



LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS



Chicago Landmarks

Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House
1895

Model architecturally, but of monumental historic and memorial significance, this brick two-flat was the home of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. It was from this house that 14-year-old Emmett left to board a train to visit relatives in Mississippi in the summer of 1955.

While there, the young life was taken in a brutal murder on August 28, 1955, for allegedly molesting a white woman. His murderers were acquitted by an all-white jury just a few weeks later. The tragedy exposed the grip of racism in America and helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

After her son's murder, Mamie Till-Mobley began a life-long commitment to sharing his story. As a civil rights activist, she continued advocating for equity and justice throughout her life.

Dedicated January 27, 2021
Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor
Committee on Chicago Landmarks

THE ARCH

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FROM THE PRESIDENT TO OUR MEMBERS

With the arrival of 2022, Landmarks Illinois marked the conclusion of our 50th anniversary year. In 2021, we celebrated our many accomplishments throughout the past five decades (like helping people save nearly 24,000 places in Illinois) while also planning for our future.

Where is Landmarks Illinois going in its next 50 years? We believe our preservation practices must change to remain relevant. Landmarks Illinois sees the need to redefine preservation so that more people, and more places, are a part of telling Illinois' and our nation's layered histories.

Kicking off this vision in the New Year is our PRESERVATION FORWARD event on March 10. This spring fundraiser will honor seven, 2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencers who are joining us in moving preservation forward. The evolution of our biggest event of the year comes as we reevaluate our programs and redefine preservation. For 15 years, we hosted the Legendary Landmarks Celebration each spring. We changed the program in 2021 and held our 50Forward anniversary celebration that highlighted 20 Landmarks Influencers who have had a monumental impact on our organization and preservation throughout Illinois. Turn to pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter to read more about PRESERVATION FORWARD next month and our 2022 Influencers.

Over the next year, we have ambitious plans to set new foundations for additional growth and change. We will work with consultants to refine our communications, improve and expand our equity, diversity and inclusion work, and develop a new strategic plan. Through your dedicated support, we'll expand our staff to redesign and implement programs corresponding to this work. The celebration continues as we mark 10 years of the Skyline Council of Landmarks Illinois and its many accomplishments.

“This is a moment of exciting change, but change is never easy, especially with no roadmap for what we aspire to do – to move preservation forward.”

This is a moment of exciting change, but change is never easy, especially with no roadmap for what we aspire to do – to move preservation forward. I send sincere appreciation to our team, including the staff and our Board of Directors, for their patience and perseverance leading the change that we see is needed in preservation.

To our members, this work isn't possible without you! You're supporting people saving places for people, and with more people, in the future. We can all be proud of the accomplished, historic preservation nonprofit that we have built and will continue to build together as members, volunteers and staff. Here's to a dynamic and successful year ahead.

With appreciation,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald



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EVENTS



Cover: Tiara Hughes, a 2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencer, at the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Home in Woodlawn in Chicago. Hughes is a Chicago Landmarks Commissioner who advocated for the Till home to become a Chicago Landmark. Learn more about Hughes and the 2022 Influencers who will be honored at PRESERVATION FORWARD on March 10 on pages 2 & 3. Credit Tiara Hughes

Above: Members of Skyline Council joined Women Build Day with Habitat for Humanity Chicago in October 2021 to help build affordable houses. Credit Demetria E. Boatright

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.



PRESERVATION FORWARD

Our Reimagined Spring Fundraising Event

On March 10, Landmarks Illinois will host its **PRESERVATION FORWARD** event, a redesign of our popular spring fundraiser previously named the **Legendary Landmarks Celebration**. The reimagining of this event is a response to our 50th anniversary in 2021 when Landmarks Illinois set in motion its bold plans for the future of historic preservation. Our plan is to be more inclusive, engaging and to give communities more say in identifying places that are special to them and worth preserving.

What's different?

One major change in our spring event is its location. Previously, the celebration took place at the Hilton Chicago. **PRESERVATION FORWARD**, however, will be held at the Old Post Office in Chicago, a monumental building that was saved with the help of Landmarks Illinois sustained advocacy. After sitting vacant for nearly two decades, an \$800 million renovation of the 2.5 million square-foot Old Post Office was completed in 2020.

Something else guests will notice at **PRESERVATION FORWARD**: a short awards program, giving you more networking opportunities, and cocktails and interactive food stations will replace a sit-down dinner. Guests will also enjoy an after-party featuring desserts from Chicago's pastry chefs, late-night snacks and music entertainment.

Who are we honoring?

