

# PHLE NEWS

RENEWING COMMUNITIES; BUILDING PRIDE

NO. 186 DECEMBER 2022





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# PHLF NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE  
PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

## *In this Issue:*

- 2 | **EXPLORING PITTSBURGH**  
Whether in Downtown Pittsburgh or other city neighborhoods and close-by towns, our walking tours give participants an opportunity to learn, in-depth and up-close, about our region's unusually rich architectural heritage.
- 8 | **HISTORIC RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES**  
Now marking 25 years of the Historic Religious Properties Grant program through which our organization awarded \$154,000 in matching-grants to 17 congregations in Allegheny County.
- 10 | **LANDMARKS HERITAGE SOCIETY RECOGNITION**  
An annual celebration of some of our most dedicated donors, members, and volunteers. Our September reception at the historic Industrialist Hotel was our first in-person get together since 2019.
- 14 | **LENDING FOR PRESERVATION**  
Landmarks Community Capital Corporation, a non-profit lending subsidiary of our organization made \$4.2 million available to help incentivize historic preservation of historic buildings.
- 16 | **ADVOCACY**  
Working with a group of community and philanthropic leaders, our organization is on the frontline in helping to save significant historic buildings in the city and neighboring communities.

Front Cover: Congregation Beth Shalom in Squirrel Hill was one of 17 recipients of a Historic Religious Properties Grant in 2022. The matching grant helped the congregation fund its comprehensive historic building façade renovation. Photo by Pytlík

## *Editor's Note*

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season and look forward to the new year, we can also take a moment to reflect on the experiences that shaped the year in meaningful ways. At the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, we are thankful for you—our members, donors, volunteers, and fellow advocates who believe that historic preservation can be a tool for improving the quality of people's lives.

Your steadfast support in a period still characterized by uncertainty in public health, a rocky economic outlook, and even the fallout from a war in Europe, inspired us to carry on with a sense of purpose, determination, and creativity in achieving the goals of our work.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will see that because of your engagement, we were able to resume a full complement of our in-person educational programs for people of all ages. It was refreshing to see the joy of people exploring our city and neighborhoods again. Yet, we remain committed to continue producing quality virtual and interactive experiences for varied audiences.

Our ability to provide matching funds for preservation of sacred spaces, as well as financing for adaptive reuse in low- to moderate-income communities, has never been more critical. Our advocacy, planning, and technical assistance efforts in helping to get the ball rolling on saving important historic buildings remains the cornerstone of our work and mission.

Still, we know there is much to accomplish, and as we look to 2023, we hope you will continue joining us to explore our region and advocating for our beautiful historic built environment.

—Karamagi Rujumba

**300 Sixth Avenue, a 15-story building, is slated for renovation, converting it from office to apartments, thanks in part, to the transfer of our organization's air development rights on a collection of historic buildings in Downtown.**

Built in 1904, the distinctive brick and terra cotta building designed by D. H. Burnham & Company, was originally a department store and later housed the headquarters of GNC Corporation for many years before its acquisition by Victrix LLC, a New York-based development company.

The developer will convert it into a 249-unit apartment building and we are pleased to have played a role in securing this building's adaptive reuse through using air development rights as a tool of preservation.







*Imagine, Inquire, & Explore:*

# Our Place-Based Educational Programs Continue to Inspire Through Exploration of the City and Surrounding Communities

At its core, our education program is guided by the idea of helping people see and appreciate the significance of our city and region’s historic built environment. Our aim is to help people develop a sense of pride and belonging in the beauty of what exists and the history that helps define the character of the place.

This year we were delighted to resume a full complement of our in-person programs. We held walking tours for people of all ages, gave illustrated presentations to virtual and in-person audiences, conducted architectural apprenticeship and design challenge programs for students, and awarded scholarships to college-bound students who care deeply about Pittsburgh.

