



50TH LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS



THE
ARCH

november 2021 / volume 8 / number 1

2 PRESERVING
DUNCAN MANOR

5 IN THE FIELD



6 MEET MARGARET
ZIRKEL YOUNG

8 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS
GRANTS

Cover: Randi and David Howell with their son Arlow in front of the Duncan Manor near Towanda. The couple have restored the historic home, earning them a 2021 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award. Turn to page 3 to learn more. Credit: Stephanie Wood Photography.

All photos by Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSOR CORNER

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Sandra Rand | Chair |
| Allison Toonen-Talamo | Vice Chair |
| Bonnie McDonald | President & CEO |
| Kathleen A. Swien | General Counsel |
| Erika Block | Secretary |
| Terri Salas, CPA | Treasurer |
| Joseph Antunovich, FAIA | |
| Peter Babaian | |
| Ciere Boatright | |
| Anthony Borich | |
| Tracy Dillard | |
| Jean Follett | |
| Jeffrey Goulette | |
| Jackie Taylor Holsten | |
| Mike Jackson, FAIA | |
| Ziad Salameh | |
| Jennifer Spence | |
| Will Tippens | |
| Alex Wolking | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Robert M. Eschbach
- Stacy Grundy
- Evan Jahn
- Katie Kim
- Chris Lee
- Erica Meyer
- Gregory Miller
- Brad Moeller
- Mary Ottoson
- Lauren Pacheco
- Emilio Padilla, AIA
- Jeffrey Pezza
- Steve Schneider
- Martin C. Tangora
- Jack Tribbia
- Sarah Van Domelen
- Christy Webber

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

- Richard A. Miller

STAFF

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bonnie McDonald | President & CEO |
| Quinn Adamowski | Regional Advocacy Manager |
| Frank Butterfield | Chief Operating Officer |
| Julie Carpenter | Programs Manager |
| Lisa DiChiera | Director of Advocacy |
| Suzanne Germann | Director of Reinvestment |
| Kaitlyn McAvoy | Communications Manager |
| Alma Rebronja | Events Manager |
| Marija D. Rich | Membership Manager |
| Tiffanie Williams | Director of Corporate Giving & Events |

FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO OUR MEMBERS

Landmarks Illinois recognizes the importance of preservation surveys: they identify a place and its significance to the community to understand why it must be saved. At the Landmarks Illinois website, we are proud to host three databases based on extensive and ongoing preservation surveys.

This summer, we published **Women Who Built Illinois** — a first-of-its-kind database of women architects, engineers, developers, designers, builders, landscape architects and interior designers who contributed to the built environment of Illinois from 1879 to 1979. The work of women in these professions is rarely recognized and much of it remains unprotected without landmark designation. This new database aims to help other women and girls see that women have, in fact, been building Illinois for over a century. We thank those who contributed to this survey, including Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy Lisa DiChiera, Skyline Council Member Erica Ruggiero and Landmarks Illinois intern Cray Kennedy as well as Julia Bachrach, Cynthia Weese, Kim Kerbis, the Chicago Women in Architecture Foundation and AIA Illinois. Turn to page 6 of this newsletter to read about one of the many accomplished women in our database, Margaret Zirkel Young. Explore the full database at: www.Landmarks.org/WomenWhoBuiltIllinois/

Continuing our 15-year-long partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) Historic Preservation Program, Landmarks Illinois is also working to complete the **Recent Past Survey of Suburban Cook County**. This database, which is updated annually, contains information on more than 4,100 architecturally significant, non-residential suburban Chicago buildings constructed from 1935 to 1975. We expect to have all Cook County suburbs surveyed by 2022-2023. We thank intern Sheila Webb, SAIC Professor Charles Pipal and the students of the SAIC historic preservation survey class for their continued work to build this important database being used to identify and protect places of the recent past. We also thank the Jocarino Fund for its continued support of this survey. Explore the database at: www.Landmarks.org/Resources/Suburban-Cook-County-Survey/

“Surveys like these are powerful preservation tools. We hope they will help people better understand the places in their community and lead to work that saves them.”

