



LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS

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THE
ARCH

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2024 PRESERVATION FORWARD

Cover: The former Famous Building in Cairo, Illinois, featured a galvanized sheet-metal façade made by Mesker Brothers Iron Works of St. Louis, Missouri. It once stood prominently on the 700 block of Commercial Avenue in the Southern Illinois city, but like all known “Meskers” in Cairo, it has been demolished. Turn to page 2 to read about Mesker buildings in Illinois and the effort to save the ones that remain.

Above: Darius Bryjka leading a tour of Mesker buildings.

All photos by Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO TO OUR MEMBERS

We welcome 2024 while looking back on an incredible year for Landmarks Illinois. I encourage you to read our year-end news roundup that was published in December on our Preservation News Blog. You can find it under the Preservation Resources dropdown menu at our website, landmarks.org.



We had a big preservation win in November when Landmarks Illinois and our partners were awarded the Docomomo-US 2023 Advocacy Award of Excellence for saving the Ebony Test Kitchen. Coincidentally, Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are commemorating the 20th anniversary of our equally unparalleled save of the Edith Farnsworth House, located in Plano, Illinois. The two organizations mobilized quickly in 2003 when a prospective buyer inquired about moving the building out of state. Together, we raised \$7.5 million in just a few months and, on December 12, 2003, successfully purchased the house at auction. Then Board Chair Joe Antunovich and Landmarks Illinois President David Bahlman led the unprecedented effort and garnered international acclaim. As we celebrate David’s legacy, we also mourn his passing on November 13, 2023. We will miss this preservation champion and pay tribute to him in this issue.

“The guidebook compiles the Relevancy Project findings, a national research project that I have spearheaded to inform conversations about preservation’s future.”

The Edith Farnsworth House makes another appearance in this issue as an illustration in a new Landmarks Illinois publication. In November, we published “The Relevancy Guidebook: How We Can Transform the Future of Preservation,” which I authored and volunteer Jean Follett edited. The guidebook compiles the Relevancy Project findings, a national research project that I have spearheaded to inform conversations about preservation’s future. The key findings may serve as discussion topics for our forthcoming strategic planning process: i.e. our Transformational Plan. Illinois’ preservation community and many others will be invited to participate to further explore these ideas. Read about the guidebook in this issue and/or find the Executive Summary and full text on our website under the Preservation Resources tab.

The Edith Farnsworth House illustrates the effects of climate change and the imperative to preserve buildings and improve their energy efficiency as sustainable practices. As climate change exacerbates river flooding impacting the house, there are difficult decisions ahead about how to make the building more resilient. The Guidebook provides easy access to ideas and resources on this and other topics to inspire action, making preservation more relevant to more people.

Landmarks Illinois takes the ideas in the Guidebook to heart, including thoughtful use of our resources in publishing *The Arch*. Moving forward, *The Arch* will be published twice per year, but with expanded content enabling more in-depth stories. Current news and trending topics will continue to arrive via email and on social media. We believe this change enables us to enrich the newsletter content and maintain our exemplary daily media coverage while providing kinder use of our human, natural and financial resources. I hope that you will support this change and continue to foster our good work.

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald

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Landmarks Illinois thanks its Annual Corporate Sponsors. To learn more about this program, please contact Bonnie McDonald at bmcdonald@landmarks.org.

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A 20-Year Effort To PRESERVE THE REMAINING ‘MESKERS’ IN ILLINOIS

By Kaitlyn McAvoy *Director of Communications*

In communities across Illinois, you can find an increasingly rare but quintessential Main Street building archetype: the “Mesker.”

These buildings feature facades made of galvanized steel and cast iron produced by the Mesker Brothers Iron Works of St. Louis, Missouri, and the George L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. Some Mesker facades are more ornamental than others, featuring embossed cornices and window hoods. All were ordered through catalogs and shipped by rail to building owners in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

It is estimated that Illinois once had more than 6,500 buildings with Mesker components. Finding out where these buildings were located and how many still stand today has been a nearly two-decade-long quest led by Darius Bryjka, a Project Reviewer at the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SPHO) with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

‘Got Mesker?’