PRESERVATION FORWARD will recognize people joining us in our push to move the preservation field forward, our 2022



Landmarks Illinois Influencers. This year's honorees are a group of seven women, leaders shaping our communities and inspiring us to rethink how we save places and for whom.

When choosing our 2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencers, we were inspired by our Women Who Built Illinois Database launched in 2021. This first-of-its-kind database includes more than 100 women who shaped Illinois' built environment from 1879-1979, but often went unrecognized for their work. The first annual **PRESERVATION FORWARD** continues this effort to call attention to women making a positive impact on their communities and our built environment.

We are honored to call attention to our 2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencers next month at **PRESERVATION FORWARD** and hope you will join us for the celebration! Visit Landmarks.org/events/preservation-forward to learn more about the event and each of our 2022 Influencers. 🏡

Above: Credit Liz Chilsen; right: Credit Ken DeMuth

2022 INFLUENCERS

Mariah DiGrino

Partner, DLA Piper

Mariah DiGrino is one of Chicago's principal attorneys making adaptive reuse projects feasible and attractive to developers in the Loop and the city's neighborhoods through incentives and public policy. As one of the all-female executive team who redeveloped the Old Post Office, Mariah reinforces how women are in the lead on Chicago's preservation projects.



Eleanor Esser Gorski

Executive Director, Cook County Land Bank Authority

Through multiple leadership roles with the City of Chicago and now the Cook County Land Bank Authority, Eleanor Esser Gorski has advanced historic preservation as an integral part of Chicago's economic and community development strategy. Her groundbreaking work to develop Chicago's Neighborhood Opportunity Fund is providing needed capital to small business owners on the city's South and West Sides.



Tiara Hughes

Chicago Landmarks Commissioner, FIRST 500 Founder, SOM Senior Urban Designer

Architect Tiara Hughes is a strong leader on the Commission on Chicago Landmarks where she advocates for a heightened level of equity and inclusion in the City's landmarking process, empowering communities to decide which places they want to save. Through her civic leadership, activism, and her creation of the FIRST 500 platform to promote the voices of Black women architects, Tiara is reshaping preservation's future for the better.



Cheryl Johnson

Executive Director, People for Community Recovery

As Executive Director of People for Community Recovery, Cheryl Johnson has been a fierce advocate for preserving affordable housing at Chicago's historic Altgeld Gardens and Phillip Murray Homes. A lifelong resident of Altgeld Gardens, Cheryl is a well-known and highly trusted community leader where she continues to fight for environmental justice and economic equity for south side and south suburban residents.



Tonika Lewis Johnson

Social Justice Artist

Tonika Johnson is a photographer, social justice artist and life-long resident of Chicago's South Side Englewood neighborhood. Her work, including that through her Folded Map Project™ and her new Inequity for Sale project, reveals injustices and inequities in real estate and land use practices, including historic preservation, and encourages us to reevaluate and create positive change.



2022 INFLUENCERS

Stacey Pfingsten

Executive Vice President, American Institute of Architects Illinois

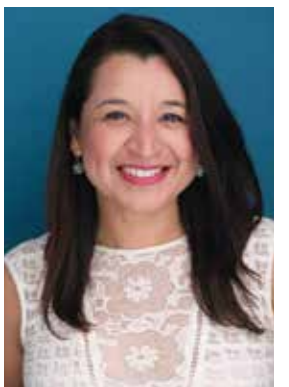
Stacey Pfingsten has been an effective grassroots preservation advocate and is now using her persuasive skills to imbed preservation as a part of Illinois' extensive architecture community as AIA Illinois' Executive Vice President. Her forward-thinking legislative and education work is positioning preservation for future success.



Alicia Ponce

AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, Founding Principal, APMonarch

As the founder and principal at a female- and Latina- owned architecture firm, Alicia Ponce works to adaptively reuse existing and historic buildings and make them healthy and sustainable. Her efforts are not only inspirational, but demonstrate how reusing places of our past can contribute to carbon reduction and fight climate change.



PRESERVATION FORWARD

Thursday, March 10, 2022

The Old Post Office

433 W. Van Buren St.,
Chicago

5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Reservations & sponsorships available at
Landmarks.org/events/preservation-forward

Virtual attendance option available. Please monitor our social media and website, Landmarks.org, for potential updates on event details and possible changes due to the ongoing pandemic.

