

ANNUAL REPORT



50TH LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS



FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

We celebrate anniversaries, and time's progression, as a signal of good health, perseverance, resilience and evolution. Thus, we are proud to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report at the start of our 50th year. Being associated with a longstanding organization such as Landmarks Illinois at this pivotal moment is a privilege. For a nonprofit to be active for five decades is something extraordinary and worth celebrating.

To have served the public all this time is a testament to visionary and wizened leadership, knowledgeable and effective staff and the ongoing relevance of our founding mission inspiring your support. Our mission to preserve, protect and promote architectural and historic resources is as urgent today as it was on our founding day on February 24, 1971. Historic places continue to be special to people. The reasons vary from being guideposts of culture, identity, belonging and inspiration to being markers of our history. Whatever the reason, they remain necessary and in need of our advocacy.

Preservation persists as a tool to build community around sharing the truth about, and repair from, our difficult past. Landmarks Illinois recognizes that this anniversary is a call for our evolution to use these tools to remain relevant. While preservation is imperative, we see that who is engaged, how preservation has worked and why places have been protected can expand for the better – and we want to be on the leading edge of this change. Our Guiding Principles provide the lens to inform and accelerate this work. You'll read in this report how we've begun to implement the principles, but there is much more to come.

Landmarks Illinois' work is not only to save places for people but, more importantly, *with* people. As we celebrate and consider our 50 years as a preservation organization in 2021, Landmarks Illinois recognizes the need for our work to become more diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible. We acknowledge it has not always been so in the past but it is our intention to make it so in the future. We invite you to be a part of this change throughout our 50th anniversary and beyond. Thank you for continuing to support this bold and vital path forward for Landmarks Illinois.



BONNIE McDONALD
President & CEO



SANDRA RAND
Chair



GARY ANDERSON
Vice Chair

FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021: BY THE NUMBERS

9 STAFF MEMBERS

34 BOARD MEMBERS

83 NEW LANDMARKS ILLINOIS
MEMBERS

152 COMMUNITIES SERVED

85 CULTURALLY, HISTORICALLY &
ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT
PLACES WE HELPED SAVE

14 PLACES LANDMARKS ILLINOIS
ADVOCATED FOR THAT BECAME
LOCAL &/OR NATIONAL LANDMARKS
OR ARE NOW PART OF HISTORIC
DISTRICTS

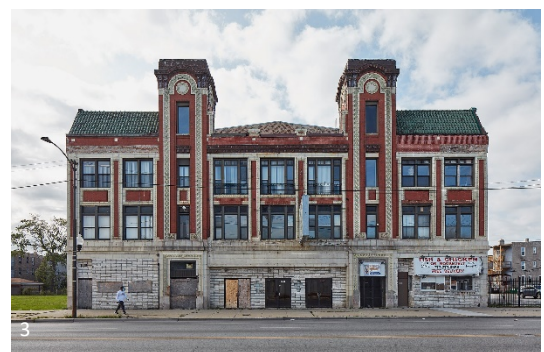
3,908 HOURS OF
PRESERVATION EXPERTISE
LANDMARKS ILLINOIS PROVIDED TO
THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS

\$44,500 GRANT FUNDS
AWARDED TO PEOPLE SAVING HISTORIC
PLACES

15 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS EVENTS

1,557 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN
OUR EVENTS

\$621,061 RAISED AT OUR
EVENTS





8



9

Landmarks Illinois Value: **INNOVATION**

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

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SAVING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

In March, we held our **50FORWARD** anniversary celebration, welcoming nearly 500 guests to a live, virtual fundraising [event](#) that helped raise \$616,000 for Landmarks Illinois' mission-driven work. Check out our "[LI at 50](#)" YouTube playlist to watch the inspiring videos shown during the event that tell stories from our past, present and plans for our future.

CALLING ATTENTION TO PRESERVATION LEADERS

Our 50Forward celebration honored **20 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS INFLUENCERS** — people who have had, and will continue to have, a profound impact on our organization and our statewide historic preservation movement. These leaders include artists, community activists, architects, former Landmarks Illinois board and staff members and more. Learn about our Influencers [here](#).

SETTING OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In anticipation of our 50th Anniversary, Landmarks Illinois formed a special **50TH ANNIVERSARY TASK FORCE** of 30+ members from various professions and backgrounds to evaluate current preservation practices, understand the impacts of our work and identify how to create an equitable, inclusive and effective preservation organization for the future. This work resulted in Landmarks Illinois' new Guiding Principles released in June, which will serve as a code of conduct guiding how we act, make decisions, who we work with and more. Learn about the task force [here](#), and read our Guiding Principles [here](#).

