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*Renewing Communities; Building Pride*

# PHLF News

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

No. 183 DECEMBER 2018



*Supporting Locally Owned Businesses:*

## Peter Lawrence Opens and Market Street Grocery Expands

Peter Lawrence, a new women's retail shop in Downtown Pittsburgh offering forty-nine different brands, opened on Friday, November 16, 2018, just in time for the holiday shopping season. Boutique La Passerelle, located next door at 417 Wood Street and featuring European fashions for women since 2010, sent flowers and informed their customers of the good news. "There's more energy on the street," said owner Adele Morelli, "and now when our customer's ask 'Where's more shopping?', we can answer, 'Next door!'" This is one more step forward in achieving PHLF's goal of creating a women's retail corridor along Wood Street.

Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC), a for-profit development subsidiary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), acquired 413–417 Wood Street in 2011 from the J. R. Weldin Company (which relocated to the Gulf Tower at 707 Grant Street), thanks to a major gift from former PHLF Trustee George White. PHLF restored the façades in 2016, through grants from the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership's "Paris to Pittsburgh" program. "We have one major improvement still to complete that will highlight the beauty of this historic Wood Street building," said Michael Sriprasert, president of LDC and vice president of PHLF. "By the end of this year, the façade of Peter Lawrence will be lighted at night, thanks to a recent grant from the Laurel Foundation," he added. Architect Ellis L. Schmidlapp is providing the exterior lighting designs.

"Architect Milton Ogot and ABS Building Systems Integrators, LLC, overcame significant challenges to update the century-old interior of the former Weldin's Building to meet current life-safety standards—and to save as many original architectural details as possible," said Tom Keffer, director of construction at PHLF. Four cast-iron Corinthian columns continue to support the wood-beamed ceiling two stories above the main floor while new steel channel columns support the mezzanine that was previously suspended from steel rods. Three feet of the existing basement floor had to be excavated in order to install the footers that were required for the new steel channel columns. The elevator was refurbished by the company that originally installed it, and words painted in gold from the former stationery and gift store are still visible on the mezzanine beams.

Just a few blocks away from Peter Lawrence, the Market Street Grocery celebrated its expansion into the upper floors of the Thompson's Building at 435 Market Street on November 16, 2018. Open since 2015, Market Street Grocery has been selling a variety of grocery items and serving between 600 and 800 lunches a day, although there was only seating on the main floor for twelve people. LDC owns the Thompson's Building and worked closely with grocery-store owner Ralph Falbo during the recent expansion process. Between December 2017 and June 2018, PHLF installed a new HVAC system, drywall, and dumbwaiter, among other interior improvements. Maria Wilson of Wilson Architecture + Design, LLC, was the architect. Market



Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC), PHLF's for-profit subsidiary, restored the façade and renovated the interior of the former Weldin's Building at 413 Wood Street. The building was constructed in 1883 and refaced c. 1901. Peter Lawrence, a unique women's clothing and accessories store owned by Chas Schaldenbrand, occupies the main floor and mezzanine level.

Market Street Grocery has expanded into the upper floors of the Thompson's Building at 435 Market Street (*above*). It is adjacent to Market at Fifth, developed in 2007–09 through a limited partnership of LDC. Heinz Healey's, Nettleton Shop, and seven market-rate apartments are located in the award-winning, LEED-Gold Market at Fifth.

Street Grocery now offers a sit-down dining area on the second floor and flexible meeting space on the third floor.

"Downtown Pittsburgh is developing a strong core of unique and successful locally owned businesses," said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. "The opening of Heinz Healey's and Nettleton Shop in 2009, both housed in our Market at Fifth development, and the adjacent grocery store in 2015 helped jumpstart commercial activity in the area of Fifth Avenue and Market Square. Now, Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse (*see page 9*) and several locally owned businesses, including Hello Bistro, Katie's Kandy, Boutique La Passerelle, Peter Lawrence, and Joseph Orlando Clothiers, have created much more activity along Wood Street between Forbes and Fourth avenues. When the new boutique hotel opens in the historic Arrott Building at Wood and Fourth in 2019, the area will be even more stimulating," said Arthur.



Peter Lawrence (*left*) and Boutique La Passerelle. Photos by Michael Henninger

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## Editor's Note

As we look forward to the new year, we can also pause and look back over the past twenty months with much satisfaction. In these twenty-four pages, we feature the highlights of our work since April 2017. Through real estate development (*page 1*), affordable housing initiatives (*page 2*), façade improvement programs (*page 3*), loans (*pages 4 and 5*), and matching grants for historic religious properties (*pages 6 and 7*), we have invested in our communities by improving the places where people shop, live, work, worship, and participate in other activities. The quality and importance of our work has not gone unnoticed: local, state, and national organizations have recognized PHLF and its subsidiaries for its work in revitalizing Downtown Pittsburgh and the Hamnett Place neighborhood in Wilkinsburg (*page 24*).

We fondly remember many influential members (*page 8*) and have news to share about significant preservation issues (*pages 9–11*). We continue to be inspired by the words of our founding chairman, Charles C. Arensberg, and take note of the tremendous impact that PHLF has had on the Pittsburgh region since its founding in 1964 (*pages 12 and 13*). More than 10,000 people each year explore and learn about the Pittsburgh region through our many educational programs or by visiting our two libraries (*pages 14–21*).

We are grateful to our members and donors (*pages 22 and 23*) who make it possible for us to accomplish so much of what we do through their participation and contributions. In the new year, please attend our tours and programs at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center ([www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)), read our monthly E-news, and follow us on Facebook. There's still much to accomplish and many places to explore!

—Louise Sturgess





Through the place, we renew  
the spirit of the people.  
Historic preservation  
can be the underlying basis  
of community renewal,  
human renewal,  
and economic renewal.  
Preservation is not some isolated  
cultural benefit.

—Arthur Ziegler, PHLF President

PHLF’s Mission

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) works within a 250-mile radius of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to **identify and save** historically significant places; **renew** historic neighborhoods, towns, and urban areas; **preserve** historic farms and historic designed landscapes; and **educate** people about the Pittsburgh region’s rich architectural heritage.



PHLF...

- is governed by a board of twenty-five community leaders (*see page 3*);
- has had a balanced budget in each year of operation since its founding in 1964;
- provides leadership and assistance to local, state, national, and international organizations;
- provides financing and technical assistance through a non-profit subsidiary, Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCCC), a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI); and
- develops real estate and provides consulting services through a for-profit subsidiary, The Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC), and through various limited partnerships.

Continue Giving

Your money is put to good use and the need is great. Contributions will help PHLF:

- expand neighborhood and Downtown revitalization efforts;
- continue our Historic Religious Properties program;
- involve more than 10,000 people in place-based educational programs;
- and offer programs at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center, among many other activities.

PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION  
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PHLF is creating two affordable single-family homes in this duplex at 1403–05 Pennsylvania Avenue in Manchester. The front and rear façades are shown during various phases of renovation from August 3, 2017 (*below*) through November 8, 2018.

Creating Affordable Housing:  
LDC Saves and Renovates Three Historic Houses in  
Manchester Through the Neighborhood Partnership Program

TriState Capital Bank has partnered with PHLF for the past six years through a Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) in Manchester on Pittsburgh’s Northside. The NPP is a state tax-credit initiative offering incentives for businesses to invest in communities. (TriState Capital is also the corporate sponsor of the NPP in Wilkinsburg with the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. Armstrong and Huntington Bank sponsored an NPP with PHLF in the City of Butler that was completed in 2017.)

“The NPP in Manchester gave us the opportunity to acquire three vacant, deteriorating buildings in the locally designated Historic District that otherwise would have been torn down,” said Michael Sriprasert, vice president of PHLF and president of LDC. “With property values rising in Manchester, there is a need for our organization to create affordable housing opportunities for longtime residents. Several of our members have also contributed funds to help subsidize the restoration of these three homes, and we are grateful for their support.”

The red-brick duplex at 1403–05 Pennsylvania Avenue was the only deteriorated building in an otherwise handsome block. The buildings are



Architect Milton Ogot (*front center*) met with PHLF staff members Michael Sriprasert, Tom Keffer, and David Farkas at 1403–05 Pennsylvania Avenue on August 3, 2017.

set back from the street, providing space for front yards which will be attractive features for the two affordable single-family homes.

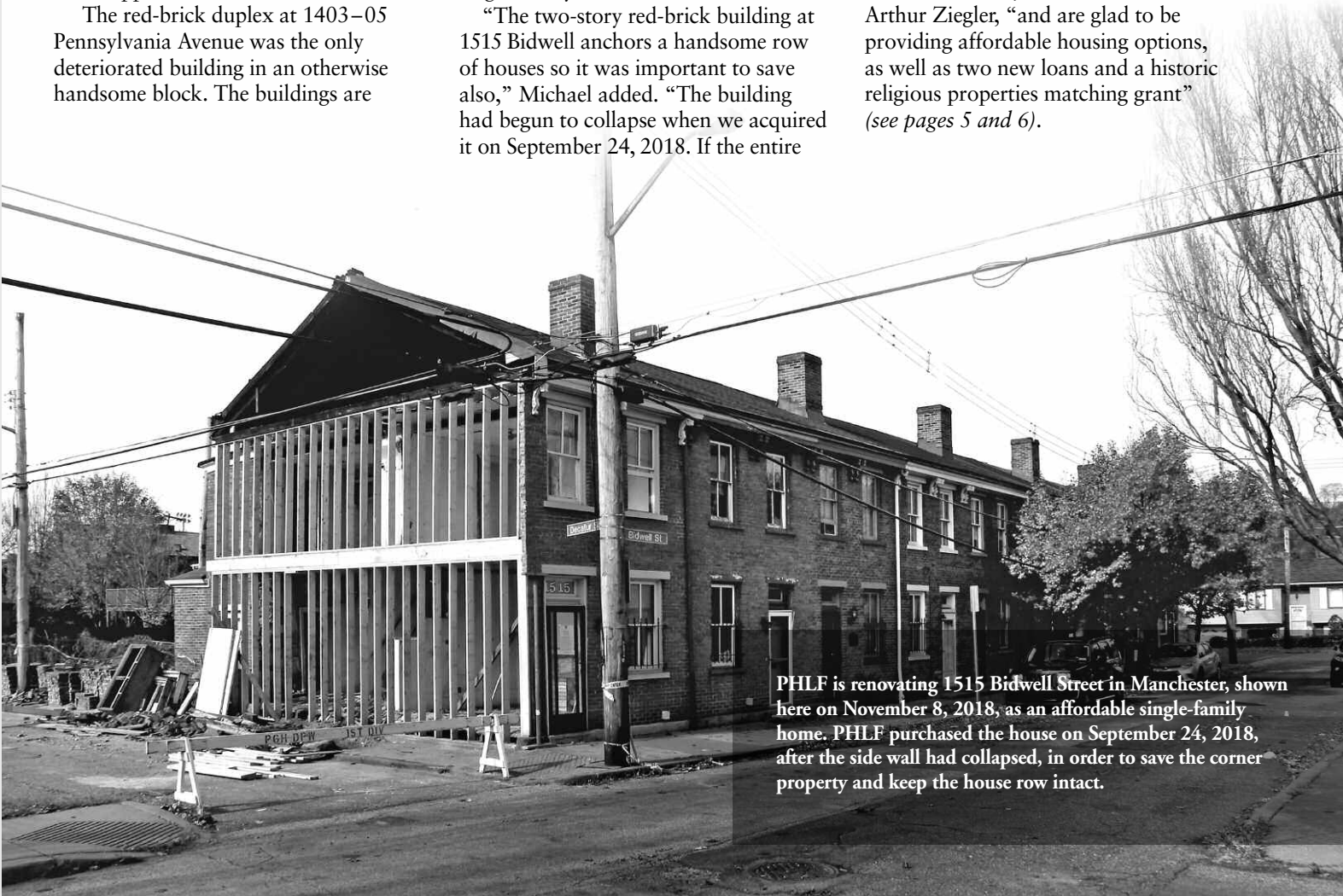
“The two-story red-brick building at 1515 Bidwell anchors a handsome row of houses so it was important to save also,” Michael added. “The building had begun to collapse when we acquired it on September 24, 2018. If the entire

house had collapsed and become a vacant lot, the value of the remaining homes would have diminished.”

Architect Milton Ogot and City Development Consultants, LLC, are working with PHLF and LDC on both the Pennsylvania Avenue and Bidwell Street renovations.

“We began work at 1403–05 Pennsylvania Avenue in May 2018 and will continue through March 2019,” said Tom Keffer, director of construction at PHLF. The entire rear wall of 1403–05 Pennsylvania Avenue had to be taken down since the masonry was in such bad shape. Cement masonry units were used to rebuild the inner wall and the original bricks were used to rebuild the outer wall, thus retaining the building’s architectural integrity. “The new wall is much stronger and is a much better product for the new owners,” Tom said.

LDC is in the process of stabilizing 1515 Bidwell Street, and work will continue well into the new year. “We have a long history of working with the Manchester community to restore historic buildings for residential and commercial uses,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, “and are glad to be providing affordable housing options, as well as two new loans and a historic religious properties matching grant” (*see pages 5 and 6*).



PHLF is renovating 1515 Bidwell Street in Manchester, shown here on November 8, 2018, as an affordable single-family home. PHLF purchased the house on September 24, 2018, after the side wall had collapsed, in order to save the corner property and keep the house row intact.



Combining State and National Grants to  
Improve Façades in Beltzhoover



B. Danforth Ely, president of The 1772 Foundation, at the press conference on May 2, 2018, in Beltzhoover.

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and a \$50,000 grant from The 1772 Foundation, PHLF launched an innovative façade restoration program this year in cooperation with the Hilltop Alliance. The 1772 Foundation,

based in Rhode Island, is the only national foundation focused on revitalizing historic neighborhoods through the use of revolving funds. This is the first of two major grants from the foundation to PHLF this year (*see page 4*).

Mayor William Peduto and State Representative Jake Wheatley announced the façade grants during a press conference on May 2, 2018, at Delmont and Michigan streets in Beltzhoover, a hilltop neighborhood south of Downtown Pittsburgh. Designed to benefit longtime residents, the program builds upon recent improvements to this part of Beltzhoover and McKinley Park



Jennifer Cash Wade (*second from left*), a member of the Beltzhoover Consensus Group and a director of LCCC, joins employees of Go Supreme, one of two local African American contractors selected to complete the façade improvements on the eleven homes near McKinley Park. Photos by Robert Larson (*left and above*)

by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the City of Pittsburgh, and ALCOSAN, in partnership with the Beltzhoover Consensus Group. Grant recipients had to meet certain income eligibility requirements and own their homes.

During the press conference, Jennifer Cash Wade, a member of the Beltzhoover Consensus Group and a director of Landmarks Community Capital

Corporation (LCCC), noted that families who have lived in Beltzhoover for generations have seen their neighborhood decline in recent years for many different reasons. PHLF’s investment is a welcome step forward that will encourage further neighborhood investment and restoration.



Phase 1 was completed in mid-August. Façade improvements were made on the following properties (*clockwise from left*): 203 Michigan Street; 305 Michigan Street; 325 Michigan Street; 917 Eldora Place; and 804 Delmont Avenue.



Phase 2 will be completed in the spring of 2019. Façade improvements will be made on the following properties (*clockwise from left*): 231 and 233 Chalfont Street; 232 Chalfont Street; 305 Chalfont Street; 320 Chalfont Street; and 800 Estella Avenue.



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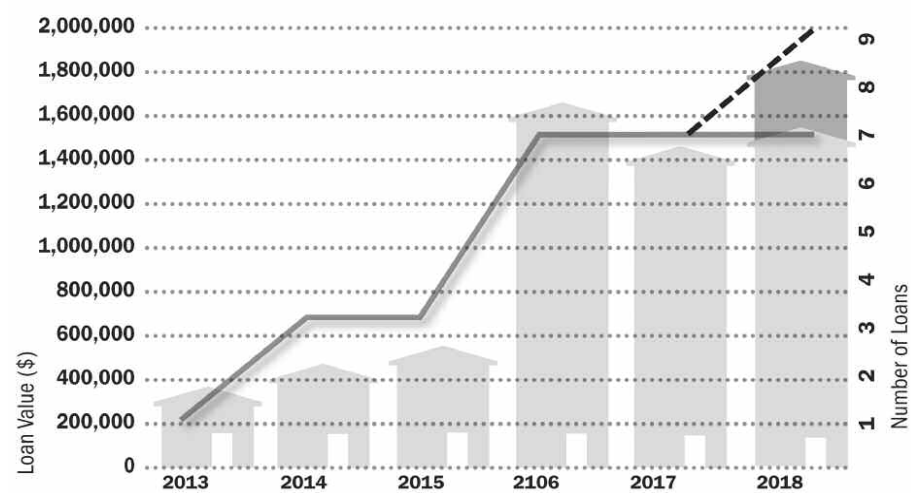
# Landmarks Community Capital Corporation Is Set to Lend Over \$2 Million in 2019

“Thanks to two national funding sources in 2018,” said Michael Sriprasert, president of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCCC), a non-profit lending subsidiary of PHLF, “we will be able to invest over \$2 million in worthwhile community projects in 2019.” The 1772 Foundation committed \$1 million in April 2018 for a Program Related Investment (PRI), providing low-interest capital for projects over a five-year period. In September, the U.S. Treasury awarded LCCC its second Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be used for project financing.

“We have been extending loans since 1985,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, “but the formation of LCCC in 2007 allowed us to increase our focus and lending capacity.”

LCCC has gained a reputation as an outstanding community-based real estate lender with an emphasis on working in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. “Improved outreach to both non-profit and for-profit developers and in-house expertise with real estate, construction, and commercial lending have contributed

Landmarks Community Capital Loans (2013–2018)



to this reputation,” said Rob Wagner, senior loan officer. “Borrowers are returning to do business with us because of our competitive loan terms and prompt and efficient service,” he added.