In 2005, the SHPO (then called the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) launched its “got mesker?” campaign, with Bryjka at the helm, to document and research buildings throughout Illinois that featured Mesker parts. Last fall, the project reached a major milestone when the 1,000th Mesker building in Illinois was identified at 404 W. Main Street in Liberty. Even Bryjka was amazed.

“For years I did not believe this was conceivable,” he said. “Having traveled Illinois so extensively, I thought that perhaps we found most of them years ago.”

Bryjka has personally continued the Mesker effort throughout the years, even while leaving state employment briefly from 2009-2013. His work has revealed a treasure trove of data: While the two Mesker companies were not located in Illinois, our state has the most known Mesker buildings in the country. Palestine, Illinois, is the town currently with the most known Meskers, at 17. McLeansboro and Cairo, Illinois, follow with 15. However, all in Cairo have been demolished.

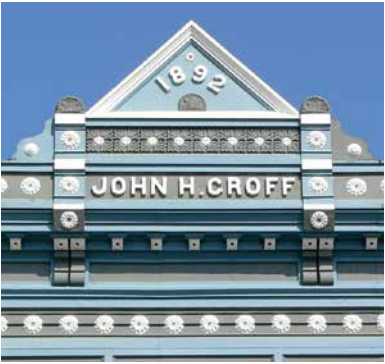
Nationwide Significance

The focus of the initial “got mesker?” project has grown beyond Illinois’s borders, with 5,889* buildings identified across the United States and even some found in Canada and Mexico.

“I continue to be amazed by the fact that we still find them and that this effort resonates with the public and other preservationists around the country,” Bryjka said. “It’s been rewarding to hear from folks who have stumbled upon these treasures in their communities and want to know more.”

“Meskers” are an interesting part of the nation’s history, according to Bryjka, representing the availability and affordability of metal architectural ornamentation in an era otherwise dominated by expensive masonry products. He also pointed out that these buildings go against the “established narrative of significance” that places importance on the singular rarity of a resource.

“Meskers are significant for the opposite reason, precisely because they were so commonplace,” he said.



Preserving The Remaining Meskers

While Mesker components adorned many Main Streets in the early- to mid-twentieth century, far fewer can be seen today. More of these buildings are lost each year. At least 214 of the more than the 1,009* identified in 352 Illinois communities through the “got mesker?” project have been demolished. Some towns have lost all of their known Meskers. In addition to Cairo, mentioned above, El Paso, Illinois, has lost all nine of its known Meskers.

Bryjka hopes by calling attention to Mesker buildings over the last nearly 20 years, he is promoting their historic and architectural significance and encouraging towns to preserve the ones they have left.

“Awareness is the first step towards conscious preservation,” he said. “Ultimately, the resource is finite. So, if the database creates awareness and leads to any being saved, that’s the goal.”

**numbers as of December 3, 2023*

Clockwise, from right: Bryjka leading a tour of Mesker buildings in Colorado, which has 133 known “Meskers.”

The Union Block building in Taylorville features steel and cast iron storefront columns and a galvanized sheet-metal upper story by Mesker Brothers Iron Works, St. Louis, Mo.

A row of three storefronts in Chesterfield features this Mesker cornice design.

A row of Mesker buildings at 202-212 W. State St. in Geneva.

A George L. Mesker & Company nameplate marking a cast iron column on a building on First Street in Elizabethtown, Illinois.

A nicely painted Mesker Brothers Iron Works facade on the John H. Croff building in Metropolis.

All photos credit Darius Bryjka.



LEARN MORE

Stay up to date

Bryjka personally maintains a blog, “Mesker Brothers: Storefronts of America,” with updated information at MeskerBrothers.com.



