



LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019 – 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

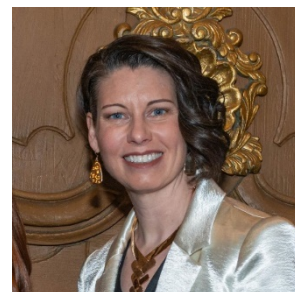
Living in a time of unprecedented circumstances compels Landmarks Illinois to be an ever more responsive, principled and bold leader. Our organizational values — as well as the unwavering belief that people are at the core of preservation — have effectively served as a guide for how we react to new challenges and demands. This annual report of activities and accomplishments reinforces how our values shape our approach to our work.

Our talented staff and supportive board are to be commended for their creativity and willingness to pivot in responding to the changing needs of those we serve. Though we can't predict the future, and our organizational funding will assuredly be impacted, we are maintaining our existing level of operations. Landmarks Illinois is needed to support communities as preservation is incorporated in local economic recovery around our state.

Places, too, are needed now more than ever. Historic, culturally significant and special community places provide a space to gather, to tell stories of resilience and resistance and they provide a source of hope to many of us. At the threshold of Landmarks Illinois' 50th anniversary in 2021, we've assembled people with diverse perspectives to drive our evolution to be a relevant organization that continues to save these special places. We also are committed to doing our part to dismantle systems of inequity and injustice embedded in preservation practice.

This work is challenging, but righteous. Becoming the preservation organization of the future will require difficult choices and courageous action. We are ready. You affirm we're on the right path every time you contribute to Landmarks Illinois, so please continue your generous support over the year to come.

Bonnie McDonald
President & CEO



Sandra Rand
Board Chair



Gary Anderson
Board Vice Chair



BY THE NUMBERS

257 culturally, historically & architecturally significant places Landmarks Illinois helped save

145 places Landmarks Illinois advocated for that became local &/or national landmarks or are now part of historic districts

154 Illinois communities Landmarks Illinois served

7,613 miles staff traveled to meet with preservation advocates in downstate Illinois communities

3,431 hours of preservation expertise Landmarks Illinois provided to Illinois preservation advocates

\$66,000 in grant funds awarded to organizations saving places in Illinois

29 Illinois preservation projects supported through Landmarks Illinois grants

2,326 people participated in Landmarks Illinois' events & programs

\$1,001,823 raised through our events to support Landmarks Illinois' advocacy programs



Landmarks Illinois Value: **INNOVATION**

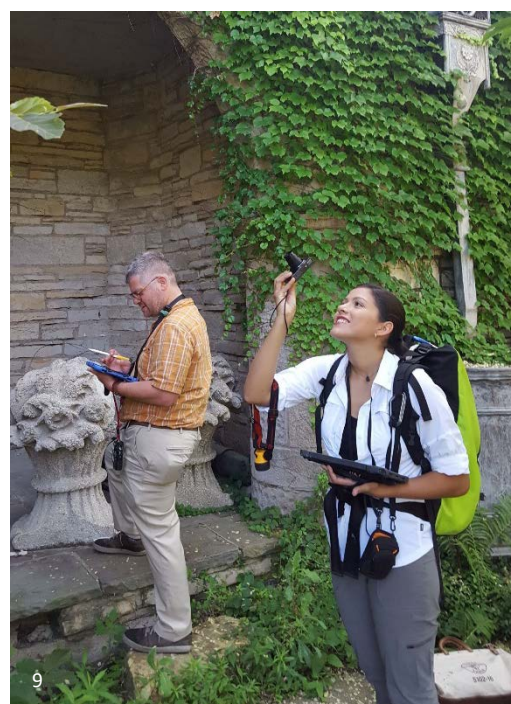
We are at the forefront of the historic preservation field with inventive ideas & solutions that better help people to save the places of the past that matter to them.

50TH ANNIVERSARY TASK FORCE In December 2019, Landmarks Illinois launched a special task force to begin planning for our organization's 50th anniversary in 2021 as well as to design how our organization will evolve to be relevant for the next 50 years.

REIMAGINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE Through our sponsored pro-bono building condition assessments, reuse studies & professional expertise we helped determine how historic places can be creatively reused. A condition assessment for St. Mary's Carmelite Church in Joliet, for instance, showed the once-endangered structure was in stable condition & prompted city officials to pursue reuse of the building rather than demolition. And, an updated [assessment of the historic Harley Clarke House in Evanston](#) will aid in the property's restoration.

WOMEN WHO BUILT ILLINOIS PROJECT In honor of the "Year of the Woman," in 2020 we began the state's first database dedicated to documenting Illinois places designed, engineered & built by women. [Learn more](#)

PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN As the Coronavirus pandemic spread throughout the state & the nation, Landmarks Illinois responded quickly by implementing safe operational plans for our staff & shifted grant funding to help partner preservation organizations most impacted by the virus through our COVID-19 Organization Relief Fund. Our [#mysacredground](#) social media campaign also promoted the power of place & the importance of preservation while bringing comfort & hope to people during the stay-at-home order.





10



11



12

Landmarks Illinois Value: **EDUCATION**

We seek & freely share knowledge that furthers our mission & vision.

TAKING PEOPLE TO PLACES THAT MATTER In the last year, Landmarks Illinois has brought people to historic & valued Illinois places through our events, exclusive tours, intimate lectures & more, allowing them to experience, see & learn about them in person. These places include: Old Cook County Hospital, the Chicago Stock Exchange Artifact Exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago featuring architect John Vinci, the South Side Community Art Center (Chicago), Lofts on Arthington (Chicago) & the new Claremont Cottage Chicago Landmark District.

BRINGING NATIONAL LEADERS TO ILLINOIS Landmarks Illinois has made a concerted effort in the last year to bring national preservation leaders to Illinois to share best practices. Our speakers included: Donovan Rypkema of PlaceEconomics, J. Myrick Howard of Preservation North Carolina & Thompson Mayes of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. [Watch Rypkema's lecture](#)

ENGAGING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Members of our young professionals committee, the Skyline Council, joined Frank Butterfield, LI's Springfield Office Director, in Washington, D.C., during Preservation Advocacy Week to speak to lawmakers about the importance of preservation. [Learn more](#)

SHARING INFORMATION ON PRESERVATION TOOLS From historic tax credits, to preservation easements & property tax assessment freezes, Landmarks Illinois is constantly working to inform the public, decision makers & developers on the most up-to-date tools & incentives available for historic preservation. In October, 2019, Frank Butterfield, Director of LI's Springfield Office, participated in a Federal Historic Tax Credit roundtable hosted by U.S. Rep. Darrin LaHood in October & in early 2020 spearheaded Illinois' advocacy for the federal HTC-Go legislation to improve the historic tax credit program.



Landmarks Illinois Value: **EDUCATION** (cont.)

EASEMENT ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION Landmarks Illinois has more than 550 [preservation easements](#) — a legal agreement that protects a historic property in perpetuity. Following years of being on the market, we celebrated the news that one of our easement properties, the former River Forest Women’s Club, sold to a preservation-minded buyer. Landmarks Illinois continues to provide guidance & expertise to the new owners as they work to restore the now single-family home. In addition, Landmarks Illinois proudly accepted an easement on the historic Oscar Stanton De Priest House in Chicago this year (read more about this property on [page 9](#) of this report).

SERVING AS PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS Landmarks Illinois has helped local advocates throughout the state secure financing & find available preservation tools to save places in their communities. This has included our no-cost consulting on preservation efforts at the Muddy Waters house on Chicago’s South Side, providing a building condition assessment report & helping advocates navigate the process of applying for grant funding through other organizations.

TRADES TRAINING Landmarks Illinois teamed up with the International Masonry Institute and the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 to present a one-day training seminar in January focused on restoration of interior tile, mosaics & ornamental plastering. Months before, in October, we also [co-hosted a panel discussion & lecture](#) with Chicago Architecture Center focused on the major rehabilitation of Old Cook County Hospital. The event brought together developers, architects, engineers & other real estate & building professionals to discuss lessons learned & best practices for large-scale historic preservation projects.

PROTECTING PLACES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

Landmarks Illinois joined architects, structural engineers & representatives of the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office in Elsah & Chautauqua this year to meet with elected officials, home owners & business owners to determine how to best mitigate 2019 flood damage & protect historic structures from increasing flooding disasters.