THE STATE OF PRESERVATION

SCHMIDTKE HOUSE Elgin

The Schmidtke House, newly annexed from unincorporated Kane County into the city of Elgin, has consequently lost its county landmark protection and will be demolished as part of a warehouse development if not relocated. Landmarks Illinois and the Kane County Historic Preservation Commission urged the Elgin Heritage Commission to facilitate a preservation outcome with Elgin's City Council. The developer stated he will give the midcentury home to a party willing to relocate it by an April deadline. Local architect John Schmidtke built the home for his family in 1967 at 35W655 Toll Gate Road. It was designated a Kane County Landmark in 1996.

Courtesy Kane County Development Department

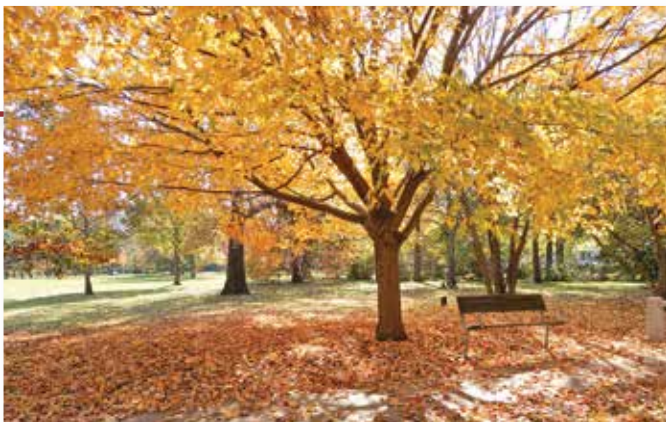


ELGIN

GILLSON PARK Wilmette

The Wilmette Park District has undertaken a comprehensive planning process regarding future changes to Gillson Park, prompting residents, local preservation and park advocates to form Keep Gillson Green (KGG), a group urging the least intrusive design option proposed by park district consultants. With KGG and architectural historians, Landmarks Illinois advised park district officials to accept Concept 1 of the five proposals, a design that would have minimal impact on the Prairie School-inspired park's historic integrity. The 1915 waterfront park was improved in 1933 by noted landscape architects C.D. Wagstaff and Robert Everly, who incorporated the park's distinctive curvilinear roadways, informal tree plantings and stone council ring.

Credit Julia Bachrach



WILMETTE

BREESE TOWER Danville

Listed on Landmarks Illinois' 2012 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois, Bresee Tower in Danville is in immediate danger of demolition. The Classical Revival-style building, designed by the Chicago firm of Mundie & Jensen, was built in 1917 as the First National Bank. It is the tallest building in Danville and was listed on the National Register in 2018. The building has experienced severe dilapidation following 16 years of vacancy and poses a safety risk. Landmarks Illinois is advocating for the preservation of Bresee Tower and is coordinating with an architectural firm and a developer who have interest in adaptively reusing the building for housing.



DANVILLE

IN THE FIELD



JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER Chicago

In December 2021, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced the state had selected a purchaser for the Thompson Center: Prime Group, which plans to reuse, rather than demolish, the Helmut Jahn-designed Post Modern building that Landmarks Illinois included four times on its Most Endangered list. Based on renderings presented by Prime Group, the building will get a dramatic overhaul including a new glass curtain wall, new mechanical systems and changes to the iconic atrium to create retail, hotel and office space. Landmarks Illinois views the proposal as a preservation success for the long-threatened building, but is hopeful more of the structure's aesthetic integrity is retained. A National Register of Historic Places nomination for the building, commissioned by Landmarks Illinois and funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is under review with the National Park Service.

Credit Sean Reilly



LAKESIDE CENTER Chicago

Lakeside Center at McCormick Place, recognized as an iconic fixture on Chicago's skyline, was designed by Gene Summers and Helmut Jahn for C.F. Murphy Associates and built between 1968 and 1971. The building has long been threatened by disinvestment and underutilization and demolition discussions between the Illinois Legislature and the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority have been persistent. Lakeside Center was recently one of several Chicago locations proposed by developers for a new casino. In January, Landmarks Illinois gave a conditional endorsement of the Lakeside Center's reuse as a casino and entertainment center due to the following positive impacts of the proposed project: a significant historic building in need of major rehabilitation would be invested in and adaptively reused, the reuse of the structure is the most environmentally sustainable choice, and the proposed design would increase greenspace and public access to the lakefront.