REMAINING RELEVANT FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS

In August 2020, Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald received a James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation 2020 Mid-Career Fellowship, which McDonald is using to produce a "**RELEVANCY GUIDEBOOK FOR THE U.S. PRESERVATION MOVEMENT**," expected to publish later this year on the Landmarks Illinois website. Learn more [here](#).

Landmarks Illinois Value: **EDUCATION**

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

VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

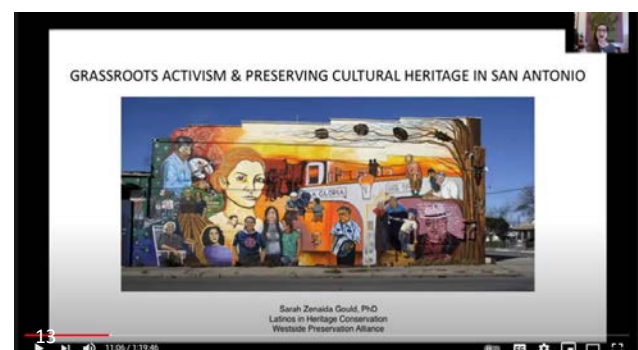
Despite not being able to gather in person during the last year, Landmarks Illinois continued to offer education programming to our community through virtual lectures, workshops, training sessions and special presentations.

Our multiple **PRESERVATION SNAPSHOT LECTURES** brought guest speakers from around the nation to speak on cultural heritage, important preservation financial incentives, environmental justice at historic places and more. Watch the lectures [here](#).

Our **“STATE OF THE INDUSTRY” EDUCATION SEMINAR** held in August 2020 and hosted by the Landmarks Illinois Real Estate and Building Industries Council gathered industry experts to discuss how the pandemic is continuing to impact lending, tax incentives, development, design and construction. [Watch](#) the informative seminar.

In February 2021, Landmarks Illinois partnered with the International Masonry Institute to provide a one-day, **“TERRA COTTA CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION” TRAINING WEBINAR**. The [program](#) offered continuing education credits to architects and design professionals.

Our special **VIP VIRTUAL TOURS AND PRESENTATIONS**, offered to our donors and board members, included a discussion with architectural historian, preservationist and Landmarks Illinois Emeritus Board Member Susan Benjamin and IIT professor Michelangelo Sabatino on their new book “Modern in the Middle,” which focuses on 20th century homes that define American modernism in the Midwest. Watch it [here](#).



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

KEEPING OUR SUPPORTERS

INFORMED We aim to keep our members and supporters up to date on our new initiatives, ongoing programs, advocacy efforts and new partnerships we have formed that will help people save places in our state.

In May, we announced our **2021 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES IN ILLINOIS** through a virtual, live presentation that welcomed hundreds of people, including members of the press, to hear about this year's list of top threatened places in need of preservation solutions. The presentation included clear calls to action for how our supporters can help bring attention to the places on the Most Endangered list. It also included the voices of local advocates for the 2021 Most Endangered sites, sharing why these places are important to them and their community. Check out the full presentation [here](#), and hear directly from the local advocates [here](#).

As part of our “**GREEN BOOK SITES IN ILLINOIS**” 2021 Most Endangered listing, we partnered with Route History in Springfield to begin documenting and preserving the stories and remaining sites associated with this widely used guide book for Black travelers during segregation in the late 1930s to 1960s. Learn more [here](#).

A September 2020 Preservation Snapshots Lecture focused exclusively on Landmarks Illinois' forthcoming new database, “**WOMEN WHO BUILT ILLINOIS.**” This project has gathered information on nearly 100 women who helped shaped Chicago and Illinois' skylines. Watch it [here](#).

In November 2020, Landmarks Illinois published an updated and revamped online database of our **RECENT PAST SURVEY OF SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY**. It provides easy access to data collected over the last 15 years in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, documenting non-residential architectural resources built between 1935 and 1975 in suburban Chicago communities. Explore the database [here](#).



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.

SUPPORTING LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS FOR ILLINOIS' HISTORIC PLACES

We provided advocacy assistance, free expertise and resources to aid landmark designation efforts throughout the state.

DOWNTOWN ROCK ISLAND: In July 2020, Downtown Rock Island was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register nomination was prepared by Landmarks Illinois Skyline Council Member Erica Ruggiero through architecture firm McGuire Igleski & Associates, where she works as a principal.