LCCC focuses on purchase/rehabilitation loans for historic commercial buildings on main streets, affordable housing, and community or religious buildings. Its borrowers are non-profits and community-minded for-profit developers. Loans range from \$50,000

to \$700,000 and eighty percent of them assist low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. LCCC has developed a solid reputation as a reliable small-balance purchase/construction lender with expertise in historic preservation, commercial lending, and construction management.

To apply for a loan, please contact Rob Wagner (412-471-5808, ext. 538, rob@phlf.org) to discuss your project and to receive a loan application form.

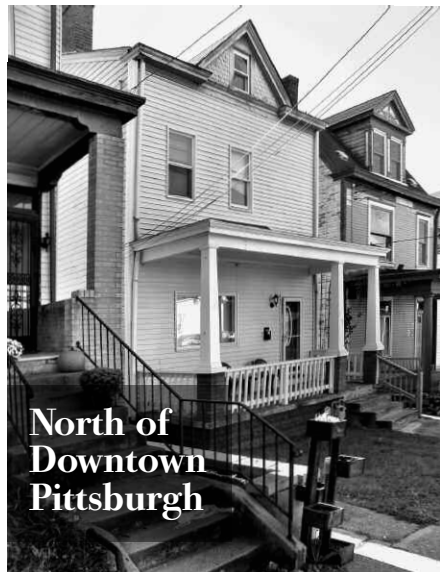
The lending totals for 2018 (*left*) include two loans projected to close in December that will be announced in our E-newsletters.

## Fourteen Recent Loans

Over the past twenty-two months, LCCC has made a significant impact by lending \$3 million on fourteen different projects. Local developers have preserved over 130,000 square feet of real estate, including three churches or repurposed churches, a community library, six commercial or investment properties, three affordable housing developments, and one historic farm.

These loans will facilitate development that will create affordable office and kitchen space for 100 entrepreneurs; affordable housing for twelve low- to moderate-income tenants; new space for thirty-eight children in Head Start; newly air-conditioned space for eighty children in daycare and after-school programs; and two separate low-cost community rooms.

The fourteen loans, made between January 2017 and October 2018, are described in the following photo captions.



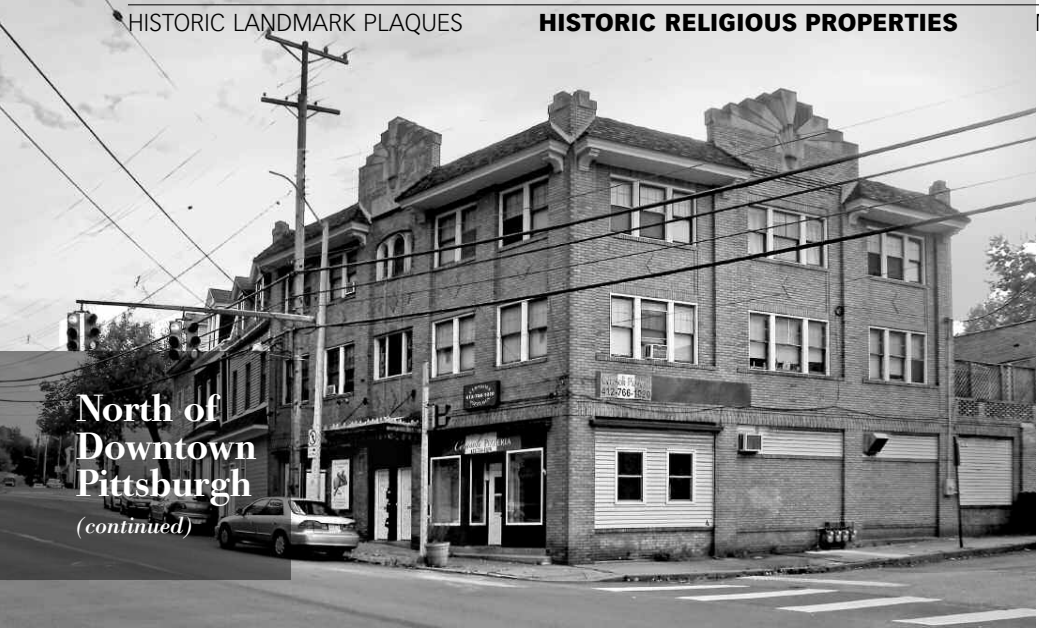
North of Downtown Pittsburgh



Marshall-Shadeland/Perry Hilltop: a \$300,000 loan to OGR III to renovate affordable houses at 227 West Burgess Street (*far left*), 3162–64 Shadeland Avenue (*above*), 17 Bonvue Street (*above right*), 1202 Woodland Avenue (*above far right*), and 1504 Woodland Avenue (*below*) (2017 loan).

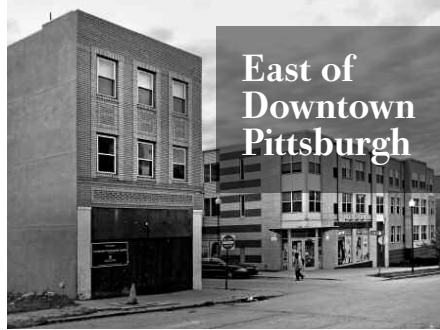


From Woodland Avenue in Marshall-Shadeland, you can see all the way to McKees Rocks. The view is wonderful and the houses are well-built and welcoming.



North of Downtown Pittsburgh  
(continued)

Marshall-Shadeland: a \$140,000 loan to Barakah LLC to purchase 3051 Brighton Road for a mixed-use renovation (2018 loan).



Hill District: a \$260,000 loan to the Hill Community Development Corporation to purchase and rehabilitate 2144 Wylie Avenue (*above left*) into a restaurant and two affordable apartments (2017 loan).



Lawrenceville: a \$384,000 loan to 3600 Penn Associates to renovate a triplex at 6026 Butler Street for market-rate apartments (2018 loan).



Edgewood: a \$200,000 loan to the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, located at 120 East Swissvale Avenue, to replace the HVAC system (2017 loan).



Edgewood: a \$100,000 loan to the C. C. Mellor Memorial Library, located at 1 Pennwood Avenue, to fund roof and façade improvements (2018 loan).

*The loan we received from LCCC enabled us to transform a community eyesore into a community asset. The former St. Clements school and church were empty and damaged by time, water, and vandalism. The historic landmarks now house a daycare, nine female-owned businesses, and a community room for church services, weddings, and special events.*

— Phillip Rhodes, Owner



West Tarentum: a \$150,000 loan to Spotmouth LLC to renovate the former Catholic Church, located at 216 West 9th Avenue, into a Head Start daycare and eight offices (2017 loan); and a second loan of \$50,000 to renovate the sanctuary into a community event space (2018 loan).



Manchester: a \$140,000 loan to N2 Properties to renovate 1202 West North Avenue into nine market-rate apartments (2017 loan).



Manchester: a \$735,000 loan to Fulton Franklin LP (Botero Development) to purchase and renovate the former St. Vincent de Paul Building at 1243 North Franklin Avenue into shared office, kitchen, and artist space (2018 loan).



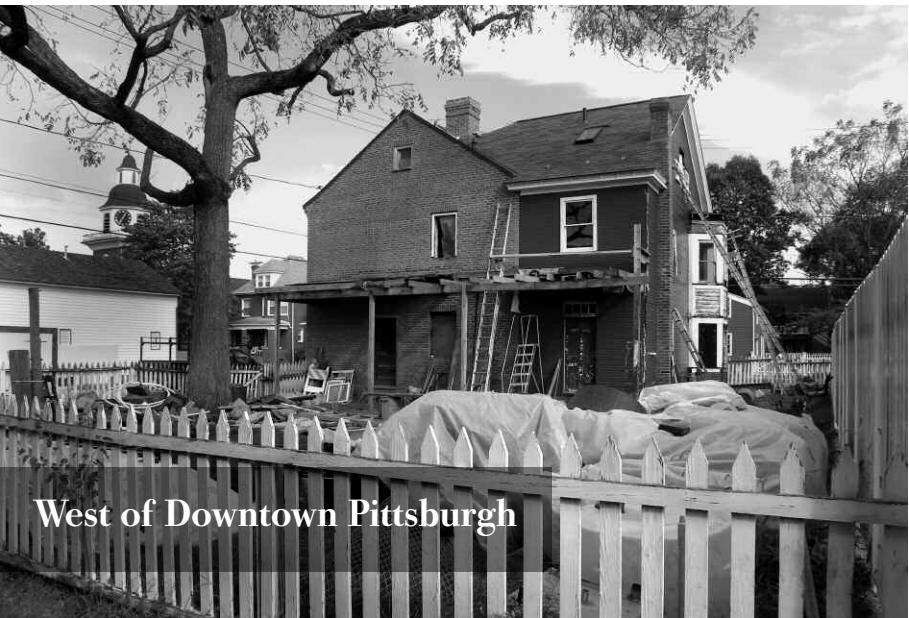
Garfield: a \$15,000 loan (an increase to a \$99,000 construction loan made in 2014) to the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation to replace the water/sewer lines at the community center located at 113 North Pacific Avenue (2018 loan).



Wilkinsburg: a \$104,000 loan to Dan Harris to renovate 1018 Penn Avenue for retail and studio space (2018 loan). The building is located within the Wilkinsburg Historic District that was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 14, 2018, through PHLF's efforts and with community support.



Plum Borough: a \$250,000 loan to Dori and Ladislau Tompa to purchase and renovate the historic Davidson farmhouse (built in 1802 with additions) at 9701 Saltsburg Road (2017 loan). In connection with the loan, the Tompas donated a preservation easement to PHLF on December 18, 2017.



West of Downtown Pittsburgh

Ambridge: a \$150,000 loan to Dennis Lopic to renovate 98 13th Street, a former Harmonist house (from 1827 with additions) within the Old Economy National Historic Landmark District, for retail space and lodging (2017 loan).

*LCCC removed a lot of hurdles, saved me time, and understood the importance of my 200-year-old house that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They appreciate all that is involved in rehabilitating a historic structure.*

—Dennis Lopic, Owner and Restorer



## Thank You, Donors

Donations received in 2017, from the following foundations and from members, friends, and Named Funds at PHLF, helped underwrite our program of financial *and* technical assistance to twelve Historic Religious Properties in 2018. Thank you for supporting this exceptional program.

### Leadership Gifts (\$10,000 +)

• Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation

### Keystone Gifts (\$1,000 or more)

• George and Eileen Dorman  
• David A. Kleer  
• Mary McDonough  
• Jack Norris  
• Mary Beth Pastorius  
• Marguerite O. Standish

### Cornerstone Gifts (up to \$999)

• Advanced Personal Care, in memory of Bud Mahler  
• Joe Balaban  
• Barbourtown Foundation  
• Victor Bertolina  
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• Edward Newton Blair  
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• Mary Ann Stuart Templeton  
• Kathy and Lou Testoni  
• Robert and Katherine Miller Thomas, in honor of Donald Kortlandt, Esq.  
• Sue and Ell Vines  
• The Emma Ziegler Named Fund

2018 donors will be listed in the next newsletter because their contributions will help fund PHLF's matching grant awards in 2019.

## Partners in Preservation:

# Restoring Historic Religious Properties

"This year, our Historic Religious Properties (HRP) Committee awarded a total of \$76,500 in matching grants to eleven houses of worship, thanks in large part to gifts received in 2017 (*please see the sidebar*) from individuals, corporations, and private foundations," said Committee Chair Bob Lavelle. These awards have leveraged nearly \$1 million in restoration activities. As a result, congregations on the Northside, in Downtown, Bloomfield, Garfield, East Liberty, Squirrel Hill, Oakland, Carrick, and Tarentum have been able to hire craftsmen and contractors to paint exterior trim, restore stained-glass windows, and repair building façades, roofs, bell towers, and entry steps. Award recipients in 2018 are:

- **Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church** (Central Northside), for roof and gutter replacement;
- **Central Presbyterian Church** (Tarentum), for restoring the large stained-glass window on the main façade;
- **Church of the Redeemer** (Squirrel Hill), for restoring four stained-glass windows and for replacing plexiglass with vented plate-glass storm windows;
- **First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh** (Oakland), for repairing the slate roof, gutters, and downspouts;
- **First Lutheran Church** (Downtown), for cleaning and repairing the sandstone façade;
- **First United Methodist Church** (Bloomfield), for repointing the areas around the central tower and the stained-glass windows;
- **Original Church of God Deliverance Center** (Manchester), for removing vegetation from the roof and for making critical roof repairs;
- **Sixth Presbyterian Church** (Squirrel Hill), for repointing the sandstone façade and roof coping;
- **The Union Project** (East Liberty), for restoring the stone entry steps;
- **Valley View Presbyterian** (Garfield), for painting the exterior; and
- **Zion Christian Church** (Carrick), for repointing and repairing the bell-tower masonry.

In addition, Tom Keffer, PHLF's director of construction, visited **Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church** in Gibsonia to provide technical assistance.

## Joys and Challenges

"PHLF's Historic Religious Properties program helps congregations, technically and financially, preserve their houses of worship that represent the historic and social fabric of our community," said John Kelly, founder of Kelly Art Glass Company. The task is not easy, though, as the following two stories illustrate.

The stained-glass windows at Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill were designed and made between 1939 and 1962 by Howard Gilman Wilbert of Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studio. For a number of years now, Kelly Art Glass Company has been working to restore the stained-glass windows. According to John:

*Each window has been re-leaded to guarantee maximum longevity. The English glass, in some places, is very thin and fragile, and in other places it is too thick for the lead comes. Construction for a seemingly simple window is complicated and time consuming to do correctly. Through our restoration, we honor the fine craftsmen who have created this excellent body of glass art at Church of the Redeemer. I strongly believe that Redeemer is a showcase example of the power of PHLF's HRP program.*

The Reverend Brian A. Evans is the senior pastor of First Lutheran Church in Downtown Pittsburgh. He describes some of the joys and challenges of renovating the Grant Street landmark, designed in 1886–87 by Andrew Peebles, a renowned Pittsburgh architect:

*It is amazing to watch the sandstone exterior of our 130-year-old church building being rehabilitated back to its original glory. Long-invisible textures and colors are beginning to emerge. The stone actually sparkles in the sun! However, on a recent climb to the top of the bell tower, I was shown how the present conditions are far worse than we had known or planned for. When we set out on this project, we thought that twenty to thirty percent of the stone would have to be repointed. The reality, it turns out, is that closer to one hundred percent of the mortar is loose or missing. Consequently, the scale and cost of the project has grown. Thus, for now, we will only be focusing on the façade and tower: the Strawberry-Way side and rear will have to wait for more funding.*

The cost of the project to date is \$1.5 million. "We've raised over \$1.3 million in pledges, including about \$1.2 million from members," said Pastor Evans. "We will need almost \$950,000 more to be pledged to complete the final phases



Ralph Mills (left) and Mike Barreiro, from Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios, remove a stained-glass window panel for restoration. This is the last large window that needs to be restored at Central Presbyterian Church in Tarentum. The church has received four Historic Religious Property grants from PHLF since 2014, and will be submitting additional funding requests. Two large stained-glass skylights in the church ceiling still need to be restored, as well as many small classroom windows. Photo courtesy of Central Presbyterian Church

of cleaning the stonework and restoring the stained-glass windows, including one large Tiffany window."

"About 700 people visited First Lutheran during Doors Open Pittsburgh on October 6 and 7, 2018," said John Harmon, a member of the church and of PHLF. "and about 300 people worship here each Sunday. Many people are interested in our restoration progress and appreciate the value of this long-surviving and always-serving Downtown landmark."

## A Tremendous Impact

Since the program's inception in 1997, PHLF has awarded more than \$1.4 million in matching grants to more than 190 historic religious properties in Allegheny County, thereby leveraging more than \$3.1 million in restoration work, and providing more than sixty technical-assistance consultations.

Please make a year-end donation to PHLF in support of the Historic Religious Properties Program. One hundred percent of your donation this year will be used to fund a new cycle of matching grants in 2019. Our program is one of the only resources available to help congregations in Allegheny County fund critical brick-and-mortar repairs. Ultimately, our program benefits thousands of people who cherish and use these historic places that are among the most architecturally significant in Allegheny County.



