. Visit our website, www.Landmarks.org to read more about this program.

Landmarks Illinois has sought to lead with our values in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We deeply appreciate your continued support as members and donors during this time.

Be well, stay safe and keep in touch,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald
President & CEO



WOMEN WHO BUILT ILLINOIS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, protecting women's constitutional right to vote. Many organizations are celebrating this "Year of the Woman," including the National Trust for Historic Preservation with its "Where Women Made History" Crowdsourcing Program. Similarly, Landmarks Illinois is launching "Women Who Built Illinois," a database of places in the state designed, engineered and built by women. The database will be housed on our website at www.Landmarks.org later in the year.



In 2016, Landmarks Illinois included O'Hare Airport's Rotunda Building on its 2016 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The 1962, two-story, round building features an open atrium and connects the first two terminals at Chicago's busiest airport. The Rotunda is unique not only for its design, but also for its designer, architect Gertrude Kerbis (b. 1926) of C.F. Murphy Associates. Kerbis had a long career in the male-dominated architecture field. Her daughter told Landmarks Illinois in 2016 that Kerbis, "became an architect at a time when most women in the field were either receptionists, secretaries or relegated to the interior departments despite their qualifications."

Kerbis was once a student of Mies van der Rohe at the Illinois Institute of Technology and worked with many high profile architecture firms in Chicago, including C.F. Murphy Associates and Skidmore Owings & Merrill, before opening her own

firm Lempp Kerbis in 1967. Kerbis' designs were considered innovative, including the Rotunda's cable and concrete roof truss system, allowing for a very large, clear span, and interior features such as a winding tandem stair and circular overlook balcony.

Landmarks Illinois wants to recognize the women who laid the path for both today's female graduates and professionals who continue to impact Illinois' built environment.

Back in 2016, Landmarks Illinois was advocating for the important, yet unprotected Rotunda Building and promoting the need for it to be retained as part of O'Hare's ongoing expansion plans. At the time, Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera realized that Chicago had yet to designate a woman-designed building as a landmark. This sparked the idea for "Women Who Built Illinois."



The project will compile data on women architects, engineers, developers, designers and builders in Illinois between 1879 and 1979 and their built projects throughout the state. Places will be assessed for landmark eligibility based on condition and location. Erica Ruggiero, a member of Landmarks Illinois' young professionals committee, the Skyline Council, and a principal at the women-owned architecture firm McGuire Igleski

& Associates, has helped DiChiera compile to date more than 65 women, but Landmarks Illinois wants to learn about others. We encourage you to reach out to us about women in your community who designed and built places.

Today, names like Jeanne Gang and Carol Ross Barney are well known for shaping Chicago's skyline and cityscape. Unlike Kerbis' time, female architecture students are now graduating at the same rate as men. Landmarks Illinois wants to recognize the women who laid the path for both today's female graduates and professionals who continue to impact Illinois' built environment. Stay tuned in the months ahead as we launch this exciting new initiative. 🇺🇸

A historic rendering of the Rotunda. Courtesy JAHN.

Gertrude Lempp Kerbis. Credit: Chris Deford.

The TIMUEL D. BLACK, JR. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side

In celebration of the life and work of acclaimed historian and civil rights activist, Timuel D. Black, Jr., Landmarks Illinois has created a named grant fund in his honor. The Timuel Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side will recognize the deep and sustained influence Chicago's South Side has had on Mr. Black's life, as well as the lives of countless others.



The Fund will support planning and capital projects that work to preserve and promote the history, culture and architecture of Chicago's South Side—roughly bound by Cermak Road, Lake Michigan, Ashland Avenue and the southern boundary of the city of Chicago. Eligible applicants include nonprofit and community organizations as well as faith-based and educational institutions. Grants will range from \$1,000 - \$2,500 each, depending on need, and will require a 1:1 match. Applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis. The first application deadline will be July 15. Visit www.Landmarks.org/grants to learn more. 🇺🇸

Credit: Oscar H. Izquierdo.

"I feel the need to share my experiences with younger people so they can be encouraged that we shall overcome."

