

PRESERVATION FORWARD



2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencer

STACEY PFINGSTEN

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ILLINOIS

Stacey Pfingsten is an effective grassroots advocate and leader using her persuasive skills to imbed preservation as a part of Illinois' extensive architecture community. Her forward-thinking legislative and education work is positioning preservation for future success. Stacey became the Executive Vice President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Illinois in September 2019. Since taking on this role, she has led the lobbying effort, partnering with Landmarks Illinois among others, to reauthorize the Illinois River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ) State Historic Tax Credit and adapting language in the Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit legislation to improve its usability. These imperative preservation incentives have moved the field forward in greater Illinois where adaptive reuse projects were not just difficult, but nearly impossible. To help achieve these legislative goals, Stacey has worked in tandem with Landmarks Illinois to relaunch the Illinois Historic Preservation Caucus, a conference of General Assembly members supportive of historic preservation legislation. Stacey not only focuses on the power of persuasion, but also education, as another way that she is leading preservation forward. She and her team recently published the AIA Illinois "Great Places Coloring Book," featuring several of Illinois' landmark historic buildings chosen in 2018 to highlight the state Bicentennial. The coloring book engages young and old in the state's architectural legacy and highlights its importance in an accessible way. Stacey created a series of Springfield architecture scavenger hunts further engaging all ages in exploring the historic downtown. Further emphasizing the importance of education, AIA Illinois recently launched a pilot project with the Boys and Girls Club of Champaign to develop an introduction to architecture program. Stacey came to AIA Illinois from her previous role as Executive Director of the Louisiana Architecture Foundation, spearheading its first produced documentary, "Unexpected Modernism: The Wiener Brothers Story" and organizing the South's first-ever annual architecture and design film festival in New Orleans. She previously served as Communications Manager for Preservation Chicago, worked for several City of Chicago aldermen and ran for alderman once, albeit unsuccessfully. Stacey worked on Chicago public school education reform and citywide environmental issues as a volunteer. She resides in Springfield and proudly grew up on a farm in Crescent City, Illinois.