Sixth Presbyterian Church



The Union Project



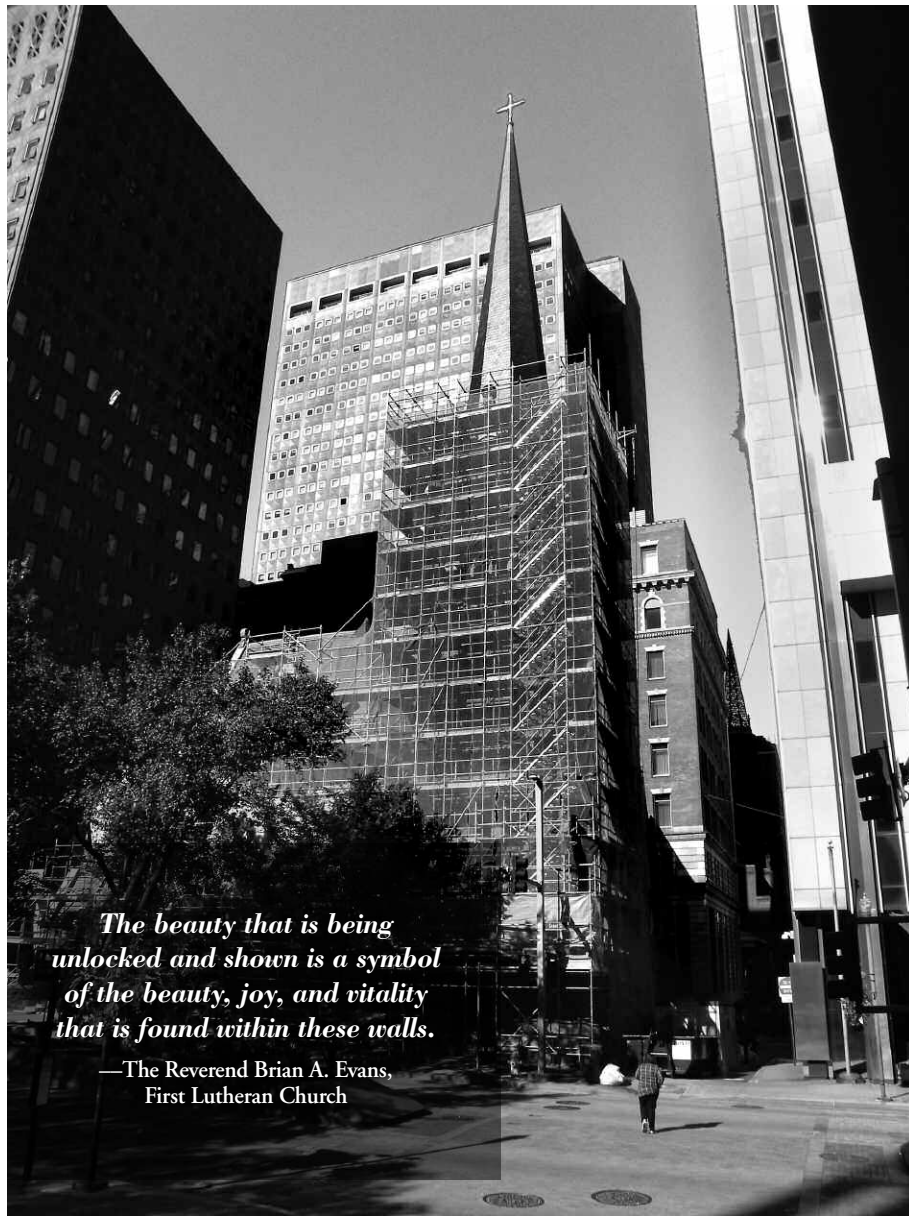
Valley View Presbyterian



Zion Christian Church



Pete Boucher, from Kelly Art Glass, prepares to mount a restored vent panel in a steel frame. Linda Lang completes finishing work on the sanctuary vent panels from the Church of the Redeemer (above right). Photos courtesy of Kelly Art Glass Company



First Lutheran Church in Downtown Pittsburgh is barely visible in this photo, taken in October 2018. Sota Construction Services is the general contractor. MARSA, Inc., the sub-contractor, is cleaning and repointing the sandstone façade of the 130-year-old church. Further south on Grant Street, work is underway on another 130-year-old landmark (see page 11).



*The grants from PHLF have been crucial to the success of the window-restoration project at the Church of the Redeemer. We are a small congregation with a treasure of stained-glass windows that have started to bow or have suffered broken wires, and that have been obscured behind cloudy plexiglass. We have leveraged PHLF's matching grants through a campaign with our parishioners, with other philanthropic funders, and with the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Without a doubt, PHLF's generosity has allowed the Church of the Redeemer to save one of its most significant treasures. We are all extremely grateful.*

—Dr. Patricia Edgar,  
Church of the Redeemer



*Houses of worship are such important resources to neighborhoods and communities. Please include a tax-deductible gift to our Historic Religious Properties program in your year-end giving. With your help, we will be able to keep this critical program going.*

—Bob Lavelle, Chair, Historic Religious Properties Program

All the historic religious properties that receive matching grants from PHLF provide many services to their communities. For example, First Lutheran Church hosts "Camp Downtown" each summer for about forty young people from around the city. In 2016, PHLF created walking tours for the campers and an art activity. They strengthened their skills in mapping, math (by jumping the age of a building: 1 jump = 10 years), observation, and art. And, they donated their summer offerings totaling \$112.41 to support PHLF's HRP program.

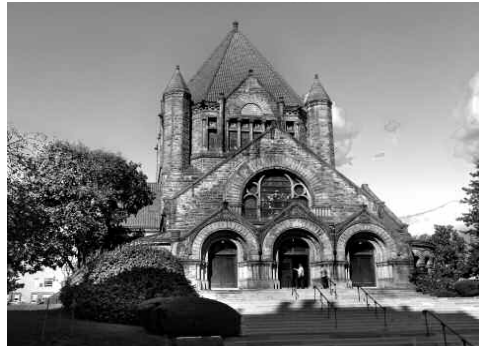
Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church



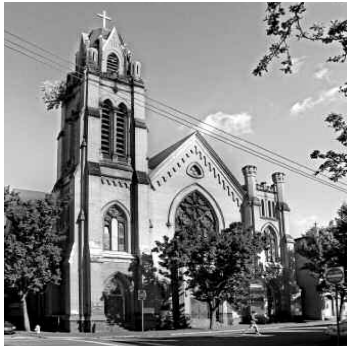
First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh



First United Methodist Church



Original Church of God Deliverance Center







## IN MEMORIAM

We fondly remember the following people for their commitment to PHLF.

- Vivacious, energetic, and progressive, **Betty O. Abrams** (1924–2018) valued creativity and excellence in architectural design. She opened her Postmodern home, designed by Robert Venturi in 1979–82, to many PHLF tour groups and for several special events. Betty was a lifetime member of PHLF and a trustee emeritus. Under PHLF’s direction, students from Chatham University produced a video of Betty describing her unique home on Woodland Road. The documentary, completed in June 2016, captures Betty’s essence and the joy she experienced in living in a Venturi-designed home.
- Beth A. Buckholtz** (1960–2017) helped design many of PHLF’s publications, including numerous issues of *PHLF News*, as well as major books and brochures. She spent thousands of hours formatting copy, making edits, and paying attention to countless details in order to produce an attractive printed piece. She cared about her work and believed in PHLF’s mission.
- A highly respected advertising and real estate executive, **Herbert F. Burger** (1930–2017) was a founding member of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and served as its first chairman. Herb enthusiastically supported PHLF’s renewal strategy for the Fifth-Forbes area in Downtown Pittsburgh, Market at Fifth development, and façade restoration work. He also facilitated PHLF’s studies for underutilized spaces in Trinity Cathedral. Herb served as a PHLF trustee from 2013 until his death.
- In her definite, but always accommodating and friendly manner, **Sarah B. Campbell** (1922–2018) spoke up for her Homewood neighborhood and became a highly respected community activist. We learned from Sarah and valued her advice. She assisted us with our major Bennett Street Restoration Program in Homewood and with our loan program for the main street development.
- Kind-hearted, generous, and always thinking about the next generation of young people, **Russell W. Coe** (1916–2017) established The Russell W. Coe Preservation Fund as a result of several gift annuities. That Named Fund will help us maintain Piano Place (a community garden in Wilkinsburg), assist minority youth, and support our affordable-housing efforts. A 1933 graduate of Pittsburgh’s Langley High School, a World War II veteran, and an employee of the Gulf Oil Corporation, Russ retired to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, but never forgot his Pittsburgh roots.
- Feisty and visionary, **Barbara Luderowski** (1930–2018) established the Mattress Factory in 1977 at 500 Sampsonia Way. The contemporary art museum with site-specific installations helped rejuvenate the Mexican War Streets on Pittsburgh’s Northside. “We took Barbara on a tour of the Mexican War Streets and she was immediately drawn to the area,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. “After acquiring the former Stearns & Foster mattress warehouse in May 1976, we sold the vacant building to Barbara in July 1976 at a bargain price on very favorable terms because we believed in her vision,” Arthur recalled. Over the years, PHLF extended several loans to the Mattress Factory as it acquired, renovated, and expanded into a total of nine buildings. “Barbara was a remarkable individual, always on the cutting edge of art and design. I admired her every day I knew her,” said Arthur.
- Architect **Mihai “Mike” Marcu** (1937–2018) was a longtime professional associate of PHLF and a director of Landmarks Development Corporation. IKM Incorporated, the firm he led for many years, has been a corporate member since 2003. Most notably, Mike led the award-winning \$33 million renovation of the Allegheny County Jail to serve the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, and the design of a new welcome center and tropical rainforest addition at Phipps, complementing and celebrating the historic conservatory. PHLF played an advisory role in both projects.
- A graduate of Shady Side Academy and Columbia Law School and a decorated Navy veteran in the Vietnam War, **Willis McCook “Cookie” Miller, Jr.** (1941–2017) served as a PHLF Trustee from 1997 to 2013. He was supportive of PHLF’s actions to save architectural landmarks in Pittsburgh and was especially proud and grateful for our role in the preservation and restoration of the Willis McCook home, now part of Mansions on Fifth in Shadyside.
- A director of Landmarks Development Corporation and a former PHLF staff member, **D. William “Bill” Roberts** (1931–2017) understood real estate development and marketing. He helped create the marketing plan for Station Square that brought more than three million people each year to the historic riverfront development and was instrumental on our behalf in founding the Three Rivers Regatta. Always kind and cool under pressure, Bill worked with many people and organizations for the benefit of all.
- Daniel M. Rooney** (1932–2017), chairman of Pittsburgh Steelers Sports, served as a trustee of PHLF from 1988 through 2009, when he was appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. A life-long resident of the Northside, Dan was a key supporter of our work there. In 2016, he funded the installation of a portal sculpture near Heinz Field that PHLF had rescued from the demolished Manchester Bridge. He remained modest and generous, although his impact on the city and region was enormous.
- A lifetime member, tour participant, and volunteer for sixteen years, **Ann Fay Ruben** (1936–2017) helped complete many membership mailings and special projects. She was always cheerful, ready to help, and eager to share her stories about Pittsburgh history and architecture.

## Providing Technical Assistance Throughout the Region



*You and your PHLF staff have helped Old St. Luke’s in Scott Township from time to time for almost six decades. I thank you this time for the work of Greg Yochum, who pruned and reshaped the row of hedges surrounding this landmark church and bordering the burial ground. The site looks neat and indicates that the church is an inviting, welcoming place.*

—The Reverend Richard Davies, to Arthur Ziegler on September 7, 2018

“Several members of our staff provide technical assistance, upon request, to owners of historic properties throughout the Pittsburgh region,” said PHLF Vice President Michael Sriprasert. “With decades of experience in real estate development, restoration, and landscape design, we offer sound advice to others.” Recently, staff members provided:

- code compliance and environmental and construction management assistance to several non-profits and community organizations that are interested in converting three former Pittsburgh Public Schools into community and/or day care centers. The former schools are: —Beltzhoover (designed in 1905 by W. J. Shaw with additions in 1909 and after) at 320 Cedarhurst Street; —Chatham (designed in 1925 by Louis Stevens) at 227 Bonvue Street in Observatory Hill; and —McNaugher (designed in 1910 by Charles M. Bartberger & Son) at 2610 Maple Street in Perry South.
- management services for repairing the roof and six-story building that once

- served as the Union Station in Brownsville.
- advice on replacing deteriorating historic windows in the Harmony Museum and the Wagner House Museum Annex. They are among eight properties protected by preservation easements, thanks to a donation from Historic Harmony, Inc., to PHLF in 2009.
- reports detailing existing conditions and presenting recommendations for the continued maintenance of Bethel AME Church at 700 West Main Street in Monongahela and of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Rankin.
- recommendations to aid in the preservation of John Roebling’s Wire Rope Workshop in Saxonburg. PHLF is planning a membership tour in Saxonburg on Saturday, July 13, 2019. More than thirty-two 100-year-old (and older) buildings still stand, including Roebling’s Wire Rope Workshop from the 1830s. Saxonburg is still laid out according to Roebling’s plan, with only one extension. John A. Roebling (1806–69), an immigrant from Prussia (now Germany) and a pioneer in the design of suspension bridges, became one of the most famous American civil engineers. He designed three suspension bridges in Pittsburgh using an improved method for making wire rope cable that he patented in 1842.



**John Roebling’s Wire Rope Workshop is located in Roebling Park in Saxonburg, PA. Join us on a tour there on July 13, 2019.**

*Photo courtesy of Saxonburg Museum Archives*

## Wisdom from PHLF’s First Heritage Workshop

More than forty owners and caretakers of historic buildings in Greene, Washington, and Fayette counties gathered in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, on November 4, 2017, for PHLF’s first “Heritage Workshop” addressing “Practical Ways to Care for Your Historic Building(s).” Co-sponsored by sixteen local organizations thanks to the efforts of PHLF Trustee Mary Beth Pastorius, the full-day workshop was funded through PHLF’s 50th Anniversary Fund. One of the goals of that fundraising effort was to help PHLF provide technical assistance to main streets and historic neighborhoods throughout the Pittsburgh region, with a particular emphasis on outlying counties where no local preservation

organizations exist to assist concerned citizens.

Bill Callahan, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s community preservation coordinator for Western Pennsylvania, summed up the importance of historic preservation by noting that:

*Historic preservation is fundamentally a design ethic. It is an economic imperative for communities to use historic preservation as a twenty-first-century development strategy. Heritage tourism is a major industry. By saving historic places, a community provides meaningful, authentic experiences for citizens and for visitors—and maintains a sustainable, healthy built environment.*



## Preservation News

### Challenges

#### The Abrams House

The chapter on Postmodernism in our guidebook on twentieth-century architecture (*see page 20*) begins with a full-page color photo of the Betty and Irving Abrams House at 118A Woodland Road in Shadyside, designed in 1979–82 by Robert Venturi of Venturi & Rauch (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Author Al Tannler summarizes the importance of the architect who “led the 1960s challenge” to introduce “contemporary design that was ‘allowed’ to draw upon historical architectural forms and materials.” After interviewing several architects, including Philip Johnson, Betty and her husband selected Robert Venturi to design their retirement home. According to Al, the result was “a masterful organization of space. It is a small house with adjacent living, eating, and sleeping spaces, yet feels spacious and open, both internally and in relationship to its wooded site.” Years later, after visiting the house in November 2002, Venturi wrote in a personal letter to Betty: “I am now considering the project one of the best that has come out of our office which I am very, very proud of.”

**Sequence of Events:** Betty died on February 6, 2018. She had been living alone in her beloved home for many years after her husband’s death and had often welcomed PHLF tours and hosted special events (*see page 8*). Robert Venturi died on September 18, 2018—and the months in between and following the deaths of the client and architect have been extremely challenging for the house.

PHLF was to receive the house upon Betty’s death, make repairs, sell it with a protective easement to someone who valued its significance, and establish gift annuities for Betty’s two daughters. However, there was an unexpected caveat in the will that gave Betty’s estate the right to void the gift if certain appraisal conditions were not met. Since they were not met, the estate sold the house to William and Patricia Snyder, knowing that the Snyders intended to demolish the house. (The Snyders had purchased and were renovating the *adjacent* house designed in 1979–83 by New York architect Richard Meier.) The Snyders applied for a demolition permit from the City of Pittsburgh on July 23, 2018. Don Kortlandt, a City resident and PHLF’s general counsel, nominated the Abrams House as a City Historic Structure on August 6 in an effort to forestall the demolition of the house and provide time for a public discussion that

might lead to a favorable solution.

On November 7, the City of Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission recommended the designation of the Abrams House as a City Historic Structure. On December 4, the City’s Planning Commission sent the nomination to City Council with a positive recommendation. City Council will make the final decision.

Meanwhile, Thomas Schmidt, who lives near the Abrams House and has a long association with PHLF, has undertaken efforts with PHLF to raise funds to relocate the house, perhaps to Polymath Park in Acme, Pennsylvania (*see page 17*). The Snyders intend to retain the historic bridge that inspired the design of the Postmodern Abrams House, so an ideal relocation strategy would not only seek an appropriate site, but include a recreation of the bridge.

If the Abrams House is designated a City Historic Structure, then the Snyders would not be able to demolish it. If it is not so designated, then they could either have the house demolished or dismantled, stored, and relocated.

These are not the outcomes that Betty discussed with PHLF, but they are the results of the sequence of events thus far.

### Successes

#### Union Trust Building

The Boston-based Elkus Manfredi Architects received the American Architecture Award in 2018 for its work in restoring the Union Trust Building at 501 Grant Street in Downtown Pittsburgh. The Davis Companies acquired the Union Trust Building in 2014 and is responsible for the award-winning \$100 million renovation. PHLF hosted its 2018 Landmarks Heritage Society event there on September 18. The façade is lit at night.



#### Point Park University’s Pittsburgh Playhouse

PHLF trustee David Kleer and several staff members attended a gala event on October 13, 2018, and toured Point Park University’s new Pittsburgh



*Photos by John Altdorfer (above and below)*

Playhouse in Downtown Pittsburgh. It was designed by DLR Group/Westlake Reed Leskosky (Cleveland, Ohio). The \$60 million educational and entertainment center includes three theaters, scene/prop/costume shops, and a sound

stage. People walking by the complex at 350 Forbes Avenue can look through the large windows to see students learning the art of theater production.

PHLF worked with the University to ensure that the upper façades of three historic buildings at 320, 322, and 330 Forbes Avenue were documented, dismantled, catalogued, and stored before being reinstalled in the Playhouse’s urban courtyard. The façade deconstruction was completed in 2017 and about ninety-five percent of the 685 individual terra-cotta pieces were salvaged, according to Elmer Burger, the University’s architect.



The Pittsburgh Playhouse opens into two historic buildings. The Industrial Bank Building, designed in 1903 by Charles M. Bartberger, housed the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange from 1962 to 1974. The former Colonial Trust Company Building, designed in 1902 and 1926 by Frederick J. Osterling, was adapted for use as the University Center in 1997. The magnificent stained-glass ceiling of the former Industrial Bank Building was restored as part of the new Pittsburgh Playhouse. A flat ceiling, added in 1940, was removed in order to expose the building’s original stained-glass coffers.

“The Pittsburgh Playhouse is an impressive facility,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. “It demonstrates the University’s commitment to combining new construction with historic preservation to enhance its urban campus and to revitalize Downtown Pittsburgh.”