Lastly, we are excited to debut our **World War I Monument database** this month in honor of Veterans Day. Landmarks Illinois launched a survey of these monuments and memorials during the Great War’s centennial in 2017. Support from the Pritzker Military Foundation made a corresponding grant program available in 2017 and 2018 that helped fund 13 WWI monument restoration projects in 11 Illinois communities. We thank Landmarks Illinois’ Director of Reinvestment Suzanne Germann for leading this effort for the organization. We also want to recognize Landmarks Illinois Regional Advisor and veteran Steve Thompson of Mattoon for his work to complete the survey before he passed away in July of this year.

Surveys like these are powerful preservation tools. We hope they will help people better understand the places in their community and lead to work that saves them. Please help us promote these databases and share the importance of preservation survey work. All of our online databases can be found at: www.Landmarks.org/Landmarks-Illinois-Surveys-Databases/

While you’re at our website, I urge you to donate to our Annual Appeal. Your donation directly supports Landmarks Illinois’ advocacy, education and planning resources that help people save places for people. Thank you for generously supporting the work featured in this newsletter and going forward.

My sincere regards,

Bonnie McDonald
Bonnie McDonald



PRESERVING DUNCAN MANOR -A FAMILY AFFAIR



Randi and David Howell put their passion and creativity to work restoring Duncan Manor, a large, 1866 Italianate farmhouse sitting on six acres on old Route 66 near Towanda. This imposing house is highly visible from Interstate 55 and was included on Landmarks Illinois' 2007 Most Endangered list. The couple purchased the property in 2014 and have transformed the once vacant and deteriorated brick house into a habitable space, creating a home where they can proudly raise their two children and welcome community members for public events. The Howells' efforts earned them a 2021 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award, and they were honored alongside fellow 2021 award winners at a ceremony last month in Chicago.

For the award-winning preservation effort at Duncan Manor, the Howells listed family members like their parents and siblings as major project partners. Randi said family have helped "physically, mentally and monetarily" with the restoration since day one.

"We literally would not be here saving this house if it weren't for the support of our family and community," Randi said. "We may sound like a broken record, but it's the truth, it really does take a village. Our family, friends and community are sharing in this vision and making it possible for us to continue our preservation efforts."

The Howells know the historic home has meaning to people near and far, and

ensuring its maintenance for generations to come is the couple's goal. They aim to keep the story of the home and its original owner, William Duncan, alive through their preservation efforts.

"Old buildings are being bulldozed without a second thought in our country because they are believed to be too expensive to upkeep," the Howells said. "We think differently. If these historic structures die with us, we pass on no visual history of times past to our children."

The Duncan Manor is "dripping with history," Randi said, and she loves that the couple's son Arlow and baby daughter Greta are immersed in the home's antiquity.



"Our hope is that our children grow up to feel as passionate as we do about these old buildings and the history they hold."

"Our hope is that our children grow up to feel as passionate as we do about these old buildings and the history they hold," said Randi. "This landmark is their reality, and every day they get to see just how much appreciation the world around them has for our home."

The restored Duncan Manor not only provides a home for the Howells, but serves as a place where the community can come for a reprieve from daily life. Today, the mansion hosts weddings, tours, concerts and other events.

"This house is our home, but it is a home we plan to share with the community as long as we are the stewards," the Howells said. ■

Visit tinyurl.com/DuncanManor to learn more about this award-winning preservation project.

above left: Randi and David Howell at the Duncan Manor. Courtesy of the Howells.

above: David Howell (on ladder) and helpers work on a historic mirror inside Duncan Manor. Courtesy of the Howells.

right: A wedding at the Duncan Manor. Courtesy of the Howells.

2021 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARDS

Mercer County Carnegie Library **Aledo**

Award for Adaptive Reuse

Epiphany Center for the Arts **Chicago**

Award for Adaptive Reuse

Pullman Artspace Lofts **Chicago**

Award for Rehabilitation

Chicago Union Station **Chicago**

Award for Restoration

West Pullman School Senior Community **Chicago**

Award for Adaptive Reuse

Nauvoo Historic Residences **Nauvoo**

Award for Restoration

Tiger Senior Apartments **Paris**

Award for Adaptive Reuse

Duncan Manor **Towanda**

Award for Stewardship

Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep **Waukegan**

Award for Adaptive Reuse & Richard H. Driehaus Legacy Award for Innovation

Visit our website www.Landmarks.org to learn more about our 2021 award recipients. See photos from the October 22 Awards Ceremony at the Davis Theater at www.Flickr.com/landmarks_illinois.