1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT: In August 2020, this site was added to the African American Civil Rights Network, which helps preserve and promote places that help tell stories of the African American civil rights movement. The designation is a major step toward national historic monument status for a site Landmarks Illinois has long advocated for.

HALSTED & WILLOW GATEWAY, CHICAGO: In December, this group of Victorian-era buildings in Lincoln Park received preliminary Chicago Landmark designation. Landmarks Illinois included the Halsted-Willow Gateway on its 2014 Most Endangered Historic Places and provided a Preservation Heritage [grant](#) in 2018 to help Lincoln Central Association hire a consultant to prepare the landmark designation report.

PERKINS-NORDINE HOUSE, CHICAGO: In January 2021, the house in Edgewater became a Chicago Landmark following a lengthy advocacy effort to save the home from demolition, undertaken in partnership with the Edgewater Historical Society.

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF HOLINESS, CHICAGO: In May 2021, this church in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood became a Chicago Landmark. Landmarks Illinois awarded the congregation a Preservation Heritage Fund [grant](#) in September 2020 to help pay for priority repairs at the church and [Landmarks Illinois Influencers](#) Ed Gerns and Jack Tribbia both provided additional technical assistance.



18



19



20

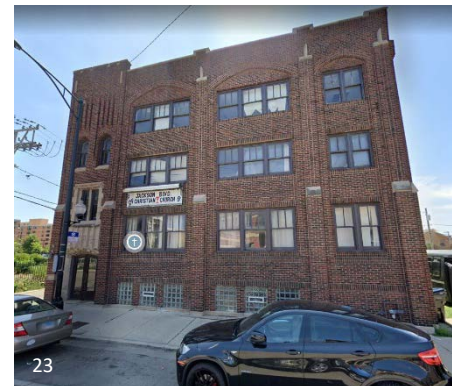
Landmarks Illinois Value: **STEWARDSHIP**

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.

PRESERVING PLACES IMPORTANT TO BLACK HISTORY We assisted local advocates in their efforts to save historic places that tell stories of Black Americans in Chicago.

MUDDY WATERS HOUSE, CHICAGO: In September 2020, Landmarks Illinois awarded the first [grant](#) through its Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side to the Muddy Waters Original Jam Out (MOJO) Museum, a nonprofit working to preserve Blues legend Muddy Waters' former home in North Kenwood and convert it into a museum and cultural center. Throughout the year, Landmarks Illinois assisted in efforts to preserve and landmark the home. In June, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks unanimously approved preliminary landmark status for the property, following a months-long campaign by the MOJO Museum, Landmarks Illinois and preservation partners that included successfully stalling a proposed city [ordinance](#) that would have put the future of house museums like the one planned at the Muddy Waters Home in jeopardy.

BLACK PANTHER SITES IN ILLINOIS: Landmarks Illinois began advocating for preservation and Chicago Landmark designation of 2413 W. Jackson St. in Chicago in 2020. This property is the last known standing building with ties to Black Panther Party history in Chicago. In 2020, Landmarks Illinois continued to work with advocates to preserve places associated with the Black Panther Party. We introduced Fred Hampton, Jr. — son of the late chair of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party — to members of the Maywood Historic Preservation Commission to discuss next steps for a local landmark designation of Hampton's childhood home. We are also working with film producer and journalist Leila Wills, whose parents were members of the Black Panther party, as well as the Public History graduate program at Loyola University, on researching Black Panther sites in the Chicagoland area. [Watch](#) an April 2021 presentation where Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera participated in an online exhibit by the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party.



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.

PRAISING THE PEOPLE SAVING OUR ILLINOIS HISTORIC PLACES

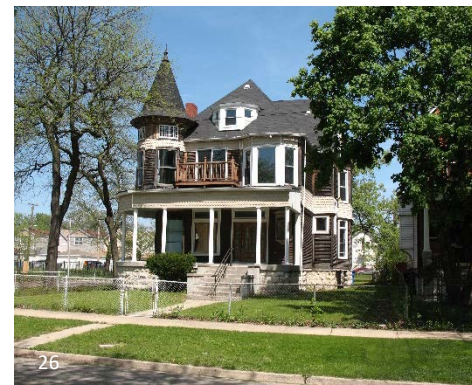
Our annual awards program once again honored those who successfully preserved historic places in their Illinois communities. The **2020 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARDS CEREMONY** was held virtually last October and featured inspiring videos of the award-winning preservation [projects](#) and the people who made them possible. Watch them [here](#).