*(continued on page 10)*

### Easements

#### Pittsburgh Athletic Association

The PAA Land Company donated a preservation easement to PHLF on April 13, 2017, thus protecting the façade of the former Pittsburgh Athletic Association in perpetuity. Designed by Janssen & Abbott in



1909–11, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and located in a City Historic District, the limestone and terra-cotta building at 4215 Fifth Avenue is one of the best in the Oakland Civic Center. Walnut Capital recently acquired the clubhouse and is converting it into restaurant and office space with a new fitness facility and club room for members.

“A new board was constituted after the easement donation was made,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, “and that board contested the easement. When it became clear that PHLF was prepared to defend its easement in court, the board agreed to drop its lawsuit. Once an easement is donated to PHLF, we have the responsibility to defend and enforce it. We solicit contributions to endow these perpetual costs and expenses.”

Since 1979, PHLF has accepted forty-two easements. The legal agreement made between a property owner and PHLF is recorded in the local recorder of deeds office and binds both the current owner and all future owners. For further information, please contact David Farkas, PHLF’s director of real estate development: [david@phlf.org](mailto:david@phlf.org); 412-471-5808, ext. 516.

#### An Update: Omni Bedford Springs Resort

Bedford Resort Partners, Ltd., donated preservation easements to PHLF in 2005 on the restored Bedford Springs Hotel and golf course. Tom Keffer, PHLF’s director of construction, visits Bedford Springs each year to monitor the easement. The resort and town are prospering, as PHLF Trustee Larry Glasco noted in his e-mail to staff on June 30, 2017:

*My wife Ingrid and a friend took a bus tour to Bedford Springs yesterday.*

*Ingrid came back absolutely thrilled with what she saw. The resort has always been charming since its restoration, but it has been further fixed up and is just beautiful.*

*In addition, the economic spillover is stunning. There are new stores and many improvements in the town; everything is well maintained. The tour guide said that the historic resort has truly revitalized the town.*

*Kudos to PHLF! I’m proud to belong to an organization doing such fine work.*





## Your Legacy

As a member, we invite you to consider making a special commitment to PHLF through your will or estate plan. Your support will help us keep what is beautiful, memorable, and unique about Pittsburgh's historic built environment "alive" and useful in the twenty-first century, thus improving the quality of life for people throughout the region and protecting its significant architectural heritage. Contact Karamagi Rujumba ([karamagi@phlf.org](mailto:karamagi@phlf.org); 412-471-5808, ext. 547), PHLF's director of development and communications, to discuss any of the following options.

- **Charitable IRA Rollovers:** Persons over the age of 70.5 who own a Traditional IRA may convey up to \$100,000 to PHLF with no adverse tax consequences while meeting your required minimum distribution requirement.

- **Charitable Trusts:** Charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts provide income for you or PHLF and can help you diversify your assets.

- **Easements:** Any owner of a historic property may donate a preservation easement to PHLF. Donors have included individuals, limited partnerships, for-profit corporations, and non-profit organizations. A preservation easement is a legal agreement between a property owner and PHLF that places permanent restrictions that are mutually agreed to on a historic property to protect it from inappropriate alteration, development, and destruction.

- **Gift Annuity:** In return for \$10,000 or more, PHLF provides you and/or a spouse with lifetime income at highly competitive rates determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

- **Life Insurance:** By completing a change of owner and change of beneficiary form, you may give a life insurance policy to PHLF and receive a federal income tax deduction.

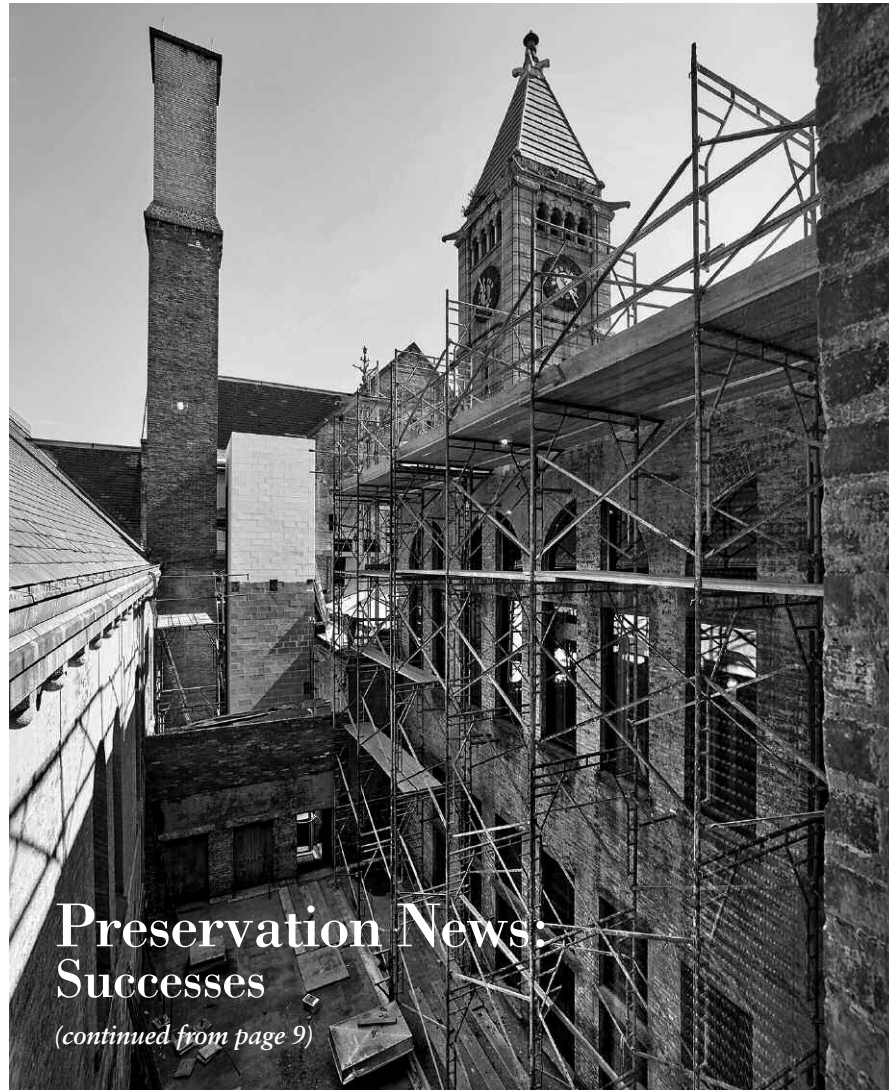
- **Named Fund:** Through a one-time gift of \$50,000 or more which can be paid over a five-year period, you may establish a Named Fund and generate perpetual income to address a preservation-related issue that you choose to support.

- **Outright Gift:** Annual gifts of \$1,000 or more enroll you as a Landmarks Heritage Society (LHS) member. A one-time donation of \$5,000 or more enrolls you as a Life Benefactor. LHS members and Life Benefactors are invited to a special event each year.

- **Retained Life Estate:** You may transfer title to a residence or farm to PHLF and retain the right to live there and use the property for life. A tax deduction is available in the year of the gift equal to the present value of the projected future gift. During your lifetime, you are responsible for the property's upkeep. Upon your death, PHLF receives the property to protect and/or sell.

- **Wills & Ways:** Through a bequest, you are able to direct some of your assets to PHLF after your death. At that time, your estate will receive a charitable estate tax deduction and PHLF will receive your gift. Naming PHLF as a beneficiary of a retirement plan will achieve similar objectives with better tax consequences.

*Please consult your tax advisor for more information.*



Scaffolding was erected in the lightwell of the former Allegheny Regional Library on Pittsburgh's Northside so the brick could be repointed and the windows could be replaced.

*Photos by ©Ed Massery 2018*

## Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Renovates Former Carnegie Library

In April 2019, the former Allegheny Regional Library will reopen after an impressive sixteen-month renovation. The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP) is leasing the building from the City of Pittsburgh for twenty-nine years (through 2046) and has raised \$17.3 million to date to renovate the historic landmark. The CMP's Museum Lab™, which will provide experiences for youth ages ten and up with its Studio Lab, Tech Lab, and Make Lab, will be located in the building, along with Allies for Children and Manchester Academic Charter Middle School (*see page 15*), among others. CMP Project Director Chris Cieslak has been managing the renovation with the architectural team of Koning Eizenberg (Santa Monica, California) and



Arches and columns were rediscovered in the second-floor lobby.

Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel (Pittsburgh). Mascaro Construction Company is the Construction Manager.

"Once this building is operational," said CMP Executive Director Jane Werner, "we will have the largest cultural campus for children in the country." The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh already includes three buildings—the Old Post Office (*see page 13*), the Lantern Building (2004),



The outline of the former fireplace is visible in the Grable Gallery on the first floor. When the library interior was modernized in 1974, the monumental stair was removed, an elevator was installed in the lobby, the mosaic tile was covered with quarry tile, portraits were covered by a bulkhead, windows were walled over, and wainscot and wood doors were removed. Many of the original interior details are now being revealed.



The second-floor mezzanine will be part of Manchester Academic Charter School.

and the former Buhl Planetarium (1939)—and various outdoor spaces, including the Buhl Community Park in Allegheny Center.

"The Children's Museum has done a tremendous job in creating new life for the former Allegheny Regional Library," said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler. Designed in 1888–90 by Smithmeyer & Pelz (Washington, D.C.), the Romanesque building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a City Historic Structure and a PHLF Historic Landmark. When the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh relocated its Northside branch to a new facility on Federal Street in 2009, much of the building remained empty. Only the New Hazlett Theater and other groups continued to stage productions in the former music hall.

The CMP needs to raise \$1.2 million more. To make a tax-deductible donation, please text MLAB to 91999 or visit <https://pittsburghkids.org/about/in-the-community/museumlab>.



## Mt. Lebanon History Center Opens in 1930s Home

The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon celebrated the opening of its renovated headquarters on September 29, 2018—but second-grade students from the Mt. Lebanon School District were welcomed into the Spanish Colonial Revival-style home at 794 Washington Road earlier that week during walking tours along Washington Road with PHLF and the Historical Society. Nine stained-glass ceiling panels were uncovered, restored, and reinstalled by Williams Stained Glass during the six-month restoration. RSH Architects oversaw the building renovations and FMS Construction served as the general contractor for this phase of the renovation work. About \$700,000 still needs to be raised so that the building can be acquired from the Mt. Lebanon Municipality; a trompe l'oeil mural in the center atrium and a hand-painted frieze in the former living and dining rooms can be restored; and an endowment can be established for continuing maintenance.



# A Preservation Marvel: Replacing the Roof on the Allegheny County Courthouse

*The County Courthouse is the people's building. We have been entrusted with this historic landmark that must also function as a workplace and gathering place for thousands of people. By working with PWVG, we now have a master plan and strategy to take the steps that we need to ensure that the Courthouse is here for generations to come. We're excited about the work that is underway, and look forward to future work that will improve this beautiful building for our community.*

—County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

It's worth looking 100 feet up when you are walking along Grant Street in Downtown Pittsburgh, between Forbes Avenue, Fifth Avenue, and Ross Street, because the 130-year-old roof of the Allegheny County Courthouse is being replaced. Cuddy Roofing has devised an ingenious system for replacing the 445,000 terra-cotta tiles on the steeply pitched roof.

Actual work began in February 2018 on the first phase of the roof replacement (the street-facing roofs of the Courthouse) and is expected to be completed in early 2019. The \$10-million project is funded through the County's capital budget. The second phase of the roof replacement (the courtyard-facing roofs) went out to bid on July 20, 2018. It is anticipated that work will be completed in early 2020.

The new clay tiles provided by Ludowici have a warranty of seventy-five years, but clay tile is an extremely durable roofing material with superior longevity. The existing German-sourced clay tiles on the roof of the Courthouse lasted for 130 years. Although the tiles themselves were in good condition, they had been heavily stained from years of exposure to air pollutants. The new



Ludowici replacement, "Summer Rose," matches the original red-orange color of the clay tiles. Yes, the tiles on the Courthouse were originally red-orange, matching the reddish mortar and contrasting with the light-colored granite.

Jessica Stuck, an Associate with Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel (PWVG), has been involved in the Courthouse restoration as the Project Manager since 2015. She has found the project to be fascinating and rewarding:

*Besides the opportunity to explore and research this National Historic Landmark designed by H.H. Richardson, a renowned American architect, it has been rewarding to work with Ludowici, a preeminent clay-tile manufacturer, to provide replacement tile to match the original building tile. Our project team was able to tour the Ludowici plant in New Lexington, Ohio, to see how the specialty ridge pieces were fabricated. While the manufacturing process has been modernized, the clay tile materials are authentic to the 1885 materials of the original Courthouse tiles: clay, water, and heat.*

## Overcoming Challenges

Replacing the roof has been a challenging project because of several factors:

- Access to the roof was severely limited during the investigation and design phases because the Courthouse is surrounded on all four sides by busy streets and because the roof is extremely steep. PWVG was only able to review the existing conditions from inside the attic and from adjacent buildings. In order to fully understand the original construction of the roof, PWVG reviewed the original drawings by H.H. Richardson from 1885 that are maintained by the County.
- During the roof-replacement work, it has been difficult for the contractor, Cuddy Roofing, to stockpile material because of the site restrictions. Cuddy Roofing developed a plan to store materials at the top scaffolding platform near the eave and to bring in a crane every weekend to remove the demolished tile and to replenish the new tile and materials. This unorthodox strategy has proven to be an ingenious solution.

*Fabricating the specialty ridge pieces (left) at the Ludowici plant in Ohio.*

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Stuck*



Franco Associates repointed and repaired the masonry on the main tower of the Allegheny County Courthouse and on the two smaller courtyard towers between August 2017 and May 2018. Meanwhile, the first phase of the roof replacement project began in November 2017, although actual work was not underway until February 2018. It will continue into early 2019.

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Stuck*

## Purchase a Piece of History

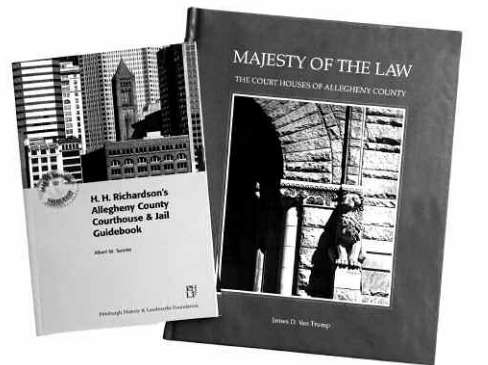
Allegheny County has entered into a unique partnership with Wendell August Forge to transform the original terra-cotta tiles into collectible keepsakes. Proceeds from the sale of the tiles will go to the Allegheny County Parks Foundation. Wendell August Forge artisans have created eight different items from the tiles, including calendars, wall hangings, a candle holder, a wine flight tile, and a beer flight tile. To view the collection and to place an order visit: [www.wendellaugust.com/allegheny-countycourthouse](http://www.wendellaugust.com/allegheny-countycourthouse).

## More Work to Come

Prior to the tower masonry and roof replacement projects, PWVG worked with the County to prepare a Facilities Master Plan, outlining a fifteen-year work plan that will be in accordance with the National Park Service's Standards and meet the County's performance goals as established in the Pittsburgh 2030 Challenge: to achieve fifty percent reductions in energy use, water use, and transportation emissions by 2030.

The County choose to first undertake the tower and roof work in order to ensure a sound building envelope. Future interior restoration and rehabilitation work will follow.

PHLF has published two major books on the Allegheny County Courthouse, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in 1884–88, and leads more than fifty tour groups each year into the courtyard and Courthouse, time permitting. In addition, PHLF awarded its first Historic Landmark plaque to the Courthouse in 1968; worked with the County in 1976 to design and rebuild the courtyard; helped in the effort to restore Courtroom 321 in 1988; conducted a paint analysis study in 2003 on the upper floors; and initiated a Courthouse bench program in 2003 that continues to the present, so inappropriate furniture in the hallways can be replaced with custom-designed benches.



*Editor's note: With special thanks to County Executive Rich Fitzgerald's staff and Jessica M. Stuck, AIA, of Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel (PWVG) for major contributions to this story.*



# Remembering Why We Began and Assessing Our Impact

Louise Sturgess

I value printed publications and historic places and I'm always inspired by the next generation, so working at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) for the past thirty-seven years has been a perfect fit for me. As we were developing our "Greatest Saves" bus tour this fall, offered for the first time on September 30, 2018 to celebrate our 54th anniversary, I re-read the first report that PHLF published for both its members and the community. It is helpful to remember the wisdom of our founders and their guiding ideas when a new generation of trustees, employees, and members is assuming leadership roles with PHLF.

On December 31, 1965, fifteen months after PHLF's incorporation, Charles Covert Arensberg wrote the following introduction to the report. He was our president at the time and soon became our chairman, serving with dedication until 1994.

## Why We Began

*From any of the great, green hills of Pittsburgh, we look down upon a glittering, golden urban scene of glass, steel, aluminum, and concrete that follows the rivers and valleys. It seems indeed a glorification of the contemporary city: no site could be more magnificent, no vitality so abundant, no renewal so sure.*

*But if we descend the hills and inspect the complex closely, a different picture emerges. The rivers become a mirage; except for a small area near the Point, we have not a single waterfront for the people—the historic riversides have been sacrificed to railroads and highways. Old buildings—good, bad, indifferent—have given way to planners' hopes or subsided in neglect or been submerged behind neon, plastic tile, and anodized screens. The great impersonal slabs are an opaque screen before our past.*

*We find in fact that we have been grossly indifferent to our 200 years of history. Only two eighteenth-century buildings remain within the city confines; the Blockhouse and a sagging log cabin in Schenley Park. [Several more have been identified since 1965.] While work is going on to reclaim part of the historical Point area, the Greek and Gothic Revival buildings of the nineteenth century vanish before us; even the houses of the later part of that century are decaying rapidly, turning into slums.*



PHLF and its subsidiaries initiated the Station Square mixed-use development in 1976 and served as the prime developer of the 52-acre, riverfront site until 1994. In August 2018, the Grand Concourse celebrated its 40th anniversary—and Brookfield Asset Management, Inc. announced that it would be acquiring Station Square from Forest City Realty Trust, the owner since 1994. Meanwhile, Forest City is in the midst of a \$30-million renovation of the Freight House Shops and Trammell Crow Company is developing the "Glasshouse," a five-story residential mixed-use building, east of the Smithfield Street Bridge.

*This architectural and historical tragedy gave rise in September 1964 to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. A group of some seventy civic leaders, the Department of City Planning, and the staff of Charette: Pennsylvania Journal of Architecture launched the organization with the hope of arresting the deterioration and repairing at least some of the damage.*

*Now a new interest in historic preservation is sweeping across the country, and we feel its impact at all levels of city life and of government. Can we infuse Pittsburgh with the vitality of this idea? Can the results [that] other cities are enjoying be felt here too? Can we preserve and breathe life into some of the buildings, streets, indeed, whole areas which make Pittsburgh so picturesque, so vital, so unique an American city?*

*We cannot answer those questions yet. We are extremely gratified, however, at the enthusiastic response our goals have received throughout the county. Fifteen months of work are not enough, however. We are just beginning. We pledge a continuing drive for these aims in the years to come.*

## Guiding Principles

Following Charley's introductory note, Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., executive secretary, and James D. Van Trump, historian and preservation consultant, presented a two-page report and financial summary. Two key passages continue to guide us:

*... We feel that not enough attention has been given to young people in the*

*field of historic preservation. We believe that the child who knows his environment will become an adult who cares about his environment whether he remains a citizen of Pittsburgh or moves to any part of the country. ...*

*... An organization like this must delineate certain goals for itself, but it must also follow currents of need. We are never sure what call will come tomorrow; our task is to be prepared for the possibilities. ...*

## 54 Years Later

Thanks to the support and involvement of our members and funding from many private and public sources, PHLF has grown to become one of the most vigorous, innovative, accomplished, and respected preservation groups in the nation. Charley would be proud.

Umer Humayan, a project manager here since 2014, reviewed decades of files at the suggestion of PHLF Vice President Michael Sriprasert. He calculated that PHLF had invested more than \$350 million in the Pittsburgh region between 1967 and 2017. This amount is adjusted for inflation and includes loans, grants, real estate acquisitions, and restorations.

"PHLF has created a fifty-plus-year preservation-ethic trail," wrote Chairman Emeritus Phil Hallen in an e-mail on March 8, 2018, "educating citizens and developers to the fact that preservation makes economic sense. Preserving community fabric and historic architecture gives us imaginative new uses, while also creating attractive

economic results. Just think of Pittsburgh's many historic buildings that have been converted into hotels as one recent example."

Brooke Johncour, a granddaughter of PHLF Chair Jack Norris, wrote a paper in February 2017 for her eighth-grade English class about the community impact of PHLF's work. She learned that:

*PHLF saves old buildings that are rich in historical value and meaning. PHLF has redefined what urban renewal is. Urban renewal used to mean destroying old buildings and their history; it now means saving those old buildings and preserving their history. PHLF has saved many buildings, including the Allegheny Post Office (which is now the Children's Museum) ...*

*PHLF strives to develop a new form of a neighborhood, in which people of every background and income group can create a new area to live together within old architecture to preserve history and meaning from the past. They do this by restoring houses (which hold special memories and meaning), which is the key factor within a unified neighborhood.*



Many in the next generation understand our values and are ready to get involved and lead. PHLF's preservation efforts are at the very heart of renewing this region in the 21st century. Our work results in the restoration of architecturally significant buildings, an improved quality of life for people throughout the region, and sustainable economic development. The need for our programs and services continues to grow as more historic buildings, bridges, main streets, parks, and communities age—and because all generations want our historic buildings and neighborhoods to be a vital part of our region for generations to come.

Frank and Elizabeth Stanley, longtime PHLF members who now live in Connecticut, recently visited Pittsburgh. On August 8, 2018, Frank wrote: "It was a real pleasure to see familiar buildings, neighborhoods, and places—and to see old things becoming new again—particularly Wilksburg." The Crescent and Falconhurst, shown here on Kelly Avenue, are among fourteen historic buildings in Wilksburg that PHLF has renovated for affordable housing and educational use.



PHLF opened its offices on January 9, 1972 in the "Old Post Office," after rescuing and restoring the copper-domed landmark of 1897 on Pittsburgh's Northside. An editorial in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on January 13, 1972, began with this sentence: "If a society displays its values by what it builds, it as surely states them by what it saves from the past." In 1985, PHLF moved its headquarters to The Landmarks Building at Station Square and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh occupied the Old Post Office. In 1991, PHLF donated the building to the Children's Museum, which has continued to grow and expand.



PHLF members Duncan and Clare Horner have restored seven homes in the Mexican War Streets, so named by PHLF when it initiated restoration efforts there in 1967.

Photo by Michael Henninger



Photo by Robert Larson



## National Influence

*If people only knew the role PHLF plays in who we are as a city and region, they would love us more than the Steelers.*

—Jack Miller, June 12, 2018, PHLF member and planned-giving donor

*Thank you for educating me about the amazing work your organization continues to produce ... I found Pittsburgh to bear such a kindred resemblance to New Orleans ... Your response, "We are not urban planners; we are urban doers," stands as my favorite takeaway to steer our efforts moving forward.*

—Erin D. Holmes, Advocacy Coordinator, Preservation Resource Center, New Orleans, May 4, 2017

*I was reading the most recent issue of the PHLF newsletter ... Your president's note brought back memories of your fight against Mayor Murphy's downtown plan, and why preservation's vision for Pittsburgh was so much on target. We've all learned from your work through the years, and the Trust has begun—through our Preservation Green Lab research—to provide a growing body of evidence in support of the steps PHLF called for in downtown Pittsburgh. Thanks for the ongoing leadership you and PHLF provide to the field.*

—David J. Brown, Executive Vice President and Chief Preservation Officer, National Trust for Historic Preservation, July 5, 2017

*... Brent and I enjoyed the time we spent with you touring Pittsburgh and learning of all that you have done to put heritage to use to create a more inclusive and sustainable city. We both came away with a deep appreciation of the commitment, perseverance, and unique capacities of the team at PHLF.*

*... We were a bit awed by the way you do your work together—the collaborative nature and interplay, the lack of ego, the clarity of purpose, the spirit of joy you all take in the work itself. ... Warmest regards from a new PHLF champion,*

—Ann Thornton, Director of Foundations & Strategic Initiatives, National Trust for Historic Preservation, in an e-mail to Arthur Ziegler, Michael Sriprasert, Karamagi Rujumba, and David Farkas on May 24, 2018

Students throughout the region learn to value the historic built environment through PHLF's career awareness programs, walking tours, poetry and art workshops, and architectural design challenges. One teacher wrote: "It is so important for students, young students, to see all that has been saved and restored in our city. Plus, it is important to see the craftsmanship of buildings in our city. It is these educational field trips that open children's perspectives and help them discover what is possible as career choices."





Second-grade students from Markham Elementary in the Mt. Lebanon School District created these three-dimensional houses after exploring their community with PHLF and The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon.



## Worth Noting

- Mahra Whitlock, who grew up in Pittsburgh and volunteered with PHLF's Camp DEC (Design Explore Create) for Pittsburgh Public School students in the summer of 2011, now teaches first-grade in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In July 2018, she joined the staff of Happy Hill Arts Summer Creative Academics, a collaboration between the Neighborhood Association and UNC School of the Arts. The camp aimed to strengthen community pride while teaching arts and life skills to the children. That's exactly the approach that PHLF advocates and that Mahra continues to teach.

- People came from North Carolina, New Jersey, and Michigan to attend PHLF's walking tour of August Wilson's Hill District on August 18, 2018 (see the photo on page 22).

- Gabrielle Rubinstein, who left Pittsburgh to teach third-grade in Oakland, California, received several educational resources from PHLF. She wrote: "The projects and student work are so meaningful and inspiring. I can't wait to adapt PHLF's creative, community-based approach into my new environment. I will definitely be sharing many of PHLF's ideas with other educators."

- Callie DeMasters, who participated in educational programs with PHLF as a second- and third-grade student, published *The Buildings We See: A Living Archive of Mount Lebanon High School*. The 416-page book documents the multi-year renovation of the high school and campus. Callie donated a book to our James D. Van Trump Library. She is a first-year student at Chatham University, which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2019. PHLF and Chatham are planning a special walking tour of the campus.

- Erik Doran, a math teacher at Greensburg-Salem Middle School (GSMS) in Westmoreland County, participated in PHLF's 3rd Annual Architectural Design Challenge in 1998–99 when he was a student at GSMS. On October 3, 2018, Erik brought a group of his students to tour the Roundhouse at the Hazelwood Green site, the subject of PHLF's 23rd Annual Architectural Design Challenge. After twenty years, he's still a fan of PHLF's educational programs. Student teams will present their ideas for reusing the Roundhouse on April 4 and 5, 2019.

- Will Prince, a former PHLF intern, is the Main Street Manager for the Washington PA Business District Authority. We congratulate him on his new job and look forward to working with him.

# Education Through Exploration

Thanks to a generous grant from the McSwigan Family Foundation Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation and support from others—and thanks to our docents and to the volunteer assistance from many architects and community leaders (see below)—PHLF's education staff is able to involve more than 5,000 students each year (K-12) in creative, place-based educational programs. "We are firm advocates of connecting the curriculum to the built environment—to the real world of the student's home, school, and community—so learning is relevant, meaningful, and hands-on," said PHLF Executive Director Louise Sturgess.

In addition, we are able to involve more than 5,000 adults in private and public tours featuring significant architectural landmarks and historic neighborhoods throughout the Pittsburgh region. "Our docents created a series of popular walking tours this year in seven City and County neighborhoods," said Mary Lu Denny, director of Membership Services. "They will be continuing these—and developing more—neighborhood walking tours in 2019 and offering free walking tours in Downtown Pittsburgh and in Oakland on both Wednesdays and Fridays." Tour details will be listed on our website by March 30, 2019: [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org).



During an educational workshop with PHLF on July 11, 2018, twelve young writers sketched architectural details adorning the Carnegie Library and Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History in Oakland. They also wrote poems or short stories, using personification. PHLF reproduced their work in a colorful two-sided poster and gave one to each student. PHLF's workshop was part of the Carnegie Museum of Art and Western Pennsylvania Writing Project's summer camp for third- through sixth-grade students.



On February 9, 2018, ninety-eight fourth-grade students from Heritage Elementary School in the Franklin Regional School District celebrated the release of *Architectural Details in Poetry and Art*, published by PHLF. The book features the students' poems and charcoal drawings of architectural details from buildings in Greensburg and Pittsburgh. The students used personification in their poetry and imagined being the detail. Diane Lombard, a greeter at Heritage Elementary, wrote: "This is such a wonderful project to promote reading, creativity, artistry, and proud citizens of Western Pennsylvania."



Nineteen middle school teams and four high school teams from Westmoreland County Schools presented architectural models and spoke passionately about their plans for reusing two vacant buildings in West Newton, Pennsylvania, during PHLF's 22nd Annual Architectural Design Challenge on March 22 and 23, 2018. The historic buildings at 123-127 East Main Street were formerly occupied by the G. C. Murphy Company. They are endangered, although Downtown West Newton continues to work for their preservation.

## THANK YOU

### Docents

Lu Ann Abelson  
Jim Aiello  
Jo Ellen Aleshire  
Harry Bauman  
Sarah Bradford  
Mike Cahall  
Lucy Cichon  
Jim Dawson  
Karen Demmler  
Pat DiRienzo  
Debbie Edwards  
Pat Farkas  
Gabe Funaro  
M. L. Green  
Susan Henry

Ken Holmes  
Bob Jucha  
Leigh Koszarsky  
Ginger Lambeth  
Bette Landish  
Sandy Levis  
Sara McGuire  
Tim Merrill  
Arnold Miller  
Kay Pickard  
Lisa Pilewski  
Anne Pillion  
Mace Porac  
Sandy Preuhs  
Kim Reilly  
Bernie Rottschaefer

### Josi Smith

Al Stanish  
Cindy Stanish  
Paul Tellers  
David Vater  
Sue Vines  
Howard Voigt  
James Weddell  
Julie Wiltman

### Docents

Emeritus  
Bill Garrett  
Audrey Menke  
Anne Robb  
Kathy Testoni

### Community Volunteers

Cat Adams (architect)  
Kevin Boyle (WCDC)  
Anne Chen (GBBN)  
Angelica Ciranni (GBA)  
Kirsten Compitello (Michael Baker)  
Tracey Evans (WCDC)  
Eric Fisher (Fisher Architecture)  
Katrina Flora (Remake Group)  
Rebecca Flora (Remake Group)  
Kelley Folts (CanonDesign)  
Roger Hartung (IKM)  
Kelly Henderson (Chatham University, Eden Hall)  
James Hill (Office of the Mayor)  
Matt Huber (BCJ)

Peter Humphrey (MCF)  
Phyllis Kim (GBBN)  
Nicole Kubas (CitySTUDIO)  
Ann Lehman (TDA)  
David Lewis (urban designer)  
Sarah Medwig (GAI Consultants)  
Jan Mori (retired teacher)  
Martin Powell (TDA)  
Josh Rolon (WCDC)  
Patrick Shattuck (MVI)  
Jessica Stuck (PWWG)  
Rick Swartz (BGC)  
Carolina Tamayo (BCJ)  
Daniel Valentine, developer  
James Washabaugh (architect)  
Samantha Weaver (CMU)  
Helen Wilson (SHHS)



Our 2018 recipients were introduced on June 19 during a reception at the home of Sylvia Dallas, a member of the Landmarks Scholarship Committee. Joining PHLF Trustee David Brashear (center), from left: Jennifer Jaffe, Zoe Vongtau, Chandler Searcy, Katherine McRury, Daniel Speer, Zachary Trusky, and William Johnson. Franziska Nace, Daniel Bigley, and Giovanna Varlotta were not able to attend. Photo by Robert Larson

## Landmarks Scholarship Program:

# Helping 86 Allegheny County Students Since 1999

This year marked the 20th anniversary of PHLF's Scholarship Program. Since 1999, PHLF has awarded scholarships to seventy-two high school seniors from schools within Allegheny County. The \$6,000 scholarship is for book and tuition expenses and is payable directly to the recipient's college or university. In addition, PHLF has awarded Honorable Mentions (a one-time gift of \$250) to fourteen students since 2016. Thirty-four of these eighty-six recipients attended Pittsburgh Public High Schools

and fifty-two attended other schools within Allegheny County.

The essays that 1,042 applicants have written over the years, describing places in Allegheny County that are especially important to them, are archived at PHLF and are well worth reading.

PHLF's Scholarship Program is funded by the Brashear Family Named Fund, the McSwigan Family Foundation Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, and the Landmarks Scholarship Fund, including donations to the 2008 and

2014 Scholarship Celebrations. "This program allows PHLF to establish supportive relationships with high-achieving, community-minded young people who care deeply about the Pittsburgh region," said PHLF Trustee David Brashear. "Many of our scholarship alumni are now working in Pittsburgh and two former recipients, Todd Wilson and Kezia Ellison, serve on our Board of Trustees."

It turns out that two of our winners in 2018, Chandler Searcy and Giovanna

Varlotta, had participated in PHLF's "Building Pride/Building Character" field trip as third-grade students at Pittsburgh Phillips. We have the photo to prove it—and take pride in having played a part in developing their love for Pittsburgh.

PHLF's 2019 scholarship application will be available in January. The application deadline will be April 17, 2019.

## New Initiatives in 2019

### Neighborhood Stories, Including Mine

Thanks to a grant from the McSwigan Family Foundation Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, one of PHLF's newest books written by children will now be distributed to several thousand more children. Here's the story:

Fourth-grade students at Pittsburgh Colfax explored their Squirrel Hill neighborhood on a field trip with PHLF on October 17, 2017. The walking tour began at the Squirrel Hill branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and included a presentation by Helen Wilson from the Squirrel Hill Historical Society.

As a result of that experience, sixteen fourth-grade students completed an extra-credit assignment suggested by Erin Dulak, their English Language Arts teacher.

PHLF published their neighborhood stories and artwork along with worksheets and tips that any elementary-school student may use to explore his/her neighborhood. Several blank pages are also included in the book that any elementary-school student may complete. That's why the book is called *Neighborhood Stories, Including Mine*. There is room for everyone's story.

PHLF recently printed 3,500 more books and is partnering with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's BLAST team to make them available to third-

grade Pittsburgh Public School students. SLB Radio is interested in recording some of the students who are willing to read their neighborhood stories, and PHLF and the Carnegie Library are planning on sponsoring several special events in 2019 so students will be able to read their stories to community leaders, parents, and friends.

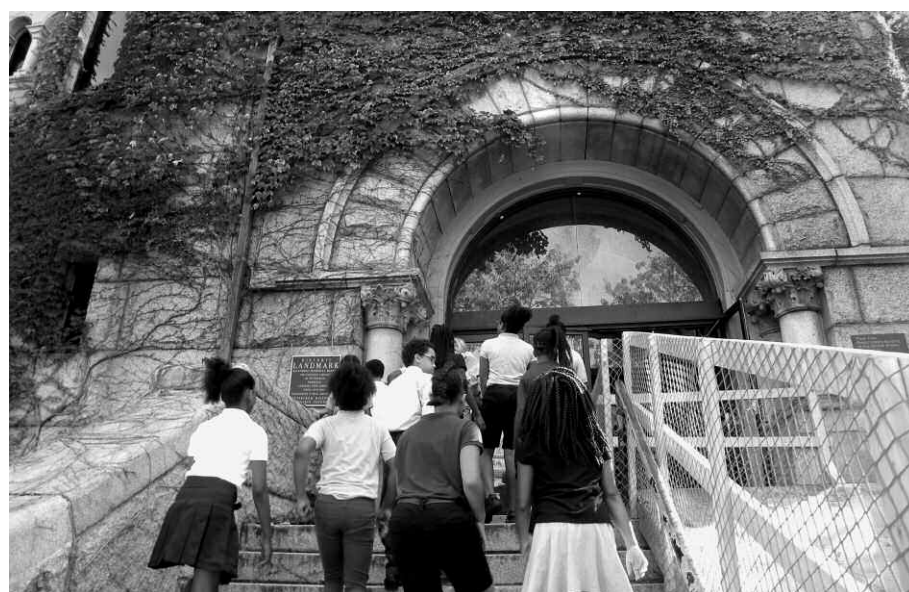
Teachers or educators who are interested in receiving books to use with young people may contact Marie Miller: [marie@phlf.org](mailto:marie@phlf.org); 412-471-5808. We will deliver or mail copies to you while supplies last. "How wonderful it would be if we could have each of Pittsburgh's ninety neighborhoods described in a student's story," said Louise Sturgess.



### The Fine Foundation Funds "Our Northside Neighbors and Our New Middle School"

Middle-school students and teachers from the Manchester Academic Charter School (MACS) will be moving from the Sarah Heinz House to the former Allegheny Regional Library on Pittsburgh's Northside in the spring of 2019, once the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh completes its impressive renovation of the historic landmark.

In anticipation of this move, PHLF developed two educational programs in 2017 and 2018 so that the middle-school students could explore their new neighborhood, interview people about the Northside, and develop a sense of belonging.



Middle-school students from Manchester Academic Charter School (MACS) explored Allegheny Center on Pittsburgh's Northside and the former Carnegie Library during a field trip with PHLF on September 25, 2017, just before the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh began renovating the historic landmark.



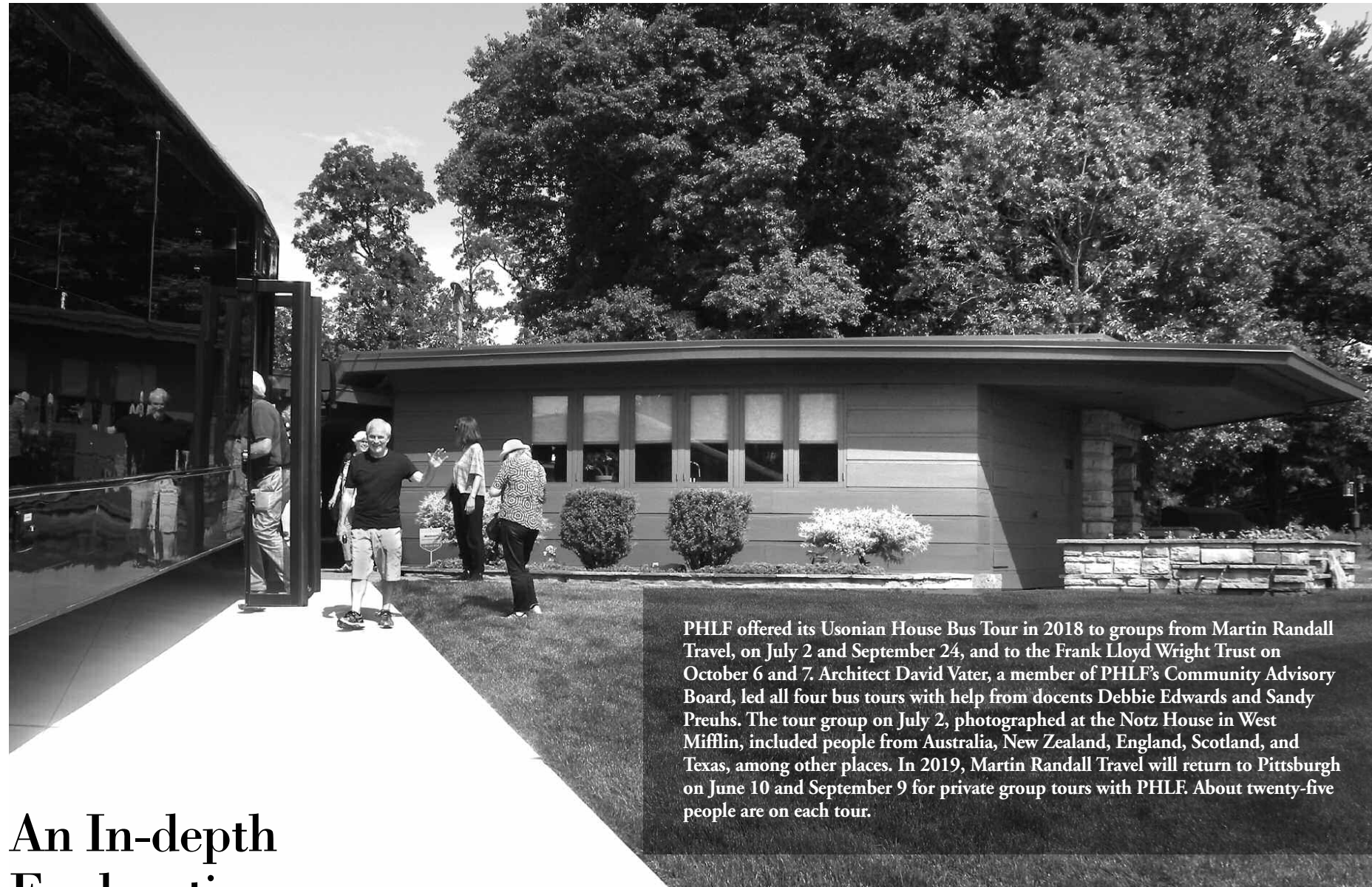
On May 7, 2018, MACS students toured various landmarks on the Northside that had been adapted for new uses and interviewed seven community leaders. SLB Radio worked with the students to record their interviews. To hear the audio-clips, visit: <https://neighborhoodvoices.org/northside-stories>

As a culminating activity in 2019, and with funding support from The Fine Foundation, PHLF and Emily Newman, an art teacher at MACS, will involve middle-school students in creating artwork and brief stories about Northside landmarks. Their work will be assembled into a permanent art display that will be installed in their new school. In addition, SLB Radio will install a "StoryBox" fixture in the school

lobby so people can hear the voices of seven Northside celebrities whom the students interviewed during PHLF's field trip on May 7, 2018.

"The goal of this program is to give students the chance to show off their skills as artists, interviewers, and writers, and to help them feel at home in their new environment, in the presence of the artwork and stories that they have created," said Louise.





PHLF offered its Usonian House Bus Tour in 2018 to groups from Martin Randall Travel, on July 2 and September 24, and to the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust on October 6 and 7. Architect David Vater, a member of PHLF's Community Advisory Board, led all four bus tours with help from docents Debbie Edwards and Sandy Preuhs. The tour group on July 2, photographed at the Notz House in West Mifflin, included people from Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, and Texas, among other places. In 2019, Martin Randall Travel will return to Pittsburgh on June 10 and September 9 for private group tours with PHLF. About twenty-five people are on each tour.

## An In-depth Exploration of Frank Lloyd Wright Architecture in America: Visitors from Around the World Begin Their Study Trip in Southwestern Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>

Albert M. Tannler

In 1932, Frank Lloyd Wright established an apprenticeship program called the Taliesin Fellowship, named after his Wisconsin home. The name is Welsh; it means “shining brow” and was the name of a Welsh poet. Apprentices paid a fee to work on Wright designs under his direction. In addition, the apprentices maintained the Taliesin buildings, worked on the Taliesin farm, shared food preparation duties, displayed their musical and theatrical talents, and participated in a communal existence revolving around the life and work of a master architect. The Taliesin Fellowship would be an integral part of Wright's remaining twenty-seven years. During that time, he designed some of his most acclaimed buildings, such as Fallingwater (1935–38) and Kentuck Knob (1953–56) in Western Pennsylvania.

During the 1930s, Wright explored modest designs for moderately priced homes suitable for twentieth-century American lifestyles—a preoccupation of his throughout his career and one realized, beginning in 1900, in his “Prairie” houses. In the 1930s he called such houses “Usonian” (adapted from United States of America). Although the appearance of Usonian houses was not uniform, each house contained standardized elements to reduce construction costs while providing the kind of domestic environment Wright considered desirable—a carport instead of a garage, no basement, a heating system embedded in the floors, built-in indirect lighting, built-in furniture, and natural wood cladding (rather than plaster or paint). Like all Wright houses, however modest, a fireplace was essential. Brick, stone, and wood were considered desirable building materials.

Also in 1932, Frank Lloyd Wright published *An Autobiography*. One reader was Cornelia Brierly (1913–2012), a Pittsburgh-area resident and Carnegie Institute of Technology architecture student. Inspired by the book and dissatisfied with her course of study, Cornelia applied for admission to the Taliesin Fellowship; she arrived in 1934 and was there while Fallingwater and the major projects of the 1930s were designed and constructed. In 1938, Peter Berndtson (1909–72), a Massachusetts native who had studied architecture at MIT, joined the Fellowship. Peter had worked as a painter and set designer in New York City, later apprenticing with an architectural firm there. Peter and Cornelia were married in 1939.

In 1939 Cornelia designed Pennsylvania's first Usonian house for her aunts, Hulda and Louise Notz, in West Mifflin, eight miles south of Downtown Pittsburgh. Soon after, the Berndtson's moved to Spokane, Washington, returning when possible to Taliesin. In 1946, Cornelia and

Peter and their two daughters moved to Laughlintown, Pennsylvania, near Ligonier in Westmoreland County, and established their architectural practice.

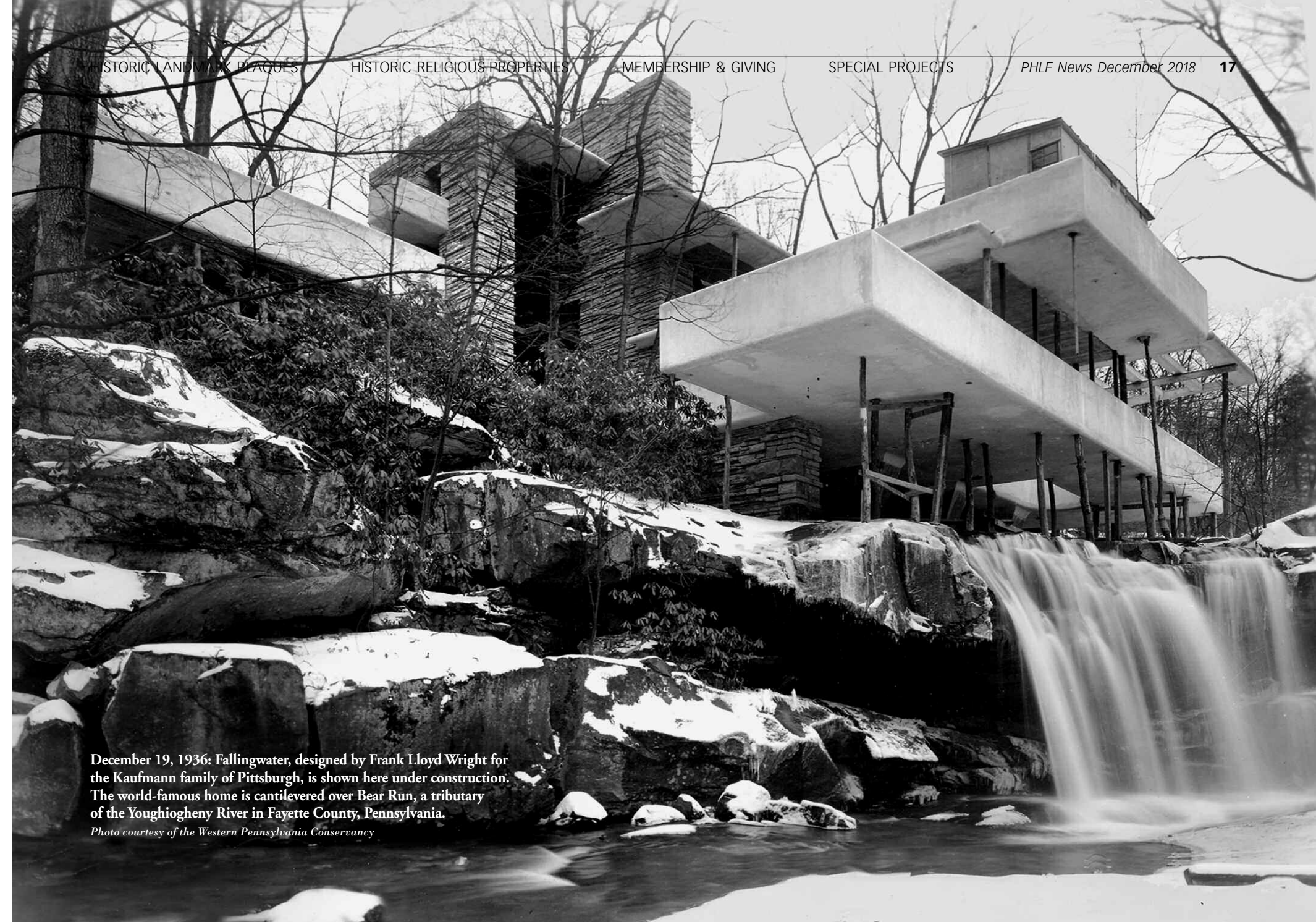
They designed buildings together for over a decade. Cornelia returned to Taliesin as an interior designer and landscape architect with Taliesin Architects and as an instructor at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture in 1956.<sup>2</sup> Peter and Cornelia were divorced in 1957. Peter moved into Pittsburgh and established an office in East Liberty where he practiced until his death in 1972.

Both together and separately, Cornelia Brierly and Peter Berndtson created some of the finest Wrightian residential architecture to be found anywhere.<sup>3</sup> Beginning with the Notz House of 1939 and taking into account their eleven-year joint practice and Peter's work between 1958 and 1972, almost ninety designs have been documented.<sup>4</sup> Most are residential, and while buildings were erected as far east as Franconia, New Hampshire, with one in Harrisburg and one in Somerset and three in State College, Pennsylvania, most of the constructed buildings are in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties.

### Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania

Because of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, and because of the quality and number of homes designed by his apprentices in the Pittsburgh region, Martin Randall Travel (MRT), a cultural tour operator based in London, has been bringing international groups to Pittsburgh since 2012. This year, MRT visited twice.

Fiona Urquhart, chief operating officer in 2012, and her husband Harry Charrington, an architect and historian, led MRT's first visit here. The group viewed four houses designed between



December 19, 1936: Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Kaufmann family of Pittsburgh, is shown here under construction. The world-famous home is cantilevered over Bear Run, a tributary of the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Photo courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

1939 and 1984 in the Woodland Road Historic District and began to realize the architectural significance of the Pittsburgh region. MRT returned to Woodland Road in 2014 and 2015.<sup>5</sup> Tom Abbott, architectural history specialist, and George Jerger, operations supervisor, led the 2014 tour and subsequent tours.<sup>6</sup>

By 2015, MRT decided to double the annual trips to the USA for their “Frank Lloyd Wright & the Chicago School” tour, each lasting twelve days. The first 2016 tour arrived in Pittsburgh on June 6; the second on September 26. The 2016 tour participants visited two houses designed by Cornelia Brierly and Peter Berndtson, located in the Pittsburgh suburbs of West Mifflin and Swisshelm Park.

Prior to their visit to Pittsburgh in 2016, MRT visited Fallingwater on June 3. Max R. Adzema, a University of Pittsburgh graduate and former PHLF intern, was the Fallingwater tour guide. He joined the Fallingwater staff in 2016.

Max summarized his experiences with the British visitors on June 3, 2016, and his impressions of the visitors during subsequent visits in June and September of 2017:

*Among the tour guides at Fallingwater, the Martin Randall tour group is one of our favorites to lead through “the house,” as it is affectionately called. This is saying quite a lot, since a record number of 182,000 people came to see Fallingwater in 2016, comprising roughly 13,000 tour groups. Each time our British visitors make it down to Bear Run, they are interested, intelligent, enthusiastic, and insightful—a joy to discuss and interpret this great work of architecture with. I was lucky to be the Martin Randall group's guide during their June 2016 visit, and I heard from my colleagues about their two visits in 2017. I was surprised to learn that even though all of the group members had*

(continued on page 18)



The Duncan House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and originally built in 1957 in Lisle, Illinois, and two houses by Peter Berndtson—the Balter House (1964) and the Blum House (1965)—are located at Polymath Park in Acme, Pennsylvania. Tom and Heather Papinchak own the architectural preservation park that is a thirty-minute drive from Fallingwater and a fifty-minute drive from Kentuck Knob. Tour and lodging operate seasonally, March through November. Enjoy lunch or dinner at Tree Tops restaurant. For reservations, call 877-833-7829, ext. 2, or visit [www.polymathpark.com](http://www.polymathpark.com).

Seven miles south of Fallingwater is Kentuck Knob, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1954 for I.N. and Bernardine Hagan of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. An excellent example of Wright's Grand Usonian architecture, Kentuck Knob seamlessly integrates architecture and art into the landscape. Wright combined the native fieldstone with tidewater red cypress to create a chorus of color and texture that replicates the surrounding landscape. In 1986, Lord Palumbo of London, England, purchased Kentuck Knob from the Hagan family. This National Historic Landmark is open for tours from early March through December. Please visit [kentuckknob.com](http://kentuckknob.com).

Photos courtesy of Kentuck Knob and Polymath Park



Frank Lloyd Wright and his apprentices, including Cornelia Brierly (front right) and Peter Berndtson (third from right) at Taliesin West, 1946. Photo by Ralph Crane. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives (The Museum of Modern Art / Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York).





(continued from page 17)

chosen to take part in a trip focused so heavily on architecture, many of them were not architects or designers themselves. Congratulations to them for undergoing such an intensive study of Wright and his followers' architecture. In terms of interpretation, this made for a great combination of highly trained architects with the knowledge to make more technical observations tempered by highly interested laymen to make more creative observations. This combination works perfectly when looking at Frank Lloyd Wright, who, as both an artist and architect, seamlessly ties form and function together. Wright continually worked to separate himself from the established, yet confining, architectural profession, striving to "break the box" of convention, much like many of our visitors do when analyzing his work. Because of this duality of both artistic and structural design, Wright's buildings—and Fallingwater especially—can be endlessly interpreted and discovered.

Our Education Department (which includes all of the Public Tour staff) has been working on ways to open our tours to discussion and multiple interpretations, although this can be difficult because of time limitations and visitation numbers. The Martin Randall visitors were eager participants, and were all excited to come up with their own interpretations of Wright's work. Throughout their visit, they were continually amazed by each facet of Fallingwater's design, construction, and groundbreaking vision needed to create a building so far ahead of its time. They were happy to share their thoughts on my prompted discussion questions. For example:

"What do you think of the low ceilings?"

Some answers: "I like it, it feels sheltering." "I don't like it, it feels claustrophobic." "It draws me outside to nature." "It makes me feel like taking a nap."

"Does the low ceiling help with the structure?"

"This would decrease heating costs." "It feels like a ship's cabin." "It is

proportional to the surrounding site." "Were the Kaufmanns short?" "Wasn't Frank Lloyd Wright short?"

There has been a great deal of thinking by our Fallingwater staff on the role of the house as not only a great work of American architecture, but as a great American house museum. Fallingwater is a place where conversations and ideas can be shared, and where good design principles can be explored and debated.

Multiple interpretations aside, the Martin Randall visitors truly appreciated the pure beauty of Fallingwater and its surrounding site. There is a wonderful feeling that comes from showing people from other places how special our part of the world is: naturally, historically, culturally, and architecturally. Their insight and astonishment certainly give me a greater appreciation for being able to live and work here!

## Notz House, West Mifflin

When MRT arrives in Pittsburgh, the group typically spends time in the morning at the Carnegie Museum of Art. In the afternoon, the PHLF guide (either myself or, more recently, architect David Vater) and two of our docents board our visitors' bus at the Forbes Avenue entrance to the Sarah Scaife Gallery, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes (1915–2004) in 1971–74. The June tour visits the Notz House (1939–40) in West Mifflin, designed by Cornelia Brierly with assistance from Frank Lloyd Wright; later additions were designed by Peter and Cornelia Berndtson in 1947–50 and 1953 for two subsequent owners. The MRT tour group viewed nearby houses that Peter and Cornelia designed for Mr. & Mrs. Fay Bear (1947–50) and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Katz (1947–50).

In 1999 Cornelia wrote an article about the Notz House for a Pittsburgh newspaper:

When I left Carnegie Tech Architectural Department in 1934 to study with Frank Lloyd Wright at the Taliesin Fellowship in Wisconsin, I had no idea that in a few years my aunts, Hulda and Louise Notz, would

In 1939, Cornelia Brierly, a Taliesin Fellow, designed Pennsylvania's first Usonian house for her aunts, Hulda and Louise Notz, in West Mifflin, eight miles south of Downtown Pittsburgh. Photo by Brady W. Stewart. Courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives



Cornelia Brierly (1913–2012)

ask me to design a house for a knoll in (West) Mifflin Township near the family farm. I consulted Mr. Wright who suggested the house be designed with a hexagonal unit system.

The unit system for laying out a house has had age-old success in Japan where the number of rectangular floor mats determines the placement of walls and the size of the room. Another dimension is achieved when the walls follow the lines of hexagons inscribed on the concrete floor. By emphasizing the obtuse angle, a broader flow of space is achieved. Since I was a novice, Mr. Wright helped me with the plan, construction, and overall design. This small house for my two maiden aunts used details that

Mr. Wright had already worked out for Usonian houses: radiant heating with Byers wrought-iron pipe under the concrete slab, board and batten wall construction using broad horizontal cypress boards connected by red wood battens, [and] a stone wall and a fireplace anchoring all of the site.

The wooden walls are less than 3 inches thick with a ¾-inch plywood core covered by insulating roofing paper and finished by 1-inch boards wrapped horizontally both inside and out.

Radiant heat provides a very even, healthy, balmy heat, and my aunts found that they could be very comfortable with the thermostat set at 65 degrees most of the year.

Fallingwater, the Edgar J. Kaufmann house, at Bear Run, had just been completed. During the building, masons from that area were trained to lay the stonework more or less as it appears in a quarry. When we needed help, these dedicated young men drove down from the mountains every day to lay the stone work for my aunts.

The living room in the Notz House, with built-in furniture and a fireplace.



All went well until the young, inexperienced contractor defaulted. My husband, Peter, and I took over supervision. Even though snow flurries still dominated April weather, we pitched our sheepherder's tent on the site. It held two cots with a Coleman burner in between. From the interior point of the tent a hanging Coleman lamp gave heat and light for reading.

Peter not only supervised the building but made some of the furniture. My brother-in-law, Blaine Drake, a graduate of the Carnegie Tech Art School who married my sister Hulda, designed dining chairs that were made for the cost of materials in the manual training department of the school where my aunt was principal.

As the house neared completion, Mr. Wright came from Wisconsin to visit. At that time he had bought a group of small Bantam cars, including a Dinky Diner, for members of the Taliesin Fellowship. They were made in Mars, Pa., and Mr. Wright asked us to drive him to the factory. Being very pregnant, I tried to beg off, but Mr. Wright insisted that I take the trip.

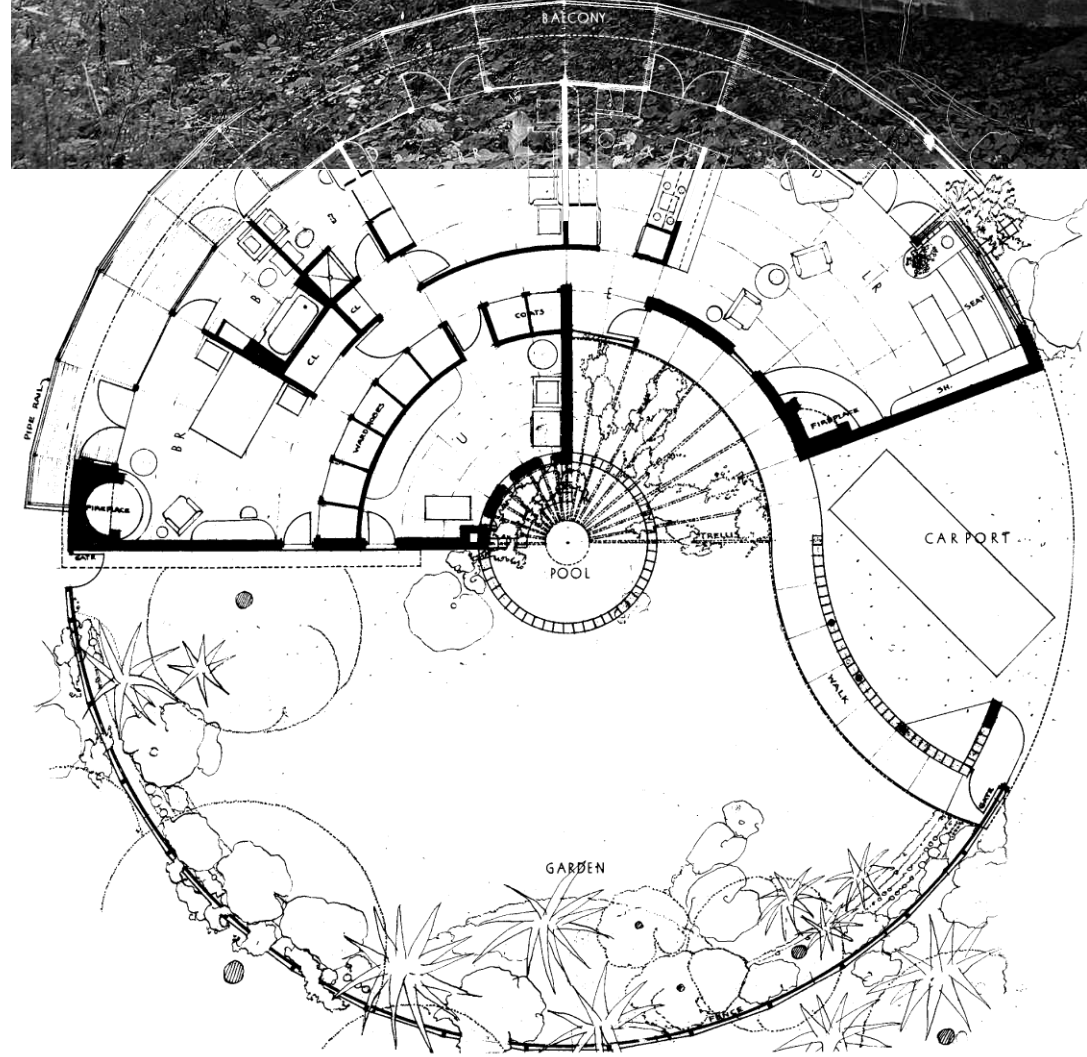
After returning from the Bantam factory, Mr. Wright took the 7 p.m. train to Chicago. At 7 a.m. the next morning, I went to the hospital where our first daughter was born. When we returned to Taliesin, Mr. Wright insisted on naming our baby Anna in honor of his mother.

My aunts enjoyed their small, quiet, easy-to-care-for house of simple elegance. When they asked Mr. Wright about landscaping, he suggested they plant a garland of native elderberries along the driveway. Having grown up in the country, my aunts considered elderberries as weeds and so [they] didn't follow his advice.

After my Aunt Louise died, my Aunt Hulda sold the house and 14 acres to Mr. and Mrs. Fay Bear, who hoped to develop a community. They lived in the house until Peter designed a larger house for them on the same property, then sold my aunts' home to a new couple who had us design an addition which very much extended the livable space by the simple multiplication of hexagonal units and the same wall construction for a play room, master bedroom, and bath. On the same acreage we built another house for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Katz, using brick masonry instead of stone.

These houses require minimal maintenance of the cypress walls and built-in furniture. There is a warmth and restful quality to the wood, providing comfort and serenity to the owners who have had the experience of living in so quiet an environment.

The current owners of the Notz house, Jeree and David Kiefer, are delighted to share the story of the Notz sisters, their niece, the architect, and the subsequent changes to the house to accommodate two later owners (and the Kiefer's own careful stewardship of the enlarged house). Cornelia noted in 1999 "an addition which very much extended the livable space by the simple multiplication of hexagonal units"—originally suggested by Frank Lloyd Wright—"and the same wall construction for a play room, master bedroom, and bath." In 1939 the Notz sisters had insisted on a small cellar below the kitchen—a practical, if very un-Wrightian addition, to a Usonian space.



Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Brierly designed the Saul and Edith Lipkind House in 1954–57. Located at 1137 Onondago Street in Swisshelm Park, at the edge of a wooded ravine, the Lipkind House is about seven miles east of Downtown Pittsburgh.

The plan (left) illustrates how the house fans out to fill the upper portion of the circle, while the carport, pool, and garden complete the lower portion.

## Lipkind House, Swisshelm Park

The September tour departed by bus from the Carnegie Museum of Art in the afternoon and traveled about five miles to the Saul and Edith Lipkind house, 1954–57, in Swisshelm Park.

In 1971 Peter Berndtson provided descriptive information for a PHLF tour of five houses he designed between 1947 and 1965; the first four he had designed with Cornelia, including the Lipkind House. Peter wrote:

The curved side of this lot at the edge of a wooded ravine suggested the fan shape of the plan. All major rooms face east and a continuous balcony projecting from these rooms extends their spaces into the trees of the sloping hillside.

Exterior walls of the house are light weight concrete block and glass. The roof consists of exposed wood beams radiating from a common center and covered with wood planking and a built-up roofing. The floors are of



Peter Berndtson (1909–72)

Photo by Bud Harris; courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives

radiantly heated concrete, covered with red tile, while interior walls are of red-wood plywood. Cabinets and shelves are built-in. All exposed woodwork is stained. The concrete blocks are left natural.

The rooms include a living-dining area,

kitchen, utility, two bedrooms and two baths. The walk from the cobble-paved carport is under cover.

Amenities include two fireplaces, an entrance trellis, a fountain pool and concrete block wall enclosing a garden and completing the circle begun by the fan shaped plan of the house.

In *Organic Vision: The Architecture of Peter Berndtson* (1980), Donald Miller and Aaron Sheon describe the Lipkind House as "an innovative plan on a limited budget" and cite Edith Lipkind's affirmation "how completely the home answered her practical and psychological needs for shelter."<sup>8</sup> An article about the house written in 2011, "Shelter: A House Designed by Pittsburgh Architects Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Brierly, Who Studied with Wright, is Carefully Preserved," states: "The house contains only a thousand square feet, and has just two bedrooms with no attic or basement. But its placement and layout are spectacular."

The present owners are Scott Wise and Robert Moore. Scott came to know the Lipkind House and Edith Lipkind when he babysat for his niece at his

(continued on page 20)



## Winter Reading

When it's cold outside this winter, stay inside and read a book published by PHLF. They are well written, beautifully illustrated and designed, and full of information that will inspire you to explore the Pittsburgh region. Members receive a ten percent discount when shopping in the PHLF Store ([www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org); click on STORE and then BOOKS).

### Our Newest Guidebook

• *Exploring Pittsburgh: A Downtown Walking Tour* (\$15.00) was released on June 27, 2018, thanks to contributions from the Carl Wood Brown Named Fund at PHLF and from Bernard J. McCrory, Jr., in memory of Beth Buckholtz (*see page 8*). The 116-page book includes forty-eight guidebook entries describing nearly 100 places and is illustrated with 180 color photos. The walking tour route, from the Allegheny County Courthouse to the fountain at Point State Park, is outlined on a fold-out map.

### Four More Guidebooks

- *H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse & Jail Guidebook* (\$12.00), by Albert M. Tannler (2016, second edition)
- *August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays* (\$12.95), by Laurence A. Glasco and Christopher Rawson (2015, second edition)
- *Pittsburgh Architecture in the Twentieth Century: Notable Modern Buildings and Their Architects* (\$18.95), by Albert M. Tannler (2013)
- *Charles J. Connick: His Education and His Windows in and near Pittsburgh* (\$19.95), by Albert M. Tannler (2008)

### PHLF Classics

- *Beyond the Surface: Architecture and Being Alive* (\$14.95), by Walter C. Kidney (2006)
- *Life's Riches: Excerpts on the Pittsburgh Region and Historic Preservation from the Writings of Walter C. Kidney* (\$12.95 soft-cover; \$14.95 hardcover), (2006)
- *Henry Hornbostel: An Architect's Master Touch* (\$34.95), by Walter C. Kidney (2002)
- *Pittsburgh's Bridges: Architecture and Engineering* (\$34.95), by Walter C. Kidney (1999)
- *Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture: The Historic Buildings of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* (\$50.00), by Walter C. Kidney (1997)
- *Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light* (\$24.95), Photographs by Clyde Hare, Text by Alan Van Dine (1994)
- *Majesty of the Law: The Court Houses of Allegheny County* (\$14.95), by James D. Van Trump (1988)

The interior of the Lipkind House, with a view toward the balcony.

Photo by Jason Snyder

(continued from page 19)

sister's home across the street. He met Edith, and after her death he purchased the house from her family (who interviewed him to be sure he would be the “right” second owner). Although unchanged, the house needed repair and restoration, and Scott and Bob's stewardship has been impeccable—a tribute to the architects, the clients, and their successors.

## With Thanks

We are fortunate to have productive and continuing relationships with Martin Randall Travel, Ltd. of London, with the education staffs at Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, and Polymath Park, and with several considerate Pittsburgh homeowners who enjoy welcoming people from around the world into their private homes designed by Wright's apprentices. We look forward to introducing many more people to the rich architectural legacy of this region through many more private group tours in the coming years.

### Footnotes

- 1 “Frank Lloyd Wright & the Chicago School” — <https://www.martinrandall.com/frank-lloyd-wright>
- 2 Cornelia and Peter's youngest daughter, Indira Berndtson, served as Administrator, Historic Studies, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives, Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 3 The Berndtsons' partnership extended from 1946 to 1957, although each continued to practice independently thereafter. In 1989, seventeen years after Peter Berndtson's death, PHLF's Historic Landmark Plaque Designation Committee waived the fifty-year requirement and awarded special recognition plaques to ten Berndtson and Brierly houses designed between 1949 and 1965; by 2014, sixteen houses had been designated.
- 4 Peter Berndtson's papers are in the Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives in Pittsburgh and Cornelia's papers are at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives, Taliesin West, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Collection, the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.
- 5 The visitors viewed the Frank House (1939–40) designed by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, and visited the Giovannitti House (1979–83) by Richard Meier, the Abrams House (1979–82) by Venturi & Rauch, and the Apt House (1951–53) by A. James Speyer, a Pittsburgh native and Carnegie Tech student who moved to Chicago to study with Mies van der Rohe.
- 6 Fiona Urquhart wrote to me on January 29, 2014: “Tom Abbott, who is coming instead, is a brilliant lecturer and tour leader and is very excited to be leading the tour. One of my colleagues will be accompanying him, George Jerger, who is also delighted to be given the opportunity.”
- 7 Cornelia Brierly, “Notz House: A Shelter of Warmth and Rest,” a sidebar by me, “Drafting a Plan for Proteges: Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Fellowship Trains a New Generation of Architects.” Pittsburgh Tribune Review *Focus* 24:32 (June 13, 1999): 8–10.
- 8 Miller and Sheon, 1980, 55.