Timuel Black at the South Side Community Art Center

On February 26, Landmarks Illinois hosted an intimate discussion with Timuel D. Black Jr. at the South Side Community Arts Center. A small number of guests, including high school students from Westmont High School's African American Cultural Studies Club, gathered to hear Black talk about the history of the South Side of Chicago and to share stories of what life was like during the first Great Migration. He talked about the importance of understanding one's own history and heritage and encouraged the students in the crowd to be the source of positive change in their communities. "I feel the need to share my experiences with younger people so they can be encouraged that we shall overcome," Black said. "We shall overcome. One day, we do believe that we shall overcome." Students and other guests had the chance to ask Black questions during the event, take pictures with him and have him sign their copies of his book, "Sacred Ground: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black."



THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

KLAS RESTAURANT CICERO

Built in 1922 with later additions, Adolf Klaus wanted a distinctive Bohemian building, depicting traditional architecture and culture for the large Czech population in Cicero. After operating on Cermak Road for over 90 years, Klas Restaurant was sold last fall to an owner with unspecified plans. Many fear the unprotected building will be demolished. Much of the interior's custom-made furniture, stained glass, architectural accents and paintings by Czech artists was removed and sold. A series of murals, painted in 1938 by Gennadi Gordeyev were sold, but his frescos remain. Gordeyev's granddaughter is seeking help to save the building. Contact Irene Hogstrom at i_hogstrom@yahoo.com.

Credit: Irene Hogstrom.



CICERO

FORMER CHICAGO TOWN AND TENNIS CLUB CHICAGO

The former Chicago Town and Tennis Club, built in 1924 and designed by George Maher in the Tudor Revival-style, faces demolition. Misericordia recently purchased the property with plans to demolish the historic building to create housing for people with disabilities. The building is orange rated in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. The City of Chicago issued a demolition permit under the agreement that Misericordia will hold off on demolition until June 17 to allow a qualified entity to take ownership of the building and relocate it. Inquiring parties should contact Julie O'Sullivan at julieo@misericordia.com.



CHICAGO

CHAUTAUQUAS AND TABERNACLES FREEPORT AND SHELBYVILLE

Illinois' Chautauquas and Tabernacles, listed on Landmarks Illinois' 2018 Most Endangered Historic Places, are back in the news this year. After the Freeport Park District voted to demolish the Oakdale Tabernacle in February, Landmarks Illinois was instrumental in having the demolition contract rescinded while the park district consults with the State Historic Preservation Office. The Friends of the Freeport Park District is working to save the tabernacle via a sale or public-private partnership. In Shelbyville, advocates for the Chautauqua (pictured) celebrated the approval of a non-binding referendum asking voters if the city should repair and preserve the historic auditorium. The referendum passed by a vote of 59% to 31%.



SHELBYVILLE

IN THE FIELD

**DAVID C. COOK PUBLISHING CO. ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING ELGIN**

Cook Communications Ministries, owner of this 1901 Classical Revival building, is seeking to demolish it. Placed on Landmarks Illinois' Chicagoland Watch List in 2008 after it was vacated, the historic Administrative Building shields views of the company's manufacturing facilities. The building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which would enable use of tax incentives for rehabilitation and reuse. However, the owner wants to demolish it to reduce maintenance costs and property taxes. If demolished, the land would remain vacant with no apparent plans. The Northeast Neighborhood Association of Elgin is working with the city to seek a preservation-minded buyer or lessee to pursue a suitable reuse. City Council, for the first time, is seeking landmarking without owner consent. The Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing. If a landmark recommendation is sent back to Council, a super majority vote will be required.

Credit: Brian Pinon.

**SOUTH SIDE HISTORIC CHURCHES CHICAGO**

Despite the shelter-in-place order imposed due to COVID-19, Landmarks Illinois continues working remotely with several South Side historic church congregations to address needed repairs to their buildings. LI provided technical assistance to the recently landmarked Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church (4600 S. King Dr., see side and back cover), for several grant and loan applications. Structural engineering assistance is forthcoming, in coordination with McGuire, Igleski & Assoc., for Blackwell-Israel Samuel A.M.E. Zion Church (3956 S. Langley Ave.), also pending Chicago Landmark designation. In coordination with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service, Landmarks Illinois is also providing technical assistance with Berglund Construction to Greenstone Church, in the Pullman National Monument, for emergency repairs to its tower and roof. All are doing online services and welcome donations during this time of reduced Sunday contributions.

