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. 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.

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.” See page 8 in this newsletter for examples of #mysacredground posts.

In addition to the Timuel Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago’s South Side, Landmarks Illinois also recently created a COVID-19 Organizational Relief Fund, led by Director of Grants and 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 new program.

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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
President & CEO
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. 


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STATEWIDE NEWS

THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

KLAS RESTAURANT CICERO
Built in 1932 with later additions, Adolf Kraus 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 were 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.

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.

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%.

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 attract 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 (956 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 all they can to serve and welcome donations during this time of reduced Sunday contributions.


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 Ferges of MacBlotie 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.

By the Numbers

$22,500 total grant funding awarded so far this year
9 preservation projects have received Landmarks Illinois grants 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*  


Preservation Heritage Fund Grant Recipients

**Glidden Homestead** DeKalb
The 193-year-old Glidden Homestead and Historical Center received a $3,500 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** 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.

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.


**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 credit: 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 1831 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.

**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.


**Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund**

### Projects Funded

**Biograph Theater**
*Grant: $1,000*
*Project: Long-term sustainable maintenance plan*

**Booth Cottage**
*Grant: $3,500*
*Project: Front steps restoration*

**Chicago Methodist Church**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Historic stained glass window restoration*

**Clayville Historic Site**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Floor restoration in Cunningham Barn*

**Friends of Hauberg Civic Center**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Re-glazing historic windows*

**Glessner House**
*Grant: $4,000*
*Project: Repairing basement water damage*

**Grace United Methodist Church**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Historic stained glass window restoration*

**Hauberg Civic Center**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Repairs to the carriage house*

**Illinois State Normal University**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Renovation of Administration Building*

**McCook Historical Society**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Repairing windows in the Haugh's House*

**Northwestern University**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Repairing the Sustainable Princeton Inn*

**Pleasant Plains Historical Society**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Floor restoration in the Cunningham Barn*

**Rock Island Public Library**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Repairing the public library's historic windows*

**Salem Historical Society**
*Grant: $2,500*
*Project: Repairing windows in the Haugh's House*
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 Landmarks 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 supports the University of Illinois Observatory in Urbana, a National Historic Landmark, visit www.Landmarks.org.

In early March, Landmarks Illinois hosted its 15th Annual Legendary Landmarks Celebration in the Grand Ballroom at the Chicago Hilton. Its members and donors came together during this difficult time to apply for 2020 Legendary 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 honoroe videos, please visit our website.


15th Annual Legendary Landmarks Celebration

In early March, Landmarks Illinois hosted its 15th Annual Legendary Landmarks Celebration in the Grand Ballroom at the Chicago Hilton. It’s members and donors came together during this difficult time to apply for an inspiration evening to honor our 2020 Legendary Landmarks Timuel D. Black Jr., Joseph P. Gromacki and Matthew and Daniel Walsh. The event raised $184,000 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 honoroe videos, please visit our website.

Join us for our first virtual Annual Meeting in late June. Look for an email invitation soon with date and details.

To be sure you receive your announcement, connect with us by subscribing to our e-newsletters. You can enter your email address at the bottom of any webpage at www.Landmarks.org under “STAY IN TOUCH.”

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago.