The stories in this newsletter exemplify the kind of work we want to be doing: sharing the stories of the people we serve. We are committed to reflecting upon and reckoning with the injustices built into preservation practice. Our 50th Anniversary Task Force is digging into this work. In addition, I’ve been interviewing thought leaders nationwide about needed change. I’ve been awarded a 2020 James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation Mid-Career Fellowship to publish these interviews and the resulting recommendations as a guidebook to relevancy in our movement. In the coming months we will be doing semi-monthly posts on the Landmarks Illinois Preservation News blog about the content of these interviews and we will be asking for your feedback. You can find the blog on our website, www.Landmarks.org.

The work of the 50th Anniversary Task Force, the interviews, your input and my thoughts will result in a manifesto to guide our future. Because our 50th anniversary gives us a moment that requires us to look ahead while honoring our own history, the manifesto will be released next year.

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““Our future will be defined by how inclusive we can make the preservation movement. With whom are we working? Whose stories are being told? Which places do we save, and who gets to decide?””

In 1971, our nation was embroiled in turbulent battles for justice, just as we are today. Like our organization’s founders, we continue to rally around the idea that humanity’s accomplishments, expressed in our historic places, are important. But we have come to a fork in the road. Our future will be defined by how inclusive we can make the preservation movement. With whom are we working? Whose stories are being told? Which places do we save, and who gets to decide? Landmarks Illinois is seeking answers to these questions and helping to lead a national conversation about changing our movement.

A 2019 National Trust for Historic Preservation survey of preservation practitioners showed 73% of the respondents felt preservation needs innovation, and 91% believed that socioeconomic status should not define who benefits from our work. The fact that not everyone benefits from preservation has led the general public, and preservationists, to have misgivings about our intentions and outcomes, and to question the fairness and applicability of our practices.

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The stories in this newsletter exemplify the kind of work we want to be doing: sharing the stories of the people saving places for people. We hope you are excited to envision with us a preservation movement for all. We hope you’re intrigued and enticed to become more involved. And, we hope you are motivated to support this important work by making a gift to our year-end appeal. Check the back cover of this newsletter to see how you can donate! Help us ensure that everyone’s stories are told through the places that we save together. Thank you.
Muddy Waters Original Jam Out (MOJO) Museum, a nonprofit working to transform the North Kenwood home into a museum and cultural center, received two grants in recent months to support its restoration and redevelopment plans. The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the MOJO Museum $350,000 through its African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Shortly after helping the museum for and secure that funding, Landmarks Illinois awarded the organization a grant through our new Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago’s South Side.

The MOJO Museum will use these funds to carry out important structural repairs at the 131-year-old home. The Muddy Waters house, located at 4339 S. Lake Park Ave. in Chicago’s North Kenwood Multiple Resource Landmark District, was built in 1889, McKinley Morganfield, aka Muddy Waters, purchased the brick two-flat in 1954 and lived in it until 1973. The basement became a rehearsal space for Waters and other famous musicians, like Chuck Berry, who visited.

Over the years the home has suffered from deterioration and in 2013, it faced foreclosure and demolition, leading Landmarks Illinois to include it on its Most Endangered Historic Places list. With the help of Landmarks Illinois and donated services and expertise from architecture and engineering firm Klein & Hoffman and contractor Berglund Construction, a multi-phase preservation plan is now in place. Phase 1 of the project includes repairing the front bay window and exterior masonry and fixing water damaged interior spaces.

Landmarks Illinois is proud to have the MOJO Museum as its first-ever grant recipient of the Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago’s South Side, a program launched this spring with the help of generous contributions made at Landmarks Illinois’ 2020 Legendary Landmarks Celebration in March where Mr. Black was honored as a Legendary Landmark. The fund provides small planning and capital grants to support organizations and people working to preserve the history, culture and architecture of Chicago’s South Side, where Mr. Black has spent the majority of his life living and promoting African American history.

According to Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald, the restoration of the Muddy Waters House is exactly why Landmarks Illinois created this new grant fund.

“The revitalized Muddy Waters House will become a community asset and a focal point for the Blues music culture Chicago is known for.”

Over the years, the house has been the recipient of the Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago’s South Side, or to apply for funding through the program, visit www.Landmarks.org/Grants.

CHANDRA’S FAVORITE, MUDDY WATERS SONG: 
Got My Mojo Working

I have been singing this song all my life. It is how I operate! While I don’t believe in “black magic,” I do believe in getting my “mojo” working – it’s how I got this whole museum working. I have become wise, made connections, networked, sought financial support, whatever needed to make this project work. I get this museum “working.”