‘MOST ENDANGERED’ PROPERTIES ARE PRESERVED

In September, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed **BOOTH COTTAGE IN GLENCOE** —a 2019 Most Endangered site — was officially moved from private property, where it faced demolition, onto its new foundation on public park land. Two 2018 Most Endangered sites, the **SHELBYVILLE CHAUTAUQUA** and the **FREEPORT TABERNACLE**, are both on the path to preservation following successful preservation advocacy campaigns this past year. Restoration work at the Shelbyville Chautauqua is expected to be complete this summer, and Landmarks Illinois continues to aid local advocates in Freeport in ongoing discussions with city officials to save the Freeport Tabernacle, which previously faced demolition. Learn more about these projects [here](#).

HELPING ENGLEWOOD RESIDENTS PROTECT THEIR UNIQUE HOMES

In October, the City of Chicago approved updates to its Special Character Overlay District ordinance, which created Special Character Overlay Districts, more widely known as “**NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.**” Landmarks Illinois has been advocating for this ordinance with Englewood residents and Neighborhood Housing Services since 2014. These districts are a powerful preservation tool for properties that do not meet criteria for official historic district designation but are valued by local residents because of their architectural character.





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.

GRANT FUNDS SPARKING COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

We awarded a total of \$44,500 in grant funding this year to help 17 communities save places. Our small grants have been shown to help spur community interest and local fundraising efforts around a historic site's preservation.

The **LANDMARKS ILLINOIS' PRESERVATION HERITAGE FUND** grant program provided **\$34,500** to **13** preservation projects. Learn more [here](#).



The **LANDMARKS ILLINOIS TIMUEL D. BLACK, JR. GRANT FUND FOR CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE** program provided **\$5,000** to **2** preservation projects. Learn more [here](#).

The **BARBARA C. AND THOMAS E. DONNELLEY II PRESERVATION FUND FOR ILLINOIS** grant program provided **\$5,000** to **2** preservation projects. Learn more [here](#).



SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY'S WISHES

In November 2020, the Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors approved signing the **OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER** Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement, becoming the only preservation organization to do so. In our statement on this difficult decision, we recognize the national significance of Jackson Park, where the OPC will be built. However, we approached the construction as a matter of equity and took our cue from the nearby residents who see the center as an asset that will bring economic benefits to the community. Read our statement explaining this decision [here](#).



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

SHOWING A CHICAGO

LANDMARK SOME LOVE On

Valentine's Day weekend in 2021, Landmarks Illinois' young & emerging professionals committee, the Skyline Council, helped bring attention to **ROBERTS TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**, the important Civil Rights-era site of the 1955 open-casket funeral of Emmett Till, who was brutally murdered at the age of 14 while visiting family in Mississippi. Skyline Council partnered with the church congregation to heart bomb the historic property that is in need of restoration. The public art display helped bring attention to the church and was the start of an ongoing relationship between the congregation and Landmarks Illinois as we continue to help assess the condition of the property, determine priority repairs and develop a phased rehabilitation plan for Roberts Temple. See photos of the heart bombing [here](#).



RAMPING UP OUR DIGITAL CONTENT DURING A

DISCONNECTED YEAR Like many organizations, our programming was 100% virtual this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite not being able to gather in person, we stayed connected to our supporters and members through engaging online presentations and events, and we have made all of them available to watch for free on the Landmarks Illinois YouTube channel. Our virtual events and programming also made it possible for people from all over the state to join in, which significantly broadened our reach and impact. Watch all our virtual event videos [here](#).



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF PEOPLE SAVING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

STAY IN TOUCH

Connect with us on social media and hear the latest news about our events, programs and advocacy work by signing up for our email newsletters by entering your email at the bottom of our website under the “Stay in touch” prompt.



WWW.LANDMARKS.ORG

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
Peter Babaian
Erika Block
Tracy Dillard
Jean A. Follett
Joshua Freedland
Tim Frens, CPA
Mary Ottoson
Ziad Salameh
Cherryl Thomas
Will Tippens
Allison Toonen-Talamo
Jack Tribbia
Alex Wolking

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony Borich
Bob Eschbach
Jackie Taylor Holsten
Mike Jackson
Katie Kim
Chris Lee
Erica C. Meyer
Brad Moeller, AIA, LEED
Emilio Padilla
Jeffrey Pezza
Terri Salas
Steve Schneider
Martin C. Tangora*
Blair Todt
Christy Webber

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Richard A. Miller

Landmarks Illinois offers a special thanks to our sunseting & departing board members: Lee Brown, Frieda Ireland, Joshua Freedland, Tim Frens, Blair Todt and Gary Anderson. We wish you well & thank you for your service!