Credit William Zbaren



FEDERAL PRESERVATION LEGISLATION Statewide

Landmarks Illinois continues to work with partner organizations to advocate for the adoption of two key federal bills: the Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act, co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood, and the Historic Tax Credit Growth & Opportunity (HTC-GO) Act, which has six members of the Illinois House delegation as co-sponsors. The Route 66 legislation, which has gone through committee and awaits a vote in the House, would help preserve and promote the scenic "Mother Road" and increase economic development opportunities for the communities that have long supported its cultural heritage, intrinsic qualities and idiosyncratic character. The HTC-GO Act contains provisions to increase the historic tax credit from 20 percent to 30 percent permanently for preservation projects less than \$2.5 million and temporarily for larger, more expensive projects. The adoption of this bill would lead to more historic places in Illinois being preserved.

Courtesy Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway



PRESERVATION HERITAGE FUND GRANT RECIPIENT



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Waterloo

Zion United Church of Christ has been awarded a \$2,500 grant to make repairs to its iconic steeple. Located southwest of Waterloo in Monroe County, the church was built in 1884 by German immigrants and is today among the few churches that remain in a rural setting along the Kaskaskia Trail, one of the oldest trade routes in Illinois. The trail was created by Native Americans for trade, government and social/religious purposes and became critical to French trappers and pioneers as well as the later-arriving German immigrants.

Zion United Church of Christ has made improvements to the building over its history, including the addition of a Hammond Organ in 1948 and stained-glass windows in 1949.



BARBARA C. AND THOMAS E. DONNELLEY II PRESERVATION FUND for Illinois Grant Recipient

NINETEENTH CENTURY CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION Oak Park

The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association has been awarded a \$2,500 grant to help pay for architectural fees associated with column restoration at the Nineteenth Century Club building. The two-and-a-half story brick structure was designed by local architect James L. Fyfe in the Neo-Classical style and has been in continuous use since its construction in 1928.



Established in 1891, the Nineteenth Century Woman's Club and its members have used the clubhouse to broaden their community service, and by extension, the role of women in the civic sphere. The construction of the club building was the culmination of a 20-year effort to create a social and civic force to serve members and the community.

In preparing to repair the crumbling concrete around and under the four columns on the west side of the building, the club discovered that the columns themselves had substantially deteriorated. An engineering study was conducted, focusing on the concrete. During this study, a section of one column was removed and the interior timber was found to be rotted, requiring not only repair of the concrete support but also potentially all four of the original columns.

BY THE NUMBERS

2011

Skyline Council is founded

20

Members at the time of its founding

55

Members today

\$400,628

Dollars raised for saving places by the Skyline Council over the last 10 years*

*as of December 2021

24

Skyline members on Landmarks Illinois Board of Directors and committees

(Left to right) Longtime Skyline Council members Gregory Dowell, Erica Ruggiero, Erika Block and Chris Enck at the 2015 Skyline Social at the International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago. Credit Allison Evans. All four continue to be active members of Landmarks Illinois, the Skyline Council, the Board of Directors and/or with preservation advocacy campaigns.

Skyline Council members at their heartbombing event at the Harley Clarke Mansion in Evanston in 2019. Credit Lewis Purdy.

(Left to right) Former Skyline Council Chair and current Landmarks Illinois Board Vice Chair Allison Toonen-Talamo, member Rachel Barnhart, current Skyline Council Chair Liz Peterson, member & Landmarks Illinois Board Member Erika Block and Landmarks Illinois Director of Corporate Giving & Events Tiffanie Williams at the 2020 Skyline Council Trivia Night at Revolution Brewing. Credit Lewis Purdy.



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE SKYLINE COUNCIL

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE OF LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

By Liz Peterson, Chair of the Skyline Council

The field of historic preservation, with its many disciplines, can be a difficult one to navigate even for seasoned professionals. For young professionals, finding opportunities for leadership roles and building professional relationships within their chosen field is crucial for building a successful career. No matter how well-known the adages are about the importance of networking, it is especially daunting for young professionals entering a room full of people they've never met before.

When the Skyline Council organized in 2011, its hope was to break down the barriers to entry for young professionals committed to the field of historic preservation and provide them with opportunities to socialize, network with experts in the field, and lead service projects within communities across the state of Illinois. Many Skyline Council members also brought a new perspective to preservation: instead of strictly focusing on saving the work of well-known architects, members launched a more in-depth discussion about how to celebrate cultural history and bring a heightened awareness to the importance of allowing communities to determine what places are important.

What began as a group of less than 20 members has expanded to more than 50, with a growing network of relationships with universities and preservation-related firms across Illinois and the country. Perhaps the most rewarding and long-lasting aspects of the Skyline Council are its service projects and engagements directly with community organizations. From mural installations at the Forum in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, to research for the

recently launched Women Who Built Illinois database, the Skyline Council has made meaningful contributions to the work of Landmarks Illinois.