In addition to in-person events, we continued adapting a variety of our programs for virtual audiences, particularly for teachers and students who participate in our K–12 education programs. For example, due to the challenges of transitioning back to in-person interactions— from a fully virtual program in 2020 and 2021— we designed curriculum resources to accompany video tours, which are now available and being distributed for use as lesson-plans by teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools whose students participate in our Building Pride, Building Character Program. (See story on page 5.)

This year, we involved 2,348 participants in a range of activities that

included design programs for students and neighborhood and Downtown Pittsburgh walking tours. We created **108 different programs**, which included specifically-designed tours for private groups like the Society of Architectural Historians and the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. Other programs included virtual tours and lectures, and access to the Old Allegheny County Jail and Museum.

Join us again in 2023 when we launch our public tour program from **May to October**. We are planning and looking forward to a series of new walking and virtual tours, special events, and lectures. For more information about our programs or to plan a special event, please contact Mary Lu Denny: [marylu@phlf.org](mailto:marylu@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext. 527.

**Below: Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum (Henry Hornbostel, 1908–10), one of the great monuments of Pittsburgh’s City Beautiful movement, exemplifies the magnificent architecture showcased in our tours. Whether Downtown or in neighborhoods in the City and close-by towns, tours give participants an opportunity to learn in-depth and up-close about our region’s unusually rich architectural heritage.**

Photo by Pytlik







DEUTSCHTOWN



CARNEGIE



POINT BREEZE



THANK YOU, DOCENTS

Thanks to our docents who help us create great programs by bringing our region's historic and aesthetic beauty alive through their knowledge, passion, and dedication.



Lu Ann Abelson  
Jim Aiello  
Will Arthur  
Harry Bauman  
Sarah J. Bradford  
Karen Cahall  
Nancy Ceccarelli  
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GRANT STREET



STRIP DISTRICT



# Learning About Pittsburgh History and Architecture Through Film and a Virtual Interactive Course Unit for Students

## Series Showcases Pittsburgh History and Architecture, Thanks to a Grant from Colcom Foundation

As part of our continuing effort to broaden how we deliver meaningful education programs, we launched a 10-part series of short videos highlighting our city and its distinctive built environment in June 2022.

Titled “Past is Present,” the series is comprised of vignettes, which feature stories that take a wide and long shot perspective at the history of the buildings, bridges, and landmarks that help define the historic beauty of our city and region, and some of the personalities that helped to build it.

Each story is no longer than two minutes and relies on the narration of scholars, teachers, writers, and passionate experts, sharing their insights and knowledge about the innate characteristics that make our city and region stand out because of its distinctive buildings, landscapes, and history.

The series is arranged by the following chapter titles:

- Pittsburgh

- Bridges
- Smithfield Street Bridge
- Historic Skyscrapers
- Frick and Oliver Buildings
- Allegheny County Courthouse & Jail
- Industry & Transformation
- Point State Park
- Hills, Rivers & Valleys
- Architecture of Pittsburgh

Produced by Bagamor Media, our longtime video-production collaborator, the series was filmed in Pittsburgh in the summer of 2021, and is available on our social media channels on Facebook, @HistoryandLandmarks; YouTube, @Renewing Communities, and Instagram @Renewing Communities.

This series builds upon our organization’s award-winning education programs that include city and neighborhood walking tours, book publications, virtual lectures and tours, and other special events. Its production was funded by a grant from Colcom Foundation.

## Education Improvement Tax Credit Program Helps Fund Immersive Experiences

Our organization welcomes support for our “Building Pride/ Building Character” educational program, which is made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

For many years, more than a dozen corporations have contributed to our organization’s education programs primarily for K–12 students through Pennsylvania’s EITC program. Through your support, we are able to create tours, art activities, exhibits, in-school, and now, virtual interactive programs through which students discover a lot about their school, neighborhood, and city while fulfilling academic standards in the process.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

- First National Bank of Pennsylvania
- PNC Bank
- Dollar Bank
- The Buncher Company



Our virtual learning class units were designed by Megan Penisson, a curriculum designer, instructor, and educational media producer, who previously interned with our organization in

2020. An education curriculum consultant, Megan holds degrees from Shippensburg and Carnegie Mellon Universities. For more about this program or if you are interested in using these virtual lessons in your class, please contact Megan at: [mpenisso@alumni.cmu.edu](mailto:mpenisso@alumni.cmu.edu).

- Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale Company
- Baird Private Wealth Management
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Videographers Daniel Lovering and Daniel Cojanu of Bagamor Media filmed an interview with PHLF Board Member Todd Wilson, an author, and leading expert on the history of bridges of Western Pennsylvania, during the production of *Past is Present*. Other voices featured in the series include notable thinkers and advocates of Pittsburgh, its history and architectural significance: Bill Bates, a PHLF Board Member and a teacher at Carnegie Mellon University, Charles L. Rosenblum, an architecture critic and scholar, Mark Houser, author of *MultiStories: 55 Antique Skyscrapers*, Chris Briem, an economist at the University of Pittsburgh, and Louise Sturgess, a tour guide, educator and former longtime executive director of PHLF.







INTRODUCING PITTSBURGH



THE BIGHAM HOUSE



PITTSBURGH PEOPLE AND PLACES



BUILDING PRIDE/BULDING CHARACTER



## Virtual Learning in the Classroom

As part of our program funded by the Education Improvement Tax Credit program, we designed virtual interactive activities adapted from video tour experiences we created for students during the period of extreme social distancing in 2021. These learning units feature online interactive games, and drawing activities that also include matching of dates and images. Launched on Nearpod, an instructional application that engages students through interactive experiences, these units are designed to help teachers structure entire lesson plans around giving students a deeper and broader appreciation of the built environment.

Through Nearpod, teachers and students are able to watch videos of the tours, which are interspersed with digital activities converted from in-person paper booklets and worksheets, creating learning opportunities that are fun, creative, and informational. Here are examples of the course units designed to match walking tours we have offered students over the years.

These units are available on Nearpod (free for students) and can be accessed by smart phone, computer, and tablet. Our virtual tours are also available on our YouTube channel, @Renewing Communities. These course units include:

### Introducing Pittsburgh

Designed for students at third grade-level and above, this unit is meant to help them understand timelines and dates of significant

moments in Pittsburgh history. They can place images of Pittsburgh in order from oldest to newest and compare the images to see how the city has changed over time.

### The Bigham House

This unit looks at the history of the Bigham House in Chatham Village known for its significance as a Pittsburgh connection to the Underground Railroad— a network of safe houses that hosted slaves on their trek from the Antebellum South. Created for students at fifth grade-level, this lesson is designed to give students a sense of the history of the Underground Railroad and its significance in American history.

### Pittsburgh People and Places

This lesson is designed around a longstanding tour in which students explore significant and historic places: the Dollar Bank Heritage Center, Downtown Pittsburgh, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, and the August Wilson House. Students learn about the people for whom historic places are named and are invited to imagine their own legacies.

### Building Pride/Building Character

Designed for third grade students, this lesson teaches students the name, age, and character-building words associated with Pittsburgh buildings. It includes a virtual exploration of landmarks like the City County building, Fort Pitt Block House, Point State Park, and the Duquesne Incline.