Joseph Walker and Jonathan Crutcher of Mt. Pisgah, which hosted LI's DePriest Home Ribbon Cutting reception in January 2020.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVOCACY WEEK**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

In early March, Landmarks Illinois led an Illinois delegation to Congressional meetings in Washington, D.C., as part of Preservation Action's Advocacy Week. Landmarks Illinois Springfield Office Director Frank Butterfield was joined by Ellen Stoner of AltusWorks, Rachel Figgins of MacRostie Historic Advisors, Alyssa Frystak of PlaceEconomics and Landmarks Illinois members Thomas Klein and Carl Klein. The group visited every House and Senate office for Illinois, and met individually with U.S. Reps. Mike Bost (IL-12), Rodney Davis (IL-13), Bill Foster (IL-11), Jesus Garcia (IL-04) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08). The group discussed preservation's job creation and investment in Illinois, including via the Federal Historic Tax Credit, the Historic Preservation Fund and at our current and proposed National Parks. Thank you to our colleagues, volunteers and elected officials for a successful 2020 National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week.

Frank Butterfield and fellow Illinois advocates pictured with Ashley Clayton, a member of Rep. Underwood's office.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Landmarks Illinois has provided nearly \$25,000 in grant funding so far this year to preservation projects across the state. The Preservation Heritage Fund and Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund grant programs offer critical financial support to help save the special and historic places in our communities. We are proud to be able to offer this resource to people working to save places in Illinois.

Read about our 2020 grant recipients below. Visit us at www.Landmarks.org/grants to learn more about each project and to see if your preservation project qualifies for grant funding.

PRESERVATION HERITAGE FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS



GLIDDEN HOMESTEAD DEKALB
The 159-year-old Glidden Homestead and Historical Center received a \$2,500 matching grant to restore the front steps of the former home of Joseph F. Glidden, the inventor of barbed wire and a co-founder of Northern Illinois State Normal School, now known as Northern Illinois University.

left: Glidden Homestead. Credit: Glidden Homestead and Historical Center.



ELGIN MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL ELGIN
The charter school, which is housed in the former Fox River Country Day School, received a \$2,500 matching grant to aid with renovation of the Administration Building. Landmarks Illinois included the campus, designed by Prairie School architect John S. Van Bergen, on its 2012 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois.

left: Administrative Building at the former Fox River Country Day School.



GLENCOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GLENCOE
Landmarks Illinois 2019 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois site, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Booth Cottage, is being relocated from private property to public park land to ensure its preservation. Landmarks Illinois awarded the Glencoe Historical Society a \$2,500 matching grant to help fund this effort.

left: Booth Cottage being prepped to move to its new location. Credit: Peter Van Vechten.



PLEASANT PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLEASANT PLAINS
Landmarks Illinois awarded the historical society a \$2,500 matching grant to help restore flooring in the Cunningham Barn at the Clayville Historic Site – a group of Central Illinois historic buildings dating back to 1842 that recreate an early pioneer village.

above: Clayville Historic Site. Credit: Pleasant Plains Historical Society.

FRIENDS OF HAUBERG CIVIC CENTER ROCK ISLAND
After receiving a 2019 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award, the nonprofit Friends of Hauberg received a \$2,500 matching grant this year to re-glaze historic windows at the carriage house on the historic Hauberg Estate – home to a 1911 Spencer & Powers Prairie-Style mansion and Jens Jensen-designed garden.

right: Members of the Friends of the Hauberg Civic Center. Photo Friends of Hauberg Civic Center Foundation.

MACOUPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CARLINVILLE
A \$2,500 matching grant from Landmarks Illinois helped the Historical Society repair the sleeping porch at the 1833 Anderson Mansion, which houses Macoupin County memorabilia and is open to public tours.

right: Anderson Mansion. Credit: Macoupin County Historical Society.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SALEM

A \$2,500 matching grant helped the church restore its historic stained glass windows. Built in 1907, the church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has undergone other rehabilitation projects, such as the installation of a new roof.

right: A stained glass window in Grace United Methodist Church. Credit: Grace United Methodist Church.