He also updates the state’s growing database of Meskers at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/preserve/gotmesker.html.



Explore photos

Bryjka’s Flickr page, which can also be found at the DNR link above, features photos of Mesker buildings across the country.

Engage

Follow the “Mesker Brothers” Facebook group.

How to identify a Mesker

Think you have a Mesker in your community? Look for a nameplate at the bottom of a storefront column. Meskers also have a set of unique motifs, which can be used to distinguish them from other architectural ironworks. Use the helpful identification guide at the DNR’s website listed above. When in doubt, contact Bryjka at his MeskerBrothers.com website.



GILLSON PARK AND WILMETTE HARBOR Wilmette

The Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council approved a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Gillson Park and Wilmette Harbor on October 27. Landmarks Illinois sponsored the nomination, which was prepared by consultants Julia Bachrach and Malcolm Cairns. The effort to list Gillson Park and Wilmette Harbor in the National Register grew out of the park's inclusion on Landmarks Illinois' 2022 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The nomination recognizes Gillson Park's special character as a naturalistic-designed landscape built entirely on landfill along Lake Michigan. Landmarks Illinois also highlighted the nomination in a Preservation Snapshots Lecture on November 2, which you can watch on our YouTube Channel.

Credit: Julia Bachrach



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Statewide

The Underground Railroad in Illinois received much-deserved attention in 2023 through important planning initiatives. After securing the designation of the New Philadelphia National Historic Site in December 2022, New Philadelphia advocates are leading the effort to create the West Central Illinois Freedom Corridor. The Corridor will connect and highlight museums and historic sites in Springfield, Jacksonville, Pittsfield, Barry, Quincy as well as Hannibal, Missouri, to tell the important stories of those who persevered to secure their freedom. Concurrently, the State of Illinois now has an Underground Railroad Task Force that is charged with developing "a statewide plan to connect existing local projects and new projects to create a cohesive statewide history of the Underground Railroad in Illinois." These ongoing initiatives will help preserve the thousands of untold heroic stories and help identify sites to be added to the National Park Service's Network to Freedom.

Credit: New Philadelphia Association



OLD JOLIET PRISON Joliet

The ongoing efforts to stabilize and preserve the Old Joliet Prison, a 2002 Most Endangered site, were recently bolstered by two key actions. Following an arduous research process conducted by Ramsey Historic Consultants, the nomination of the Illinois State Penitentiary-Joliet National Register Historic District was approved by the National Park Service in late September. The 92-acre district incorporates the original complex, the former Women's prison and the limestone quarries that sourced building materials. After a year of engineering by Klein & Hoffman for stabilization plans, Berglund Construction mobilized this fall to begin repair work on the Administration Building, Cell Blocks, Chapel and Hospital. Funds to pay for the project have been secured by ongoing advocacy at the state and federal levels. To date, the advocacy efforts have resulted in \$10 million in funding.

Courtesy Joliet Area Historical Museum



WALLER APARTMENTS

Chicago

Landmarks Illinois has a long history with the Waller Apartments on Chicago's West Side, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright as affordable housing. In the late 1990s, Landmarks Illinois purchased, rehabilitated and sold two of the row houses to preserve them as affordable units and ensure their long-term stewardship. A third unit is now on the market and in need of repair. Landmarks Illinois is working with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and Preservation Chicago to assemble information that can help locate a preservation-minded buyer. Landmarks Illinois arranged a pro bono conditions assessment from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. and cost estimation from Berglund Construction, as well as a market analysis by Landmarks Illinois board member Alex Wolking of Keller Williams ONEChicago. Visit savewright.org/building/waller-apartments for more information.