Landmarks Illinois Value: **STEWARDSHIP**

We seek to inspire others to believe, as we do, that preservation is progress & that by reusing places of the past we conserve irreplaceable cultural resources for people today & into the future.

STAYING COMMITTED TO OUR 'MOST ENDANGERED' PLACES

Once a site is included on our annual Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois, we stay committed to its preservation, no matter how long that takes. That could be two decades (as was the case with Old Cook County Hospital) or two years. One former endangered site we continued to work on with local advocates this year was the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Booth Cottage in Glencoe, awarding it a Preservation Heritage Fund Grant in 2020 to help pay for the cost of relocating the house to avoid demolition. We also worked with residents in Freeport with their efforts to preserve their 105-year-old tabernacle at Oakdale Nature Preserve that we included on our 2018 Most Endangered List.



CELEBRATING PRESERVATION MILESTONES

We also celebrated major preservation milestones at our state's historic & significant places. Landmarks Illinois joined community celebrations at the historic Bishop Hill Colony, a two-time LI grant recipient, for the rededication of its Carpenter Shop. We celebrated the restoration of the Black Hawk Statue in Oregon, as well, a 2015 Most Endangered site, & Ryan's Round Barn in McHenry County (a 2017 Most Endangered site) being named a state "historic treasure" by the Illinois House.



SEEING OUR PROJECTS THROUGH

Our effort to save the iconic *Ebony* Test Kitchen from the former Johnson Publishing Company Building in Chicago began in 2018. In late 2019, the disassembled kitchen safely arrived at its new home at the Museum of Food & Drink in New York, where it will become part of a traveling national exhibit. Landmarks Illinois aided in the transfer of the culturally important kitchen & continues to be a partner to MOFAD as it tells its story.





Landmarks Illinois Value: **STEWARDSHIP** (cont.)

BRINGING ATTENTION TO FORGOTTEN PLACES

LI's young & emerging professionals committee, the Skyline Council, made major advancements on its long-term service project to restore the 168-year-old, one-room Whitney Schoolhouse in Campton Hills. The council cohosted a community celebration at the schoolhouse to bring people & awareness to the property, oversaw construction of a new foundation for the school building & began important structural repairs. [Read more](#)



AN ACTIVE PRESERVATION PARTNER

Landmarks Illinois joined the "Save Our State Farm Building" coalition & provided advice & expertise to local advocates in Bloomington to save the historic former State Farm headquarters building from demolition. Through our efforts, which included media outreach, the coalition drew needed attention to the treasured Art Deco structure. It worked: A developer learned about the building & decided to purchase it with plans to reuse it as apartments.

WORKING TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

Landmarks Illinois knows building a coalition can be essential to saving places. This year, we joined forces with a number of preservation partners including AIA Chicago, Preservation Chicago, James R. Thompson Center Historical Society, Docomomo & the National Trust for Historic Preservation to rally our efforts as we promote the importance of the Post Modern James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Among the coalition's action items this year: Sending a letter to the consulting company selected to manage the state's sale of the building & preparing a National Register designation report.



THE LONG FIGHT

Nearly a year-and-a-half after first filing a lawsuit to prevent unlawful demolition of the historic Rock Island County Courthouse, Landmarks Illinois continues to work with local advocates, our lawsuit co-plaintiffs & local officials to find a preservation & reuse solution for the endangered building. In November, our pro-bono attorneys presented oral arguments in our appeal. We currently await the court's decision. [Read more on the case.](#)

Landmarks Illinois Value: **STEWARDSHIP** (cont.)

LOCAL LANDMARKING SUCCESSES Our advocacy team aided in the successful creation of a number of new landmark districts & helped protect existing districts.

TRI-TAYLOR Working alongside residents who want to preserve their unique residential architecture & community culture, we played an active part in helping to create the Claremont Cottage Historic District, which protects the unique Queen Anne cottages on the block of 1000 S. Claremont Avenue in Chicago.

NEAR NORTH From attending Commission on Chicago Landmarks meetings & spreading the word on the benefits of protecting the remaining buildings in one of Chicago's oldest neighborhoods, Landmarks Illinois helped advocate for creating the new Near North Side Multiple Property Historic District. The new district protects 15 historic buildings constructed between 1872 & 1885.

EDGEWATER Landmarks Illinois also joined efforts to advocate for protection of the former home of jazz poet & celebrated recording artist Ken Nordine in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. Following months of work by local advocates & Landmarks Illinois, in March the Chicago Landmarks Commission denied a demolition permit for the Nordine mansion & extended preliminary landmark status.

OAK PARK We were among the many voices to speak out this year in opposition to a proposal from the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust in Oak Park to move, demolish and/or alter two contributing properties within the Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District to make way for a larger visitor center.

SPRINGFIELD We continue to assist Springfield business & property owners as they prepare for proposed plans for a new university campus in the downtown historic district, which could threaten several of their historic buildings.

Visit our website to learn more [about these efforts](https://www.landmarks.org).



Landmarks Illinois Value: **EMPOWERING PEOPLE & IMPROVING LIVES**

We seek to be inclusive & equitable in our work to inspire people to save places for people, to help them succeed, to grow our movement & to improve the quality of life in the communities that we serve.

PROVIDING RELIEF FUNDING IN A TIME OF NEED In April, we launched a one-time Landmarks Illinois COVID-19 Organization Relief Grant Program, intended to provide monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations statewide that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant fund awarded 13, one-time \$2,000 grants to help our partners pay for essential, organizational expenditures so they can continue to preserve & promote our treasured Illinois places. [Learn about our grant recipients.](#)

PRESERVING BLACK HISTORY On Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2020, we celebrated the completion of our restoration project at the Oscar Stanton De Priest Apartment Building in Bronzeville, a National Historic Landmark. The project, made possible after we received a grant through the National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant Program, will help continue the legacy & important history of the home of the late U.S. Congressman & civil rights advocate Oscar Stanton De Priest. [Read more about the project.](#) Landmarks Illinois has also joined efforts to propose local landmarking of the former Maywood home of Fred Hampton, activist & former chair of Chicago's Black Panther Party & the site of the Black Panther Party School Lunch Program on Chicago's West Side.

SAVING SACRED GROUND ON CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE

In May, we launched a new grant fund in celebration of the life & work of acclaimed civil rights leader, educator, historian, author & WWII veteran, Timuel D. Black, Jr. The Landmarks Illinois Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side will provide small grants to support planning & capital projects that work to preserve & promote the history, culture & architecture of Chicago's South Side, which Mr. Black has called home for the majority of his life. [Apply & learn more about the fund.](#) Prior to launching the grant program, we hosted a special discussion with Mr. Black, local high school students & guests at his beloved South Side Community Art Center.



28



29



30

Landmarks Illinois Value: **EMPOWERING PEOPLE & IMPROVING LIVES** (cont.)

CONTINUING OUR SMALL GRANT PROGRAMS In the last fiscal year, Landmarks Illinois has awarded a total of \$66,000 to 29 preservation projects in Illinois through our grant programs, which include the Landmarks Illinois' Preservation Heritage Fund & Barbara C. & Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund for Illinois Grant Programs. Each year these programs, which provide small yet important grants to organizations around the state, serve as seed funding to get preservation projects off the ground.

SHARING STORIES FROM OUR STATE'S FULL HISTORY

We proudly featured Route History in our February 2020 edition of *The Arch* newsletter to share the important, yet not well-known stories of Black people along Route 66 & in Springfield. In our feature, Gina Lathan & Stacy Grundy of the museum, visitor center & shop told us about the value of preserving this part of our state's history. [Read the newsletter here.](#)

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT Following the death of George Floyd & nationwide protests this spring, we released a statement expressing our support for the protesters and our dedication to helping to break down systems of racism & injustice in our preservation practices. [See our statement.](#)

FORMING NEW PARTNERSHIPS The Skyline Council of Landmarks Illinois has developed new partnerships with other young professional organizations & committees in the last year, cohosting a Summer Mixer in collaboration with Arquitectos, International Concrete Repair Institute, Inc., National Organization of Minority Architects & the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI). The Skyline Council also formed a new subcommittee dedicated specifically to building on partnerships to create more inclusive events & programs in the future. In addition, the Skyline Council began a new mentoring program with current & former members of the Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors & Emeritus Board to foster professional development.



Landmarks Illinois Value: **EMPOWERNG PEOPLE & IMPROVING LIVES** (cont.)

HOSTING ENERGIZING EVENTS THAT PROMOTE PRESERVATION

Landmarks Illinois events allow people to experience unique, historic places up close. Guests get behind-the-scenes access to new preservation projects & learn about the people that make them possible. Through these experiences, we aim to show the potential & power of historic preservation & inspire people to save the sites they deem important in their own communities. Our events in the last fiscal year have included:

REAL ESTATE & BUILDING INDUSTRIES COUNCIL EVENT AT THE ESSEX INN Bringing preservation-minded industry professionals together to tour Essex on the Park, the rehabilitated former Essex Inn, a Chicago landmark. [See photos](#)

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARDS AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER A gathering of more than 200 people that honored those who made our state's most exceptional preservation projects in the last year happen. Visit our website to learn about our [award recipients](#).

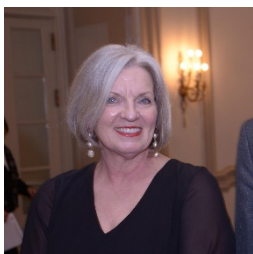
SKYLINE COUNCIL PUB CRAWL IN HISTORIC PORTAGE PARK Skyline leaders took thirsty participants to historic pubs & taverns in Chicago's northwest side neighborhood to teach them about the important sites that make the community unique. [Check out another popular Skyline event, the Fall Social.](#)

2020 LEGENDARY LANDMARKS CELEBRATION AT THE HILTON CHICAGO Nearly 700 people attended the annual fundraiser to help us honor 2020 Legendary Landmarks: Timuel D. Black Jr., Joseph P. Gromacki & Matthew & Daniel Walsh of The Walsh Group. The event raised \$840,000 for Landmarks Illinois's advocacy programs. [Celebration photos can be found here.](#)



ADDITIONAL LANDMARKS ILLINOIS MILESTONES

WELCOMING NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Julie Carpenter,
Office Manager



Anne Puotinen,
Director of
Development &
Engagement

CELEBRATING WORK ANNIVERSARIES



Lisa DiChiera,
Director of
Advocacy
**20 YEARS AT
LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS**

Landmarks Illinois also said goodbye to Amy Ege this year, who served as Landmarks Illinois Director of Development & Engagement for five years.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sandra Rand, Chair
Gary W. Anderson, Vice Chair
Bonnie C. McDonald, President & CEO
Kathleen A. Swien, General Counsel
Frieda Ireland, Treasurer
Lee Brown, Secretary
Michael Altheimer
Joseph M. Antunovich, FAIA
Erika Block
Tracy Dillard
Jean A. Follett
Joshua Freedland
Tim Frens
Jeffrey P. Goulette
Elle Ramel
Will Tippens

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Ziad Salameh
Steve Schneider
Martin C. Tangora
Cherryl T. Thomas
Blair Todt
Jack Tribbia
Christy Webber
Alex Wolking

Landmarks Illinois offers a special thanks to our sunseting & departing board members: Michael Altheimer, Joseph M. Antunovich, Ari Glass, Jeffrey P. Goulette, Peter Limberger & Elle Ramel. We wish you well & thank you for your service!

Thank you for being a part of
PEOPLE SAVING PLACES FOR PEOPLE
Your support makes our work possible!



STAY CONNECTED!



www.Landmarks.org

PHOTO CAPTIONS & CREDITS

All photo credits Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.

1. Landmarks Illinois' exclusive tour of Old Cook County Hospital. January 2020.
2. Landmarks Illinois & South Side Community Art Center leadership members with Timuel D. Black Jr. at the South Side Community Art Center. February 2020.
3. Landmarks Illinois Director of Grants & Easement Suzanne Germann & building owner Kimberly Echols in front of the historic De Priest house. January 2020.
4. A Landmarks Illinois staff retreat at a Keck & Keck designed home in Lake Forest. October 2020.
5. Restoration work at the Hauberg Estate in Rock Island. (Photo provided by Friends of Hauberg Civic Center Foundation)
6. Director of Landmarks Illinois' Springfield Office Frank Butterfield at the Judge John Taylor House in Springfield. May 2019.
7. A homeowner on S. Claremont in Chicago in front his Queen Anne cottage-style home during a Landmarks Illinois tour. July 2019.
8. Skyline Council Chair Allison Toonen-Talamo in front of a mural in Pilsen, Chicago. (Credit: Allison Toonen-Talamo)
9. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. conducting a building condition assessment at the Harley Clarke House in Evanston. September 2019.
10. Guests at the Chicago Stock Exchange Artifact Exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago during a Landmarks Illinois exclusive event. February 2020.
11. Skyline Council Pub Crawl guests outside the Ramova Theatre in Bridgeport, Chicago. June 2019.
12. Director of Landmarks Illinois' Springfield Office Frank Butterfield with members of the Illinois delegation, including Skyline Council members, outside U.S. Rep. Underwood's office in Washington, D.C., during Preservation Advocacy Week. March 2020.
13. Inside Landmarks Illinois' easement property, the former River Forest Women's Club.
14. Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald leading a panel discussion with real estate & building industry professionals on the Old Cook County Hospital rehabilitation project. October 2019.
15. Flooding in Chautauqua, Illinois. July 2019.
16. Dan Walsh, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald, and John Murphy inside the surgical theater at Old Cook County Hospital. January 2020.
17. Oakdale Tabernacle in Freeport.
18. A reenactment at Bishop Hill's community celebration for the rededication of its historic Carpenter Shop. August 2019.
19. Landmarks Illinois staff & board members with representatives from the Museum of Food and Drink at the grand opening event of the rehabilitated former Johnson Publishing Company Building in Chicago, former home to *Ebony* Magazine. September 2019.

PHOTO CAPTIONS & CREDITS (cont.)

All photo credits Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.

20. Skyline Service Subcommittee Chair Erica Ruggiero at a community event in Campton Hills advocating for the restoration of the historic Whitney Schoolhouse. August 2018. (Credit Lewis Purdy)
21. Representatives from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., including Skyline Council Vice Chair Sarah Van Domelen, conducting a building condition assessment at the Whitney Schoolhouse in Campton Hills. April 2019. (Credit: Erica Ruggiero)
22. Members of the “Save Our State Farm Building” coalition, including Director of Landmarks Illinois’ Springfield Office Frank Butterfield. September 2019.
23. Director of Landmarks Illinois’ Springfield Office Frank Butterfield with pro-bono attorneys from Jenner & Block in Ottawa after an appeal hearing for LI’s lawsuit to stop the demolition of the Rock Island County Courthouse. November 2019.
24. Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera interviewed by WTTW regarding the Near North Side Multiple Property Historic District in Chicago. February 2020.
25. 925 Chicago Ave. in Oak Park, a contributing property in the Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District.
26. Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera with Claremont Avenue homeowner Lori Christopher. December 2019.
27. Judge John Taylor House in Springfield.
28. Landmarks Illinois COVID 19 Organizational Relief Grant Recipient Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, Hermosa, Chicago. (Courtesy Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center)
29. Timuel D. Black, Jr., noted civil rights activist, author, historian and 2020 Legendary Landmark, with a high school student at a Landmarks Illinois event at the South Side Community Art Center. February 2020.
30. Landmarks Illinois staff, local advocates & elected officials at the Oscar Stanton De Priest House in Bronzeville, Chicago. January 2020.
31. Gina Lathan & Stacy Grundy of Route History in Springfield.
32. Jennifer Johnson & Smitha Vasan of I-NOMA at the Skyline Council Summer Mixer. August 2019.
33. Landmarks Illinois Board Member & Skyline Council Member Erika Block, Michael Block, Emeritus Board Member Krista Gnatt, and Skyline Council Member Sarah Horton at the Skyline Social. November 2019.
34. Jennifer Blackman, Managing Director of Save the Shrine, at the 2020 Legendary Landmarks Celebration. March 2020.
35. Members of the Skyline Council at the Summer Mixer. August 2019. (Credit Lewis Purdy)
36. Landmarks Illinois Board Member Jeffrey Goulette and RBIC Chair Andy Ahitow with guests at Landmarks Illinois’ Real Estate & Building Industries Council at the Essex Inn & Essex on the Park in Chicago. July 2019. (Credit Anne Evans Photography)