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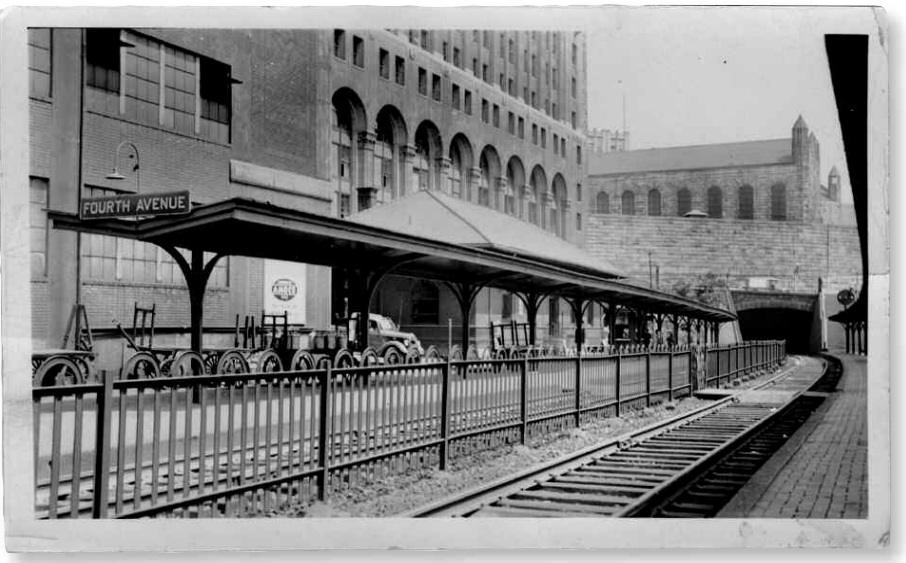
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The Fourth Avenue Station was constructed c. 1900 as part of a larger plan to improve freight facilities in Downtown. It was replaced with a smaller, more modern building in the late 1950s. The stop probably remained in service until the Pennsylvania Railroad ended commuter service in 1964. This photo of c. 1935 was taken by E. P. Theleen.

## Fairbanks Archive Includes More Than 12,000 Photographs of Railroads

James Halttunen

The Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive, established through a planned gift to PHLF, contains a fascinating assortment of photographs, memorabilia, literature, and miscellaneous materials relating to railroading. The photographs in our collection cover local railroads, as well as national and

international subjects. Here we have reproduced three images from our collection of more than 12,000 images, showing one local, one national, and one international transportation site.

The Fourth Avenue Station served the Pennsylvania Railroad's Panhandle Route. The station stood at the east end of Fourth Avenue in Downtown Pittsburgh, next to the Allegheny County Office Building and the tracks that currently serve the Port Authority's light rail service. From this station, passengers would continue south across the Panhandle Bridge, and then travel west toward Columbus, Ohio. In the background, the Allegheny County Jail is perched above the tunnel that provided access to Union Station by passing through Grant's Hill. The 60-foot hill (in the area that is now Grant Street



## Books in the James D. Van Trump Library by and About Frank Lloyd Wright

Albert M. Tannler

June 8, 2017 was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959). Visitors to PHLF's James D. Van Trump Library are often impressed by the number of books in

our collection by and about Wright, one of the most influential American architects in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Jamie Van Trump and Walter Kidney acquired books written by and about Wright that form the basis of our library collection, including approximately eighty-six books (some first editions) written by and about Wright between 1910 and 2013. There are books written by his family members, his apprentices, his patrons, and by twentieth-century architectural historians.

Wright students are aware of his apprenticeship with Louis Sullivan in Chicago; his studio (1889–1909) in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago where he designed Unity Temple (1905–08); and his early “Prairie Houses” in Oak Park and adjacent neighborhoods.

In 1904, Wright designed a house in Oak Park for Edwin H. Cheney and his wife, Mamah. In 1909–10, Wright and Mamah traveled to Germany. At some point, Mamah visited Sweden while Wright visited Paris and Vienna.

In 1911, Wright purchased land in the Jones Valley of Spring Green, Wisconsin, and designed a country house and studio, containing both his family residence and space for his staff of draftsmen and workers. It was named Taliesin in honor of a Welsh poet.

Tragically, on August 14, 1914, Mamah Cheney and her two children were murdered by a servant at Taliesin. Several staff members were injured and the building was set on fire. The servant took his own life. Twenty-three years later, in 1937, Wright opened Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona.

In the 1920s Wright designed a number of California houses in and near Los Angeles: *Hollyhock* (1920); Millard residence (1923); Storer residence (1923); Freeman residence (1924); and the Ennis residence (1924).

The Taliesin Fellowship (*see page 16*), established by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1932, became an integral part of Wright's remaining twenty-seven years which saw the design of some of the most acclaimed buildings of his career such as Fallingwater (1935–38) and Kentuck Knob (1953–56) in Western Pennsylvania, the Johnson Wax buildings (1936–39; 1944–50) and Windspread (1937 and later) in Arizona, the Guggenheim Museum (1944–59) in New York City, and the Marin County Civic Center (1957–70) in California.

Come to the James D. Van Trump Library during office hours on any weekday to learn more about Frank



The Basel Transport Service Tram 420 (*top*) in front of Banhoff Basel, 1973. The International Great Northern Railroad Station (*above*), San Antonio, Texas, 1960.

and Fifth and Forbes avenues) was lowered in the 1830s and 1840s; the final cut was made in 1912–13.

The International Great Northern Railroad Station in San Antonio, Texas, was designed to resemble the Spanish missions in the area, designed by architect Harvey Page. Constructed in 1908, the station was operated by the Missouri Pacific Railroad when Frank Fairbanks photographed it in 1960. In the 1970s and 1980s, the station was closed, abandoned, and subsequently repurposed as a credit union. The structure now serves as office space and a transit hub for VIA, the San Antonio transit system.

The Banhoff Basel Station is operated by the Swiss Federal Railways, but also serves trains for the French and German national railways. The station building

Frank B. Fairbanks, Jr. (1930–2005), a trustee and lifetime member, donated his fifty-year collection of railroad memorabilia to PHLF in 2002, endowing the archive.

was constructed in 1907, shortly after the formation of the national railway, and continues to serve as one of the busiest stations in Europe. The plaza in the photograph was originally home to a fountain and a small garden, but the space was later repurposed as a transit mall.

To see 378 more photos from the Fairbanks collection, visit [historicpittsburgh.org](http://historicpittsburgh.org), click on “Collections” and then on the alphabet letter “F” Or, visit the Fairbanks Archive, located in a quiet corner of our fourth-floor offices in The Landmarks Building at Station Square. The Archive is open by appointment on Mondays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact PHLF Archivist Lauren Eisenhart-Purvis: [lauren@phlf.org](mailto:lauren@phlf.org), or 412-471-5808, ext. 542.

After serving as PHLF's part-time archivist and librarian from January 2016 to August 22, 2018, James Halttunen and his family moved back home to Spokane, Washington.

We welcome Lauren Eisenhart-Purvis, who began as PHLF's full-time archivist on September 4, 2018. Lauren completed a volunteer internship with PHLF in 2017 and graduated from Duquesne University in 2018 with a Master of Arts in Public History.

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# Welcome New Members

(February 1, 2017 – October 31, 2018)

Our members help us lead preservation efforts that are *at the very heart* of renewing this region in the twenty-first century. We thank you all for supporting our work, participating in our educational programs, and volunteering your time and expertise.

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*We love the tours, and PHLF’s mission—which I was pleased to learn is not just about saving glorious old buildings. PHLF listens to and engages with the communities and especially with the kids who will need to understand and appreciate these buildings in order to care for them in the future. Furthermore, PHLF is not afraid to enter and invest in blighted neighborhoods to spark their resurgence.*

—Nancy Pulsifer, September 30, 2018

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- Alka Somani
- Ann Spadafora



“The tour of the Hill District on August 18, 2018 (above) was better than I could ever imagine,” wrote Sally Merrison, a member of PHLF. Please encourage your friends to join PHLF. Benefits include discounts on tours, merchandise, and publications. Mary Lu Denny will be happy to mail you our new membership brochure to give to your friends: [marylu@phlf.org](mailto:marylu@phlf.org); 412-471-5808, ext. 527. We appreciate your help.

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# Thank You for Supporting PHLF

Your gifts support historic preservation programs and services throughout the Pittsburgh region and make so much of the work featured in this newsletter possible. Donations received between February 1, 2017 and October 31, 2018 include the following:

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- Allegheny County Bar Foundation, in honor of Stephen Swem, Esq.
- David J. Shrager, Esq., in honor of Donald I. Shrager, Esq.

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- BNY Mellon Community Partnership, for matching gifts from C. Stewart Agreeen, Susan Hollingsworth, Clifford Mull, and multiple employee teams
- Chevron Matching Employee Fund, for matching a gift from Howard McIlvried
- Dollar Bank Foundation, for matching a gift from Patricia Bauccio in support of the Landmarks Scholarship Program

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- Duquesne University’s ESL Program (English as a second language)
- Eat’n Park Hospitality Group, Inc.
- Debbie Edwards, for a gift to our Tour Program in honor of Betty and Paul Haley
- Mary Ann Eubanks
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- Phil Hallen, for gift memberships for Dr. David Finegold and Joseph Zwicker and Maggie Jones
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- Shirley Phillis, for a gift membership for Mark Phillis
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- Patricia Uber, for a gift membership for Adam Reitano
- James Weddell and Sandra Faulk, for gift memberships for Susan Faulk, Ethan Weddell, Margaret Weddell, and Margaret E. Weddell
- Elaine Wertheim, for a gift membership for Erin Wheeler
- Pat, Steve, and Christopher Wheeler, for a gift in honor of Arthur Ziegler

## Historic Religious Properties

(see page 6)

## Landmarks Preservation Resource Center

- Suella Pipal

## Landmarks Scholarship Fund

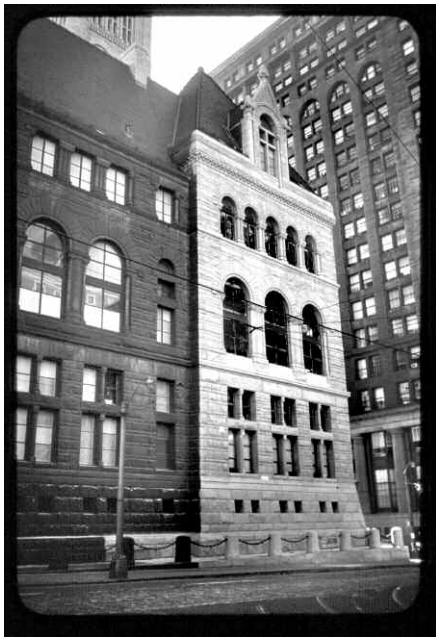
- Ann and Robert Albert, in memory of Betty Abrams
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## Memorial Gifts

- Advanced Personal Care, LLC, and Eric Kohut, for gifts in memory of Albert “Bud” J. Mahler, Jr.
- Amy and Jim Crist, for a gift in memory of Jack R. Shirra
- Barbara Jennings and Laural Beyer, for a gift to the Neville House in memory of their cousin Patricia Maits Junker
- Bernard J. McCrory, Jr., for a gift to *Exploring Pittsburgh* in memory of Beth Buckholtz
- Scott Schaming and Ronald Sobol, for gifts to the Cheryl C. Yochum Street Tree Initiative
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This photo, by Clarence John Betzler (1929–2016), shows the cleaning of the Allegheny County Courthouse façade in October 1957. We thank Margaret Jackson of Mt. Lebanon for donating her father’s collection of 381 color slides of Pittsburgh from about 1950 to 1986 to our James D. Van Trump Library.

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- Anonymous gift to the Shadybrook Named Fund
- David and Janet Brashear, for a gift to the Brashear Family Named Fund
- Gambrindi Davies Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, for a gift to the Jamini and Greg Davies Named Fund, in honor of Louise Sturgess
- George and Eileen Dorman, for a gift to the George and Eileen Dorman Named Fund
- Kate Hornstein, for gifts from the Catherine C. Hornstein Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation to the Catherine C. Hornstein Named Fund
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## PLUS VOLUNTEERS!

More than 100 people volunteer to lead tours and help with educational programs, special events, and office work.

## BECOME INVOLVED: CONTACT US

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www.phlf.org

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# Awards and Recognition

“PHLF and Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC), its for-profit subsidiary, have recently received well-deserved recognition for excellent community revitalization projects in Downtown Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg,” said Bill Bates, chair of LDC. “It is gratifying to have both communities featured in local, state, and national news sources for accomplishments in historic preservation,” he added.

## 2018

- PHLF Board Member Daren Ellerbee and Vice President Michael Sriprasert were among *Pittsburgh Magazine* and PUMP’s 40 under 40 honorees on November 1.
- The Urban Land Pittsburgh Institute presented two Placemaking Awards for Excellence to PHLF on September 27: our Downtown Façade Restoration (see *PHLF News* No. 179, December 2013) won the “Transformative Place” award and our work in Wilkinsburg’s Hamnett Place Neighborhood (see *PHLF News* No. 182, April 2017) won the “Catalytic Place” award.



- On June 22, the Apartment Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh presented two Apartment Excellence Awards to the Falconhurst Apartments in Wilkinsburg for “curb appeal” and for “overall community appeal.”
- The Pittsburgh Downtown Community Development Corporation named PHLF President Arthur Ziegler the “non-profit leader of the year,” during an event on March 21.

## 2017

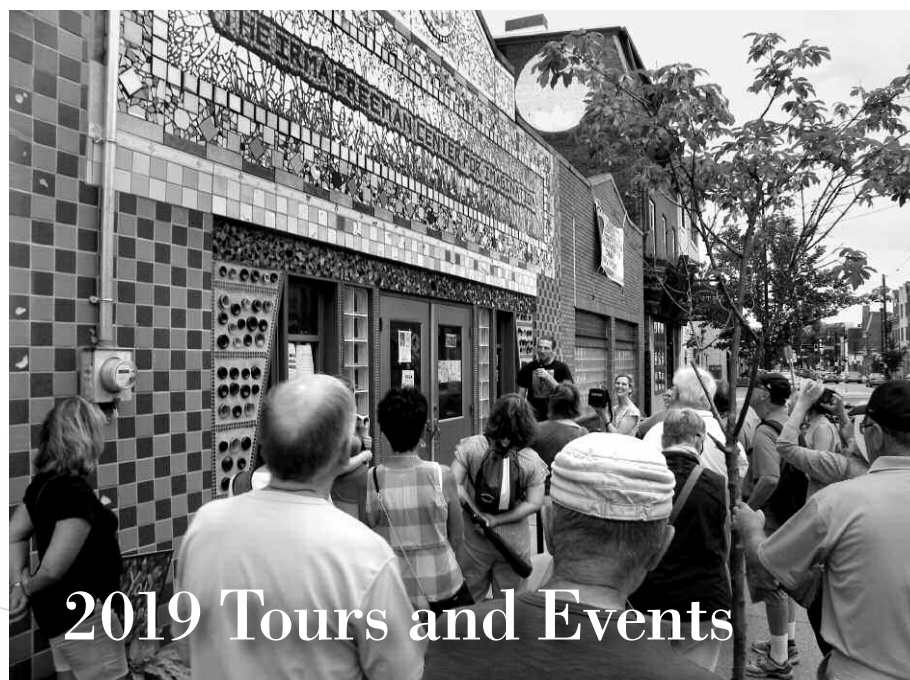
- During the PastForward National Preservation Conference in Chicago on November 14–18, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded PHLF one of three Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Awards for its work in Wilkinsburg’s Hamnett Place Neighborhood. In addition, the Hamnett Place neighborhood was featured as the cover story in the Fall issue of *Preservation*, a magazine published by the Trust.
- Preservation Pennsylvania awarded its Preservation Planning Award to



Frances Wolf, Pennsylvania’s First Lady, and Nathaniel Guest, Chair of the Board of Preservation Pennsylvania, presented a Preservation Planning Award to PHLF Vice President Michael Sriprasert (center) for PHLF and LDC’s work in Wilkinsburg.

PHLF’s Wilkinsburg Neighborhood Restoration on October 12. Arthur Ziegler and Michael Sriprasert attended the 2017 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards ceremony at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg.

- On June 16, the Apartment Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh presented three Apartment Excellence Awards to LDC: the Crescent was recognized for “overall community appeal” and the Falconhurst Apartments were recognized for “overall community appeal” and “curb appeal.”



Visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on **Tours & Events** for details about hands-on workshops and lectures at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center (below) in Wilkinsburg, and for details about our:

- free, self-guided Jail Museum tours on Mondays (February through October);
- “Downtown’s Best” walking tours on Thursdays (June through August);
- free walking tours in Downtown Pittsburgh and in Oakland on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and on Fridays at Noon (May through October), and



- neighborhood walking tours (April through October).

Tour details will be listed on our website by March 30, 2019. Our staff and docents look forward to seeing our members on tours and events in the new year. Thank you all for participating in and supporting our work.

PHLF will be partnering again with Bonnie Baxter, founder and executive director of Doors Open Pittsburgh. The weekend event will be on October 5 and 6, 2019, if funding is secured.



744 Rebecca Avenue

*I have lived in Highland Park for twenty years and am so glad to have met some of our Penn Avenue neighbors and learned about what is happening so close to where I live. It also was a joy to see the varied streetscape and beautiful buildings in Garfield. We met gallery owners, artists, and community leaders, and learned about some of the history of the Garfield neighborhood where my father lived for a couple of years as a child in the 1940s. I will visit again for the art, cafes, and shops. I have the next “Unblurred” art event on my calendar. It was really great to be able to enter some of the neighborhood spaces, including Assemble, Boom, and the Irma Freeman Center.*

—Roberta Shope, July 23, 2018

*The Friday walks made us discover the hidden beauties of our new home! Thank you for that opportunity.*

—Corina Paraschiv, August 15, 2018

*I really had a great time on the walk and found it completely worthwhile. ... I’m looking forward to using my membership in the future.*

—Brad Knabel, May 14, 2018