"It's provided an opportunity for me to engage new volunteers and provide small nonprofits and cultural institutions, building owners and under-represented communities with any support we can provide through Skyline Council and our networks," said Erica Ruggiero, Chair of Skyline Council's Service Subcommittee and long-time member.

Leadership roles within the Skyline Council, which mirrors Landmarks Illinois' Board of Directors, not only help individuals with public speaking and interpersonal communication skills but also set up opportunities for increased responsibility on committees within the greater organization and seats on the Board. This progression illustrates the importance of having emerging professionals active and able to contribute their talents to an organization as wide-reaching as Landmarks Illinois. The Skyline Council's recently formed mentorship program between its committee members and the Board of Directors

further solidifies this relationship and provides young professionals with the guidance they need to progress within their career and navigate relationships within a nonprofit.

Over the last decade, the Skyline Council has brought forward more confident young professionals in the field of historic preservation and contributed meaningful service on behalf of Landmarks Illinois. The Skyline Council's continued success will rely on its leadership to remain active in organizing annual fundraising events like the popular trivia night, Skyline Social and neighborhood pub crawls and in continuing its service projects, working with community partners and offering pro bono preservation services and consulting.

In addition, the Skyline Council hopes to extend its reach to students at colleges and universities throughout the state who may be considering a career in historic preservation or who are passionate about the built environment and to continue to incorporate Landmarks Illinois principles of "People Saving Places for People" into its work.

Liz Peterson is a Senior Marketing Coordinator for Newcastle Limited and is pursuing her MBA at University of Illinois at Chicago. She was recently awarded a scholarship through the Goldie Initiative, a foundation dedicated to advancing the careers of women in commercial real estate. ■

UPCOMING
EVENT

Preservation Snapshots Lecture:
Saving the Iconic Ebony Test Kitchen



FEBRUARY 23, 2022
12:00 -1:00 P.M.

Learn about the Landmarks Illinois' Skyline Council effort that began in 2018 to save Ebony magazine's iconic Test Kitchen from the former Johnson Publishing Company headquarters in Chicago. The carefully conserved psychedelic kitchen will soon make its first public appearance since it was deconstructed. It will be a centerpiece of the 2022 exhibit "African/American: Making the Nation's Table" at the Museum of Food and Drink (MOFAD) in New York City. In this virtual lecture, Landmarks Illinois Director of Advocacy, Lisa DiChiera discusses the initiative to save the Test Kitchen and talks about its cultural significance with MOFAD Curatorial Director Catherine Piccoli and former Ebony Food Editor and Publicist Charla Draper. For more details and registration go to Landmarks.org/calendar/.

Credit Lee Bey

UPCOMING
EVENT

Landmarks
Illinois & Illinois
Masonry Institute
Virtual Training
Workshop

Stone Repair & Restoration

FEBRUARY 17, 2022
8:30 A.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Landmarks Illinois and the International Masonry Institute present a virtual training workshop with a focus on stone repair and restoration. This program will illustrate stone treatment such as dutchman repairs, cementitious mortar repairs, stone finishing and stone carving using best practices. A case study will be presented on the stone masonry repair and restoration conducted at the Tribune Tower from the perspective of both the masonry restoration consultant and masonry restoration contractor. For more details and registration go to Landmarks.org/calendar/.

EVENT
HIGHLIGHT

RBIC Event at Old Cook
County Hospital



On November 30, 2021, Landmarks Illinois' Real Estate and Building Industries Council celebrated the newly restored Old Cook County Hospital at a special event. Presented by Walsh Construction, the evening included a cocktail networking reception at the property's hotel, Hyatt Place Chicago, and featured an array of food from vendors of the Dr. Murphy's Food Hall. Guests also toured the second floor lounge and former Cook County Hospital museum gallery. Saving Old Cook County Hospital was a 22-year advocacy effort by Landmarks Illinois, with the building included four times on its Most Endangered list since 2001. Visit Landmarks.org/calendar/ to view more photos of the event.

Dan Walsh of Walsh Construction, Landmarks Illinois Board President & CEO Bonnie McDonald, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Commissioner Larry Suffredin, and John Murphy of Murphy Real Estate Services. Credit Pivot Photography

CONTRIBUTIONS

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

SEPTEMBER 24-DECEMBER 22, 2021 Through membership dues, 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.

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\$10,000-\$24,000

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Cinema Galley is a Sustaining Partner. Our sincere regrets for the error in the Nov. 2021 issue.

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