UPCOMING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 10, 2022

Landmarks Illinois' 2022 Fundraising Event Headed to the Old Post Office

Landmarks Illinois is moving its annual fundraising event, formerly the Legendary Landmarks Celebration, from the Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom to the newly restored historic lobby of the Old Post Office. With this new venue as the backdrop and plenty of spaces to gather and reconnect, Landmarks Illinois is rebranding its largest preservation party of the year that attracts more than 750 professionals in preservation, development, finance, real estate and the building industries. Visit www.Landmarks.org in the months ahead to learn more about the upcoming event, which will feature a fresh night of programming and festivities.

Credit: Old Post Office

IN MEMORIAM

Landmarks Illinois mourns the passing of two passionate volunteers who worked for decades to save historic places throughout Illinois:

Robert Meers served on Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors from 1979 to 1985 and as a member of the organization's first Preservation Fund Committee. As a real estate developer, he led the rehabilitation of landmarks including the Fort Dearborn Hotel/Traders Building and Lake Forest's Market Square.

Meers at Landmarks Illinois Preservation Ball in 1984.



Steve Thompson dedicated his time, passion, and expertise to preservation in Coles County and to Landmarks Illinois, serving as a Regional Advisor. As a veteran of the United States Army, 101st Airborne Division and 8th Infantry Division, Steve worked to elevate and honor Illinois' military history in addition to his tireless work throughout his career at the State Historic Preservation Office, as a preservation consultant and a community preservation advocate.

Thompson at the Mattoon Depot in 2015.



THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

MUDDY WATERS HOUSE Chicago

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks approved a final landmark recommendation in August for the home of Blues legend Muddy Waters in Chicago's North Kenwood neighborhood. The Chicago City Council will vote on the landmark recommendation this month. Landmarks Illinois drafted the landmark designation report and we continue to work with Waters' great-granddaughter Chandra Cooper and the nonprofit MOJO Museum on a rehabilitation and reuse plan. Built in 1891, the two-flat structure at 4339 S. Lake Park Ave. was occupied by Waters, his family and various visiting musicians from 1954-1973. Waters and his wife Geneva modernized the home and the landmark designation report focuses on these important years and the changes.



HALSTED AND WILLOW GROUP Chicago

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks approved a final landmark recommendation in August for four historic, mixed-use buildings at the intersection of Halsted and Willow Streets in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. This rare grouping of Italianate and Queen Anne commercial buildings, constructed 1880-1889, makes an impressive community gateway. The buildings were once threatened by development and included on Landmarks Illinois' 2014 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. Landmarks Illinois provided grant funds for a landmark designation report, and with Lincoln Central Association, RANCH Triangle and Ald. Michelle Smith, advocated for protection of the buildings. The Chicago City Council will vote on the landmark recommendation this month.



CHICAGO

Credit: Liz Chilsen

HOTEL BELLEVILLE TRANSFORMED INTO LOFTS ON THE SQUARE BELLEVILLE

In September, senior citizens moved into their new apartments at Lofts on the Square, a 1931 building originally known as the Hotel Belleville. In 2014, Landmarks Illinois included the building on its Most Endangered Historic Places list after the City of Belleville announced plans for demolition. Landmarks Illinois joined locals to secure funding for a conditions assessment by White and Borgognoni Architects and to convince city officials to leverage historic preservation tax credits in finding a private developer. The result is a \$14.2 million investment by Bywater Development Group and Southwestern Illinois Development Authority for affordable apartments for seniors, a project that would not have been possible without state and federal historic preservation tax credits.