CHANDRA’S FAVORITE, MUDDY WATERS ALBUM: 
King Bee

It was one of his last albums. Made in 1981, and he passed in 1983.

Muddy Waters was a musical force that changed the course of American music. His impact on the blues, rock and roll, and popular culture can still be felt today. His influence can be heard in the music of countless artists, from Chuck Berry to Eric Clapton to John Mayer. Waters was a true pioneer, and his legacy continues to inspire new generations of musicians.

The MOJO Museum is dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of Muddy Waters and his impact on the blues music culture. The museum celebrates his contributions to American music and culture, and serves as a focal point for the community.

To learn more about the Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago’s South Side, or to apply for funding through the program, visit www.Landmarks.org/Grants.

CHANDRA COOPER
PRESIDENT OF MOJO MUSEUM TALKS ABOUT PRESERVING HER GREAT-GRANDFATHER’S LEGACY

Chandra Cooper is the great-granddaughter of McKinley Morganfield, known professionally as Muddy Waters. She is President of the Muddy Waters Original Jam Out (MOJO) Museum and has spearheaded the organization’s effort to transform Muddy Waters’ former Chicago home into a museum and cultural center. Below, Chandra shares personal insights on the project, her great-grandfather’s music legacy and more.

Chandra on what the house means to her and her family:

“Muddy Waters’ house means a lot of different things. It was the very first house my great-grandfather bought. He was a sharecropper, and for him to come from Mississippi to buy his first home in Chicago is profound. The fact that our family still has ownership of it, is a legacy. It also shows the economic stability my great-grandfather had. A lot of Blues musicians didn’t make a lot of money, but the fact he was able to save money and have this house was really profound for the time.”

My mother was raised in the house. I was born at Illinois Masonic Hospital and brought back to the house and lived there until I was three years old. I was really, really close with my great-grandfather, and I am forever grateful to him. This museum and helping to create this legacy piece for him, it is everything to me. Before I take my last breath I want to be able to honor and treasure him because he has done so much for me. This is so much more than a house. It is so personal, and it is my testament of who he is and what I want to give back to him and the Blues community.

Plans to turn the home into a museum and cultural center:

“My great-grandfather’s estate — that of McKinley Morganfield — was going to be sold. But I knew it was the first thing I ever bought. I didn’t think it should be sold, and I ended up buying it. It was the first thing I ever bought. I never intended to live there, I just knew it was a gem and that it should stay in the family. I wanted to find the best use for the house, and my original vision, created more than 15 years ago now, was for a house museum and community cultural center. This way, the property could be given back to the Blues community and the City of Chicago.

The community’s reaction to future plans for the Muddy Waters House:

Overall, the reaction has been very positive and very uplifting from the neighborhood, the City of Chicago and the Blues community. People have been wanting to help, to lend a hand, donating time, funding and saying they have artifacts they can donate to the future museum. People may not know how it is all going to happen, and there are the financials to work through, but people are open to new ideas and concepts to make it happen.

How people can get involved in the MOJO Museum:

Visit www.MojoMuseum.com where you can find information on the project, subscribe to email updates and donate directly.

Visit, Like and Follow Mojo Museum’s Facebook page at @mojomuseum to see news updates, photos and more.
THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

IN THE FIELD

PROPOSED PILSEN LANDMARK DISTRICT

An anti-landmarking campaign led by Chicago Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez and local organizations, including Pilsen Alliance, aims to end the proposed Pilsen Landmark district designation process. In July, Chicago City Council’s Committee on Zoning, Landmarks & Building Standards had, at the Department of Planning and Development’s (DPD) request, granted an extension of up to six months for further review of the district with the alderman and local groups. DPD was evaluating design guidelines and potential economic incentives and grants for commercial building owners and homeowners in the proposed district to address local fear of increased repair costs, gentrification and displacement. At press time, efforts between DPD, the alderman and local groups to find compromise were ongoing. Landmarks Illinois has supported the proposed district and encouraged in testimony DPD’s efforts to recommend financial programming and design guidelines that can address local concerns.

The corner of 18th & Carpenter Streets in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. Credit: Allison Tunsil-Tolama.

HARLEY CLARKE MANSION EVANSTON

In September, the Evanston City Council heard presentations of four proposals for reuse of the Harley Clarke Mansion and Coach House, included on Landmarks Illinois’ 2016 Most Endangered Historic Places list. As mandated by the city, all proposals would invest in the property’s rehabilitation and make it available for public use and programming. City staff was to score the proposals and make recommendations to City Council at a future meeting yet to be scheduled. In 2016, Landmarks Illinois provided a pro bono condition assessment of the mansion by the firm Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. In 2019 WJE returned to the property at Landmarks Illinois’ request to reassess its condition. In addition to being made available to the City, the assessment was posted on Landmarks Illinois’ website for all parties interested in responding to the City’s Request for Proposals. The report noted the property’s overall good condition and provided a list of priority repairs.

Landmarks Illinois’ Skyline Council led a heartwarming event in 2019 at the Harley Clarke Mansion. Credit: Lewis Purdy.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROCK ISLAND

The Illinois Third District Appellate Court ruled in July that Rock Island County must comply with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Act (Section 707) in its effort to demolish the historic Rock Island County Courthouse. The county attempted to tear down the courthouse without the consultation process as required by law, prompting Landmarks Illinois to join the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Rock Island Preservation Society, Moline Preservation Society and the Broadway Historic District Association in filing a lawsuit. Landmarks Illinois celebrates this defense of state preservation law. While Landmarks Illinois and co-plaintiffs sent a letter to the county offering paths forward, including engaging with interested developers and a reuse proposal for a federal courthouse, at press time the county continues to pursue demolition.

The Rock Island County Courthouse was included on Landmarks Illinois’ 2018 and 2019 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois.

STATEWIDE NEWS

GREENSTONE CHURCH TOWER STABILIZATION AND ROOF PROJECT

In October, Greenstone United Methodist Church began to make priority repairs at the 1858 church in Chicago’s Pullman neighborhood. The repairs, which include netting and scaffolding of the church tower and roof replacement to prevent further water damage, were identified as necessary through a partnership with Landmarks Illinois, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pullman National Monument and the National Park Conservation Association, as well as expertise from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and Berglund Construction. The project is supported by a grant from American Express as a philanthropic partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rachel Wills of WJE and Pastor Luther Mason outside Greenstone Church.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECOGNIZES 1908 RACE RIOT SITE SPRINGFIELD (103)

In August, the National Park Service added the 1908 Springfield Race Riot site to the African American Civil Rights Network. The program commemorates and interprets significant landmarks associated with the civil rights movement. In 2015, a proposed railway expansion threatened the archaeological site with excavation. Landmarks Illinois joined the Springfield NAACP, the Faith Coalition for the Common Good and other Springfield organizations to successfully fight for a shift in the rail line, resulting in the preservation of the nationally significant site. Landmarks Illinois continues to advocate for the Race Riot site to be designated a National Monument, with associated legislation currently before Congress.

1908 Springfield Race Riot Site. Courtesy Fever River Research.

MILLSTADT WATER TOWER DEADLINE MILLSTADT

The Friends of the Old Millstadt Water Tower nonprofit organization began 2020 with optimism in the final year of its five-year $200,000 fundraising campaign to save the village’s landmark water tower. Because of COVID-19, fundraisers such as trivia nights, a half marathon and a car show were canceled, and the group is in danger of not meeting a January 2021 deadline. At press time, the Friends group had raised $159,000 for the “tin-man” style water tower, included on Landmarks Illinois’ 2019 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The repairs, which include netting and scaffolding of the church tower and roof replacement to prevent further water damage, were identified as necessary through a partnership with Landmarks Illinois, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pullman National Monument and the National Park Conservation Association, as well as expertise from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and Berglund Construction. The project is supported by a grant from American Express as a philanthropic partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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1908 Springfield Race Riot Site. Courtesy Fever River Research.
The church building was constructed in 1931 during the height of the Great Depression and designed by renowned architect Louis Guenzel. It has been the home of the Pentecostal Church of Holiness since 2010, and the congregation is currently seeking preservation of the historic structure.

The congregation will use its $2,500 Landmarks Illinois Chicago Landmark designation. With the help of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Pentecostal Church of Holiness since 2010, and the congregation is currently seeking preservation of the historic structure.

The Johnsons moved to Galena in 1970 and later co-founded the Galena Foundation, an endowment-based organization that seeks to provide monetary support for public assets and promotes local preservation projects. The foundation was involved in the restoration of Galena’s Turner Hall, a project that was honored as Landmarks Illinois’ 2019 preservation award.

Carl and Marilyn Johnson were honored this fall at the 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards. The Galena couple received the 2020 Joe Antunovich Award for Leadership, Lifetime Achievement for their 50 years of dedication to preserving historic and culturally significant places in their community. The Johnsons first moved to Galena in 1970 and later co-founded the Galena Foundation, an endowment-based organization that seeks to provide monetary support for public assets and promotes local preservation projects. The foundation was involved in the restoration of Galena’s Turner Hall, a project that was honored as Landmarks Illinois’ 2019 preservation award.

We spoke with Carl and Marilyn in September about their Lifetime Achievement recognition, their years of service to preservation in Galena and some of their favorite projects and places in their beloved town.

**Landmarks Illinois**: What was your reaction to hearing the news you had received a preservation award from Landmarks Illinois?

**Carl Johnson**: Confusion, amazement, then...Wow!

**Marilyn Johnson**: The phone call from Landmarks Illinois was a total surprise. I never expected to be awarded such an honor. I thank Landmarks Illinois and those who nominated us.

**LI**: Why is preservation in Galena important to you?

**Carl Johnson**: Galena is so unique. It is important to maintain its restored charm while continuing to best serve its citizens. The Historic Water Tower has become a piece of Galena’s heart, and it attracts tourists who are looking to get a glimpse into the past.

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**LI**: Tell us about one of the most memorable preservation efforts you have led in Galena over the years?

**Carl Johnson**: Being involved in the completion of the restoration of Turner Hall, thanks to the Galena Foundation, for almost 50 years and being asked to accept the 2019 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Award for the project on behalf of the City of Galena.

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JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

Through membership 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.

$10,000 & ABOVE
Joseph Standish
Jack Tribbia, Berglund Construction

$5,000-$9,999
Terri Saka, Plante Moran
Michelle Schaia
William W. Tippens, Related Midwest
Alison Tooner-Talman, Wex and Hoffman, Inc.
Susan A. Jack Triibika
Gary Menzel, United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local No. 1
Christy Webber, Christy Webber Landscapes
Alex Walking, Keller, Williams-Chicago-Lincoln Park
Women in Restoration & Engineering (WIRE)

$100-$499
Mary-Matha Hancock
John H. Knebel, Jr.

$500-$999
Joseph Starshak

$1,000-$4,999
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Jamie Farnham, Gladding, McBean
Jean A. Filipeti, D, Douglas H. Thompson
Timothy Frees, Plante Moran

Landmarks Illinois is always evaluating its events and programming and finding ways to tweak the experiences for our audience. Next year, 2021, marks our 50th Anniversary. In preparation for this milestone, Landmarks Illinois developed an Events Think Tank process to assess all of its events. We want to make sure that the experiences we create engage and inspire members and supporters. The process also focuses on building relationships around our organizational values: Innovation, Education, Stewardship and Empowering People/Improving Lives.

Landmarks Illinois continues to facilitate meetings with many of its events committee members, stakeholders and representatives of diverse constituencies to help the organization plan creative events and educational programming that can help reach a variety of audiences and spark interest in Landmarks Illinois’ mission.

Landmarks Illinois will continue to host events virtually in the new year, including reimagining its largest annual fundraising event, the Legendary Landmarks Celebration in March. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding Landmarks Illinois’ 50th Anniversary events in the coming weeks. Like any Landmarks Illinois event since March, the RBC “State of the Industry” Seminar was held virtually. Visit Landmarks Illinois’ channel on YouTube: www.youtube.com/LandmarksIllinois to watch our virtual content.

What’s happening with Landmarks Illinois Events?

For many nonprofit organizations, including Landmarks Illinois, the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted in-person events and fundraisers. Organizations have had to pivot and reimagine events to continue to engage members and donors. In June, Landmarks Illinois hosted its first virtual event, the 2020 Annual Meeting, which attracted an audience of close to 150 live viewers and continues to be watched on Landmarks Illinois’ Facebook and YouTube pages.

Since the Annual Meeting, the Landmarks Illinois’ Real Estate and Building Industries Council hosted its “State of the Industry” Educational Seminar focused on the pandemic’s impact on the real estate and building industries. Landmarks Illinois also presented a Preservation Snapshots Lecture on its Women Who Built Illinois initiative, and the 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards took place. All these events were held virtually.

Preservation Snapshots Lecture

SAVE THE DATE

HELP LANDMARKS ILLINOIS WITH A SPECIAL YEAR-END GIFT

We need your help to continue to assist people saving places throughout 2021. Landmarks Illinois and those we aid throughout our state depend on your support now more than ever.

Name:__________________________________________

Address:______________________________________________________________________________

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☐ $1,000 ☐ $500 ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50
☐ $25 ☐ Other
Also enclosed is my membership gift of__________________________

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☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AX ☐ Discover

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