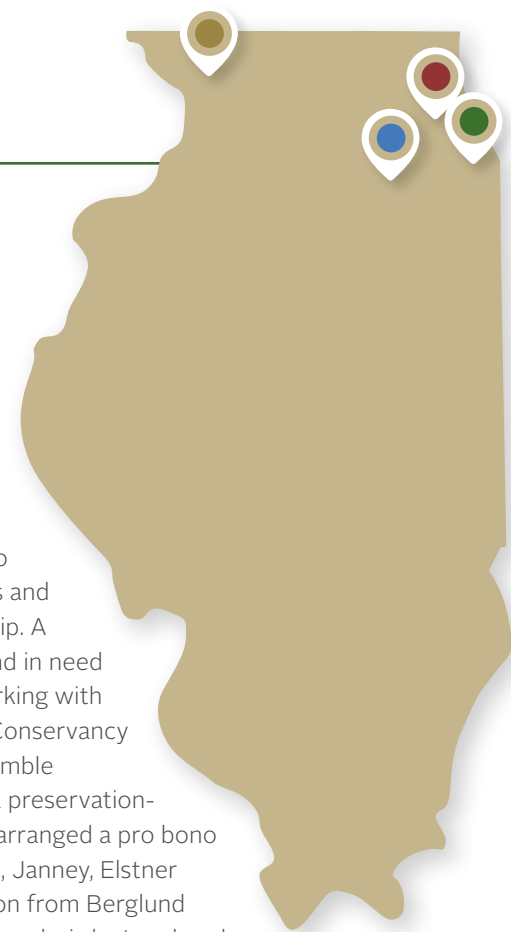
ILLINOIS CHAPTER OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY SITES

Statewide

On October 27, the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council approved two National Register nominations related to the history of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party: a Multiple Property Document chronicling the history of the party across several historic sites and an update to the listing for the Church of the Epiphany in Chicago (pictured) to include the Black Panther Party's history there. Landmarks Illinois has supported the efforts of the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party since 2020 through technical assistance and public support of these nominations, which will provide a path to rightfully recognize the significance of cultural heritage resources associated with the Illinois Black Panther Party's critical social and political work throughout the state.

OAKDALE TABERNACLE Freeport

The Freeport-based advocacy group, Save the Tabernacle, recently celebrated a preservation victory after years of dedicated work to preserve the Oakdale Tabernacle. In 2021, the group signed a 20-year lease agreement with the Freeport Park District, taking on the responsibility of repairs, maintenance and programming at the 2018 Most Endangered site. Through engaging the local community and raising private funds, the group secured the necessary resources. The money raised was augmented with in-kind donations to pay for a new roof on the tabernacle, ensuring the historic structure will be stable for decades to come. With the roof in place, the group will now focus on repairs to the cupola, windows and damaged siding.





HISTORIC OPERA HOUSES

With the growing popularity of theater, music and entertainment in the late 1800's came an increase in Main Street opera houses across the country. By 1900, there were thousands of opera houses playing a significant role in the life of small communities. Through the Preservation Heritage Fund grant program, Landmarks Illinois is supporting two local opera houses in their efforts to stay relevant in their communities.



The **John B. Young Opera House** in Golconda, built in 1887, has been vacant since 2017. Main Street Golconda recently purchased, at a tax sale, the National Register-designated building located in the Golconda Historic District. The Main Street organization will use a \$3,000 Preservation Heritage Fund grant for a structural assessment of the building's condition.



The **Beardstown Grand Opera House**, also listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1872. Today, the building serves as a focal point for cultural diversity in the town. The second-floor stage and auditorium are used for theatrical productions and the first floor has three main street storefronts. The Heritage Preservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to own and restore the Opera House, will use its \$1,650 Preservation Heritage Fund grant to update the existing fire alarm system. 🇺🇸



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION

Many federal and state preservation grants require a grantee to provide evidence of a historic property's significance through a National Register of Historic Places Designation or its viability through an environmental study. Landmarks Illinois' small grants have provided financial support for people and organizations in their efforts to obtain such a designation or study.

Pilgrim Baptist Church Chicago **A**
Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago, (originally Kehilath Anshe Ma'ariv Synagogue) suffered a catastrophic fire in 2006 leaving it extensively damaged. A significant portion of the Louis Sullivan ornamentation and a few other masonry elements were saved. In addition to the building serving as an example of Adler and Sullivan's ecclesiastical work, its preservation is historically significant as the home of Pilgrim Baptist Church, one of the nation's most important African-American congregations and the birthplace of gospel music.

Pilgrim Baptist, as the owner, and the National Museum of Gospel Music as the

future tenant have raised roughly \$2.7 million toward the \$3.5 million needed for the restoration of the structure's exterior. Landmarks Illinois recently awarded a \$5,000 Preservation Heritage Fund grant for an environmental study of the site, which is required for future federal funding.

Ward Chapel AME Church Cairo **B**
Another recent Landmarks Illinois grant, this one for \$2,500 through the Donnelley Preservation Fund for Illinois, will support the effort to list Ward Chapel AME Church in Cairo, Illinois, on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cairo's Ward Chapel AME Church was in use for nearly 150 years and was a bustling center of spiritual, social and physical development in the African American community. The congregation ceased operations in 2011, and the building—located in Cairo's local downtown historic district — has sat vacant ever since. The Cairo Historical Preservation Project, Inc. (TCHPP) hopes to transform the vacant church into a community center and museum. The group will use the Landmarks

Illinois grant to hire a consultant to list the church on the National Register, which will open up opportunities for future funding needed to stabilize the building.

First Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Chicago **C**
Another \$2,500 grant through the Donnelley Preservation Fund for Illinois will support an effort to list First Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago on the National Register. First Immanuel is the second-oldest Lutheran parish in Chicago and one of the first churches in the city to officially vote to integrate in the 1950s.

The limestone building, located in the University of Illinois Medical District and completed in 1888, is recognizable for its two towers of differing heights and the large rose window over the main entrance to the sanctuary. The congregation has contracted with Ramsey Historic Advisors to list the property in the National Register, making it eligible for larger funding options. A previous grant from Landmarks Illinois also helped pay for a new boiler at the church. 🇺🇸





THE RELEVANCY PROJECT

By Bonnie McDonald President & CEO



In November, Landmarks Illinois published “The Relevancy Guidebook: How We Can Transform the Future of Preservation,” written by Landmarks Illinois President & CEO Bonnie McDonald. The Guidebook is an outcome of The Relevancy Project. Between August 2019 and February 2021, 130 people both inside of, and adjacent to, the preservation field were interviewed about common concerns, best practices and innovations. The Guidebook is a compilation of these interviews, research findings and an extensive array of resources, creating a comprehensive, user-friendly reference manual. It was designed to inspire, inform and guide those who hope to make historic preservation relevant and beneficial to anyone who wants to save the places that matter to them and their community.

People have a fundamental connection to historic places because they give context to the events that have shaped our history, both our achievements and our mistakes. Just as destroying these places can untether communities, saving them can help maintain a vital connection between generations, providing a source of knowledge, pride, hope and repair.

If historic places are so important, why is preserving them still so difficult? Because not everyone sees history as relevant. The lack of widespread public value for preservation has led to a cascade of challenges: misinformation, embattled regulatory tools and insufficient funding. Preservation also faces new challenges emerging out of an overdue examination of our practices through the lens of justice, equity, inclusion and accessibility. The huge gap in the people preservation serves and the need for our goals to align with larger community priorities illustrates the crisis that the field finds itself in. For preservation to survive and be useful in a changing world, we must reckon with its relevance.

Project interviewees largely believed we are not engaging effectively as a solution for larger social issues. Surveys have shown that the vast majority of preservationists believe that the field needs substantial change and that the pressure to do so is coming from both inside and outside of the profession. Despite this widespread recognition, there is no consensus about how to do it. Many preservationists are unsure where to begin or lack the confidence to challenge existing systems. We must move beyond handwringing and into action. Otherwise, changes will be made for us and not by us.

The Relevancy Project was conceived to identify preservation's opportunities, tap our field's collective wisdom and inspire individual and organizational-level actions that will make preservation more just, equitable, inclusive and accessible. McDonald received the 2020 James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation Mid-Career Fellowship and a Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to complete The Relevancy Project and “The Relevancy Guidebook.”

People have a fundamental connection to historic places because they give context to the events that have shaped our history, both our achievements and our mistakes.

“The Relevancy Guidebook” lays out preservation's opportunities: affordable housing, climate change, health benefits, dismantling “the culture of preciousness,” expanding preservation job opportunities, improving our storytelling, values-based fundraising and creating just, equitable and accessible practices. It also details steps historic preservationists and organizations can take to center communities and underrepresented voices in decision-making and action.

A travel guidebook provides maps to orient you and options on what to do from a source that has vetted the options. A guidebook's best feature is that there is no set path. You choose your own experience based on your interests, time and mobility. Envisioned as a similar tool, “The Relevancy Guidebook” provides ideas, models and resources from the field's innovators to move preservation practice towards relevance. You choose your own path. 🇺🇸

Clockwise from above left: Despite its significance as a stop along the Underground Railroad, the Sheldon and Harriet Peck Home in Lombard, Illinois has been determined ineligible for National Register listing. Courtesy Jean Follett.

Photographer Tonika Lewis Johnson with one of her “landmarkers” in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood identifying a home sold under predatory Land Sale Contracts in the 1950s and 1960s. Courtesy Tonika Lewis Johnson.

The former Paris High School in Paris, Illinois, was adapted into 42 affordable senior housing units using Low-Income Housing and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Credit: J.L. Jordan Photography, WJW Architects PC.

The Edith Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois, next to the Fox River after flooding in 2008.

February 29, 2024

Celebrate with us on Leap Day, February 29, 2024, as Landmarks Illinois hosts its annual spring fundraiser, **Preservation Forward**, at **The Old Post Office, Chicago**. The event will honor Influencers who are actively helping Landmarks Illinois shape a more diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible preservation movement, while also celebrating the incredible work of Landmarks Illinois. Preservation Forward is a premier networking event, attracting over 800 guests, and is recognized as one of the largest preservation parties in the industry. To purchase reservations and sponsorships www.landmarks.org/events/preservation-forward/.

Details:

The Old Post Office

433 W. Van Buren St., Chicago

RESERVATIONS: \$500 Entire Event
\$95 After-Party Only
Free Virtual Main Program

SPONSORSHIPS: Starting at \$2,500

Event schedule:

5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception

7:00 p.m. Main Program

(Awards Ceremony honoring 2024 Landmarks Illinois Influencers)

7:45 p.m. Dinner

9:00 p.m. After-Party

Meet Our 2024 Landmarks Illinois Influencers

Lisa Yun Lee

Executive Director,
National Public Housing Museum



Juan Moreno

Project Design Principal,
President & Founder, JGMA



Shermann "Dilla" Thomas

Chicago Historian & Co-Founder,
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CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH THE SKYLINE COUNCIL

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, the Skyline Council of Landmarks Illinois will host an event decorating the Schlitz Tied House in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. The former Queen Anne-style tavern built in 1898 by Schlitz Brewery was designated a Chicago landmark in 2011 and desperately needs repairs. Landmarks Illinois commissioned Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., to conduct a building enclosure assessment at the property. Owner Jennipher Adkins wants to turn the first floor of the old "tied-house" into a community space with offices on the second floor. Help us bring some love to this historic site ahead of Valentine's Day!

Schlitz Tied House

958 W. 69th St., Chicago, IL
Decorating will begin at 12 p.m.

Morning crafting event

Make paper hearts, signs and other artwork for the Tied House starting at 10 a.m. Nearby location TBD. Sign up to receive our email notifications and/or check our website, www.Landmarks.org, for details.

By Bonnie McDonald *President & CEO*

Farewell to TIFFANIE WILLIAMS



It is with a grateful, yet heavy heart that the Landmarks Illinois team bids a fond farewell to **Tiffanie Williams**, our **Director of Corporate Giving and Events**. We congratulate Tiffanie on her new position managing events for Music Will, a national music education nonprofit organization. Over her more than nine-year tenure with Landmarks Illinois, Tiffanie has refined, redesigned and exponentially expanded our events, putting them on people's "must-attend" list. One donor refers to Tiffanie's networking events as "the Super Bowl of preservation." Managing Landmarks Illinois' Annual Corporate Sponsor program, Tiffanie has engaged over 30 corporations in major giving to the organization. Tiffanie notes that she is most proud of her work staffing the Skyline Council, Landmarks Illinois' young professionals committee, an effective, all-volunteer group that has grown from 10 to over 50 members with her support. We express our deepest gratitude to Tiffanie for her exemplary work and how she modeled grace, professionalism and collegiality. Although her formal employment ended in November, Tiffanie is continuing to assist us as a short-term consultant in planning the 2024 Preservation Forward event taking place on February 29.

Tiffanie Williams (right) with Landmarks Illinois Board Member and former Chair Sandra Rand.

IN MEMORIAM



Landmarks Illinois and the entire preservation community were incredibly saddened to hear of our friend and former leader, **David Bahlman**, passing. David served as Landmarks Illinois President from 1999-2008, during which he led many high-profile preservation battles and raised the profile of, and respect for, the organization at a critical time. He was involved in major preservation efforts at Chicago's Soldier Field, Old Cook County Hospital, Lathrop Homes and North Michigan Avenue, as well as the successful purchase of the Farnsworth House in Plano at auction — to name just a few. David was a true champion of historic preservation and made a lasting impact on Landmarks Illinois and preservation efforts throughout the state. He will be greatly missed.

Some of those who worked with David during his time at Landmarks Illinois shared the following memories of him.

“I was blessed to have known my very dear friend and colleague, David Bahlman. David lived an extremely rich life surrounded by friends, family, art and a devotion to historic preservation.”

Joe Antunovich

Chief Executive Officer & Founder of Antunovich Associates

Landmarks Illinois Board Member, former Chair & Vice Chair

“I was blessed to have known my very dear friend and colleague, David Bahlman. David lived an extremely rich life surrounded by friends, family, art and a devotion to historic preservation.

We collaborated on many preservation ventures with David, none more important than saving the Farnsworth House and returning it impeccably to the

public domain for the enjoyment of all. My favorite story of David was in New York attending the auction of the Farnsworth House at Sotheby's. We were informed in the late morning that we were \$2.5 million short of the expected winning bid, with the auction scheduled at 2 p.m. With several of us in attendance at Sotheby's that day and able to form a quorum, David called for an emergency meeting of the Landmarks Illinois Finance Committee over lunch at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There, he fostered an idea of Landmarks Illinois contributing another \$1 million, secured by the excess land adjacent to the Farnsworth House, and seeking a match from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Finance Committee passed his idea unanimously! Shortly after our lunch, the National Trust agreed to match our increased contribution! At 2 p.m. the auction started, and at 2:30 p.m. we took ownership of the Farnsworth House!

I will never forget David's ever-present radiant smile that day and for weeks after. He was so proud. It was his finest hour. David may have moved on to a better place, but he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, my good friend.”

Shelley Gorson

Former Landmarks Illinois Board Member & Chair

“My first encounter with David was in 2003 when he and others took me to lunch to recruit me for the board of Landmarks Illinois. His huge warm smile and elegant charm got me at “Hello!” He exuded intelligence, integrity, tolerance and humor, and never took himself too seriously despite his enormous accomplishments. No better man there ever was.”

CONTRIBUTIONS THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

SEPTEMBER 12-NOVEMBER 21, 2023 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.

\$15,000-\$25,000

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kim kerbis, lake effect fund
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