PHOTO CAPTIONS & CREDITS

All photo credited to Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.

Cover photos (Clockwise from upper left corner):

Preservation advocates Joe Vosicky and Irene Hogstrom at 2021 Most Endangered site, the Klas Restaurant in Cicero, credit Sean Reilly. Freeport Tabernacle, credit Jody Coss. Yaphett El-Amin at 2021 Most Endangered site, the Broadview Hotel in East St. Louis. “Recent Past” database property, 667 Burnham Ave., Calumet City. Close up of the Memorial Wall at Altgeld Gardens, Chicago, credit Sean Reilly. Old Post Office Building in Jacksonville, home to 2021 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient, Morgan County Historical Society, credit Morgan County Historical Society. Skyline Council’s heart bombing at Roberts Temple, Chicago, credit Lewis Purdy. S.B Fuller House in Robbins. Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera and members of the Skyline Council at a site inspection at the Rogers Park Woman’s Club, Chicago. Skyline Council’s heart bombing at Roberts Temple, Chicago, credit Lewis Purdy.

1. The Old Millstadt Water Tower, Millstadt, a 2021 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient. Credit: Friends of the Old Millstadt Water Tower.
2. 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award recipient, Friends of Ziock, Rockford. Credit: Friends of Ziock.
3. Central Park Theatre, home to 2021 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient, House of Prayer, Chicago. Credit: Tom Harris.
4. Members of the Landmarks Illinois Easement Committee at a site inspection.
5. Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award recipients, Carl & Marilyn Johnson in Galena.
6. Children at 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award winning project, Aurora Arts Center, Aurora. Credit Aurora Arts Center.
7. Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald presenting at 50Forward.
8. The 50Forward logo.
9. Artist Lindsay Wilson, Founder and COO of Ink Factory, creating custom art during 50Forward.
10. Screenshot of the May 19 virtual Preservation Snapshots Lecture, “RERZ Historic Tax Credit at Work: East St. Louis & Aurora.”
11. Screenshot of the virtual “State of the Industry” RBIC Seminar in August 2020.
12. Screenshot of the virtual VIP presentation, “Modern in the Middle” in November 2020.
13. Screenshot of the November 2020 virtual Preservation Snapshots Lecture: “Preserving Cultural Heritage in San Antonio.”
14. Bernadette Williams (left) and Cheryl Johnson in front of 2021 Most Endangered site, the Shop Building at Altgeld Gardens, Chicago. Credit Sean Reilly.
15. A Green Book Site in East St. Louis.
16. AJ LaTrace, Jonathan Solomon and Elizabeth Blasius of the James R. Thompson Center Historical Society at the Thompson Center, Chicago. Credit Sean Reilly.
17. “Recent Past” database property, 2901 Western Ave., Park Forest.
18. Close up of window detail at 2020 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient, Pentecostal Church of Holiness, Chicago.
19. Buildings at the Halsted & Willow Gateway. Credit Liz Chilsen.
20. Frank Butterfield at the Springfield Race Riot site, Springfield.
21. The Muddy Waters House in North Kenwood, Chicago.
22. Timuel Black & Chandra Cooper in front of the Muddy Waters House, Chicago.
23. Black Panther site, 2413 W. Jackson St., Chicago. Credit Google Maps.
24. 2019 Landmarks Illinois Most Endangered site, the Booth Cottage in Glencoe, is moved off its foundation. Credit Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.
25. Eddie Torrez of Eddie & Los Cool Shades performing at the 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards virtual ceremony.
26. A home in Englewood that is now part of a new Neighborhood Conservation District in Chicago.
27. 2021 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient, Greenstone Church in Pullman, Chicago.
28. 2021 Landmarks Illinois grant recipient, City of Lockport. Credit City of Lockport.
29. Timuel Black and Chandra Cooper at the Muddy Waters House, Chicago.
30. Skyline Council members at the February 2021 heart bombing event at Roberts Temple, Chicago.
31. A volunteer at the 2021 heart bombing event at Roberts Temple, Chicago.
32. Blue Water Kings Band performing at 50Forward.