BELLEVILLE

IN THE FIELD

ALTGELD GARDENS STRUCTURES CHICAGO

In September, People for Community Recovery (PCR) and Landmarks Illinois submitted Chicago Landmark public suggestion applications to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks Program Committee for two important structures at Altgeld Gardens on Landmarks Illinois' 2021 Most Endangered Historic Places list: School Building C, built in 1944, and the commercial Shop Building, known by locals as "Up-Top," built in 1945 and designed by Keck & Keck (pictured). School Building C served as the community's first high school, and the Shop Building originally housed a grocery store, drug store, beauty shop and doctor's office. Both structures have been vacant for years and are deteriorating. PCR and Landmarks Illinois are advocating for reuse of both buildings to once again serve the community. A National Register nomination for Altgeld Gardens is underway, which would enable future owners to use federal historic preservation tax credits to help finance a rehabilitation and income-producing reuse of either building.



Credit: Sean Reilly

MID-CENTURY LOSSES SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

Three Mid-Century buildings identified in the Suburban Cook County Recent Past Survey database on the Landmarks Illinois' website have been or may be soon demolished. They are the **Second Church of Christ, Scientist in Evanston** (Perkins and Will, 1946); **Drift-Oaks Building in Oak Park** (Robert Taylor, 1963, pictured); and the **Mother Guerin High School in River Grove** where efforts are underway to save its "Our Lady of River Grove" exterior mosaic mural. Historic preservation commissions, planners and preservation advocates are encouraged to explore the extensive database, which to date contains documentation of more than 4,100 commercial, institutional, office and religious structures in 70 municipalities in Cook County, and seek recognition, protection and reinvestment in these resources. The most recent communities surveyed by students in the Graduate Historic Preservation Program of the School of the Art Institute included Glenwood, Ford Heights, Lynwood, Sauk Village and South Chicago Heights.



Credit: Frank Heitzman

CHAUTAUQUA AND TABERNACLE CELEBRATIONS FREEPORT AND SHELBYVILLE

In 2018, Landmarks Illinois called attention to historic chautauquas and tabernacles on the Most Endangered Historic Places list. Two of these featured sites, the Oakdale Tabernacle in Freeport and the Chautauqua Auditorium in Shelbyville, recently celebrated major preservation victories. In August, the Freeport Park District voted unanimously to lease the Oakdale Tabernacle to a local nonprofit organization that formed to save the historic gathering space. Park district officials had previously voted to demolish the tabernacle, but changed course following successful local advocacy efforts in partnership with Landmarks Illinois. In Shelbyville, the Chautauqua Auditorium reopened in September following the completion of structural repairs, a new roof and floor, paint and stage improvements. The work follows a local referendum in 2020 where 60 percent of voters supported repairing the historic auditorium instead of demolishing it. Preservation efforts for the Oakdale Tabernacle and Shelbyville Chautauqua have both received financial support from Landmarks Illinois' Preservation Heritage Fund Grant Program.



Courtesy of Mark Shanks



MEET MARGARET ZIRKEL YOUNG

A WOMAN WHO HELPED BUILD ILLINOIS

Earlier this year, Landmarks Illinois launched **Women Who Built Illinois: a first-of-its-kind database that includes information on female architects, engineers, developers, designers, builders, landscape architects, interior designers and their clients and their projects in Illinois between 1879 and 1979.**

Among the many women highlighted in the new database is Margaret Zirkel Young. Young became a licensed architect in Illinois in 1971 and had a long, successful career working at firms like Ezra Gordon & Jack M. Levin & Associates where she served as project architect on iconic Chicago skyscrapers like Newberry Plaza, built in 1974, and River Plaza, built in 1977. Young was a founding member of Chicago Women in Architecture and later became a registered real estate broker. She retired in 2002.

Below, Young shares insights on her unique career and experiences working in the male-dominated architecture field. An extended version of this article is available at the Landmarks Illinois Preservation News blog at www.Landmarks.org/Resources/Preservation-News/.

Landmarks Illinois: What was your most challenging and rewarding project while at Ezra Gordon & Jack M. Levin & Associates from 1969 to 1986? Were any clients reluctant to work with you since you were a woman?

Margaret Zirkel Young: As a young architect, when assigned to actually monitor the Newberry Plaza project construction from excavation and foundations to the roof top, that was probably my biggest challenge. I knew I could do it and I had my employers' total confidence. Of course, I was a little concerned about how I might be received and accepted,



but I was not totally alone out there. There were other design representatives (like structural and mechanical/electrical engineers) who monitored their part of the project and with whom I already had a very good rapport from earlier months of coordinating our construction documents. It was more than gratifying to quickly gain the respect of the construction crews. Yes, many tested me, but I always had the answers or made a quick decision to solve their perceived problem. I actually had the pleasure to work with many of them again on future projects.



It was also a challenge to gain the acceptance and respect of our clients, especially the construction superintendents and foremen on project sites. Luckily, that never took very long. Only recently, after reading Ezra Gordon's oral history, did I learn of one of our biggest client/contractors voicing a very strong objection to my presence on the Newberry Plaza construction site, specifically noting there was no toilet for a woman to use. I, however, learned quickly to scout out the closest coffee shop or local restaurant for available public toilet facilities at a new project site.



LI: Are there any women in the architecture profession who inspired you or who you viewed as a mentor?

MZY: In the 1970s, I met Natalie Griffin de Blois, a true star, very experienced, successful and gracious lady. She was 20 years my senior, and I came to respect her in many ways. Natalie freely shared her experiences as a woman in a large, well-known international firm (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill). I definitely viewed her as a mentor and good friend.

(Learn more about DeBlois at the Landmarks Illinois' Women Who Built Illinois database: www.landmarks.org/women_built_type/natalie-griffin-de-blois/)

LI: What advice would you have for women pursuing a career in architecture?

MZY: Before you make that decision, make a list of what you think you will be doing and then go and see practicing architects' offices and talk to them about their current and past projects, their philosophies and what makes them return to work each day.

Don't be naive, be realistic. Understand that you more than likely will never change the world of architecture and create a new



Above all, be willing to work hard (true of most professional careers) and for less financial rewards than you might envision. ■

Visit the Women Who Built Illinois database at www.landmarks.org/womenwhobuiltillinois/ to learn more about Young and the many other women who shaped our skyline.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Young on the top deck of Newberry Plaza (1972).

Architect Natalie Griffin de Blois (second from left), who Young said was a mentor and friend, teaching at the University of Texas. Courtesy of the University of Texas.

Young at River Plaza from Building Design and Construction (1976).

Young in the early 1990s while employed as a Project Manager at (Arthur) Andersen Worldwide and a member of their Real Estate Group. Courtesy of Margaret Zirkel Young.

Above: Young in 2021. Courtesy of Margaret Zirkel Young.

Right: Young in 1972. Courtesy of Margaret Zirkel Young.

style or trend. Recognize that a career as an architect, and especially as a woman, can still be very lonely and competitive.

Get a good understanding or experience of the construction field ASAP. Get your hands and shoes dirty and experience how things get built. If nothing else, start by getting permission to watch the various processes at a construction site near you and ask a lot of questions. You may decide that interior architecture or an engineering focus might be a better choice to pursue.

As an architect, be creative but also be ready to bend your design sights and be ready to accept change to meet and not exceed each client's budget. Be smart, tough but fair, persevering, secure in making the right decisions and 100 percent dedicated to your profession and you will surely succeed and enjoy the journey as I did.

BY THE NUMBERS

Below are some statistics on the women highlighted in the **Women Who Built Illinois** database.

24

women owned their own firm or private practice in Illinois

66

women in the database were architects

12

women were interior designers (the second-largest field represented in the database)

16

women worked for architecture, interior design, engineering, and urban planning firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, which was founded in Chicago in 1936 and is still in business today.

20

women attended the University of Illinois



30 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 2020
Chicago, IL 60602-3402



50TH LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit no. 6705
Chicago, IL

HELP LANDMARKS ILLINOIS WITH A SPECIAL YEAR-END GIFT

Your contribution will have a dramatic, positive impact on creating thriving communities across Illinois.

Be a part of transforming Illinois communities!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- \$1,000
 \$500
 \$250
 \$100
 \$50
 \$25
 Other

Also enclosed is my membership gift of _____

- Check payable to Landmarks Illinois or
 Visa
 MC
 AX
 Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____

Name on Card _____



Donate online at
www.Landmarks.org



COUNT ME IN!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!