GLESSNER HOUSE CHICAGO

Glessner House, built in 1887 and designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, received a \$4,000 matching grant to repair water damage in the home's basement, caused by a broken sewer pipe. Landmarks Illinois has held a preservation easement on Glessner House since 2006.

right: Glessner House.



BARBARA C. AND THOMAS E. DONNELLEY II PRESERVATION FUND

VICTORY GARDENS THEATER CHICAGO
The Chicago theater company received a \$1,000 matching grant to help create a long-term sustainable maintenance plan for the historic Biograph Theater, the 105-year-old theater where the company performs. The Biograph Theater is one of the earliest movie houses in Chicago.

above: Biograph Theatre. Credit: Victory Gardens Theater Company.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$22,500

total grant funding awarded so far this year

9

preservation projects

have received Landmarks Illinois grant funding in 2020

4

times a year Landmarks Illinois awards grants through its Preservation Heritage Fund.

Application deadlines are in January, April, July and October.

2

times a year Landmarks Illinois awards grants through the Donnelley Preservation Fund.

Application deadlines are in April and October.

5.7%

of a preservation project's total cost typically covered by a Landmarks Illinois grant*

*according to 2016 report: "No Small Change: The Grant Programs of Landmarks Illinois," prepared by PlaceEconomics for Landmarks Illinois.

Sharing Our “Sacred” Spaces

In mid-March, at the start of shelter-at-home orders due to the Coronavirus, Landmarks Illinois launched its #mysacredground social media campaign, asking our supporters and followers to help promote the power of place. We believe places can serve as a beacon of hope and security, and have the power to connect us even if we cannot physically gather in them for the time being. Our social media campaign calls on people to share the “sacred” places that provided comfort and joy during this difficult time.

Our inspiration for the campaign came from **2020 Legendary Landmark Timuel D. Black Jr.** who refers to special places in his South Side community as his “sacred ground.” Below are shortened versions of some of the #mysacredground stories from our campaign.

To learn more about how Landmarks Illinois has responded to the Coronavirus pandemic, visit www.Landmarks.org/Covid-19.



#mysacredground is Riverside, a distinct community established in 1869, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and now a National Historic Landmark. My wife and I recently moved to Riverside, and we enjoy strolling the winding roads and admiring the landscape and residential architecture with our dog, Sam.

- Matt Seymour, Riverside



#mysacredground was always the University of Illinois Observatory in Urbana, a National Historic Landmark. Evenings spent here always involved a sense of awe and connected me to the larger universe just beyond my reach. Although I now live in South Carolina, I still return to Urbana and recall so many evenings spent in the quiet of the dome observing the night sky.

- Michael Svec, South Carolina



#mysacredground is the Chicago Cultural Center, by far one of the most stunning spaces in Chicago. The mosaics are almost unparalleled to many, many places I've seen in the world, and I've seen a fair amount of the great ones in the western hemisphere.

- Tom Kus, Maywood

visit us to learn more

- @landmarkskill
- @landmarkskill
- @landmarksillinois



15th Annual Legendary Landmarks Celebration

In early March, Landmarks Illinois hosted its 15th Annual Legendary Landmarks Celebration in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Chicago. LI's members and donors came together for an inspiring evening to honor our 2020 Legendary Landmarks Timuel D. Black Jr., Joseph P. Gromacki and Matthew and Daniel Walsh. The event raised \$840,000 for Landmarks Illinois' advocacy programs. We thank the celebration host committee, Landmarks Illinois' Board of Directors and Emeritus board, Skyline Council members, current and past Legendary Landmarks and our donors for your continued support of this annual event. To learn more about our 2020 Legendary Landmarks and watch their honoree videos, please visit our website.

Matthew and Daniel Walsh, Timuel D. Black Jr., and Joseph P. Gromacki. Credit: Pivot Photography.



Now taking nominations for the 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards

Deadline June 15, 2020

Visit www.Landmarks.org for more information on the program and how to apply.

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\$10,000 & ABOVE

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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JUNE
2020

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