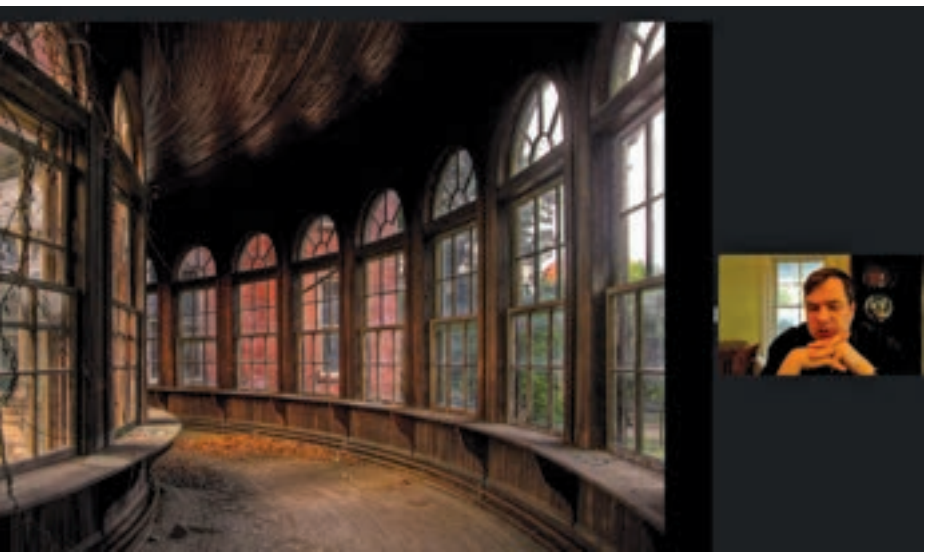




More than 30 sixth-grade students from Pine-Richland's Eden Hall Upper Elementary School visited the Morledge House Garage on the Eden Hall campus of Chatham University, in September as part of our Architectural Design Challenge programs. This year, 8 teams of students worked together with teachers and facilitators in creating proposals for new uses for the small c. 1912 Dutch gambrel-roof building. They will present their ideas on preservation, sustainability, and adaptive reuse of the house at an event in January 2023.







Topical, Insightful, and Distinctive Virtual Lectures & Presentations

Far left: Through a partnership with the University of Pittsburgh (Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Department of History of Art and Architecture) and the International Free Expression Project, we presented a lecture on the effects of the war in Ukraine on the country’s historic built environment.

Center Left: Pittsburgh Architects Eric Fisher and Art Lubetz considered and defined what makes a building great today in a lecture titled “Defining Architectural Excellence.” The thesis of their discussion sought to answer two questions: “What values should contemporary architects bring to the table as they design?” and “What qualities should these buildings possess?”

Left: Mathew Christopher, an author and photographer of abandoned historic places took us on a journey through some of America’s most haunting ruins. From abandoned malls and amusement parks to churches, factories, and homes, these spaces and places offer fascinating glimpses into places that time seemingly left behind.



Landmarks Scholarship recipients joined us for a reception at the Grand Concourse restaurant in Station Square on June 27, 2022. From top left: Maclaen Johnson, David Brashear (Chairman, Landmarks Scholarship Committee) and Clark McCord. From bottom left: Desirae Nance, Madeline Douglas, Negein Immen, and Mia Schubert.

Landmarks Scholarship Helps Area High School Students Achieve Goals and Stay Connected to Meaningful Places

The Landmarks Scholarship Program, established by our organization in 1999, awards a financial stipend to college-bound high school students in Allegheny County, who can express their feelings about the built environment of our region. Applicants are asked to write about a place that is meaningful to them and how it relates to their sense of identity and pride in the communities they call home.

This year’s essays were outstanding and insightful and featured reflections on the Allegheny Observatory, Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, Benedum Center for the Performing Arts, Cathedral of Learning, Carnegie Museums of National History & Art, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Pitt Museum, Freedom Corner, Frick Park, Fulton Log House, Hartwood Acres, Homestead Grays Bridge, Sarah Heinz House, Kennywood Park, Sue Murray Swimming Pool, North Park, South Park, Washington’s Landing, and White Oak Park.

Three students were awarded a \$6,000 scholarship each, paid directly to the recipient’s account at the college or university of their choice. Eleven students received \$250 as a one-time honorable mention award, which will also be paid directly to their accounts at their college or university of choice.

This year’s winners were:

- Maclaen Johnson, a graduate of Bishop Canevin High School, who will study History and Political Science at the University of Notre Dame;
- Clark McCord, a graduate of Central Catholic High School, who will pursue Civil Engineering and Architectural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh; and
- Luke Smarra, is a graduate of Montour High School, who will study Economics and Art History at Tulane University.

“It’s a remarkable achievement,” said PHLF Trustee David Brashear, chair of our Scholarship Committee. “Since 1999, PHLF has awarded 85 scholarships and 51 honorable mentions to high school graduates from Allegheny County who care deeply about the Pittsburgh region and are pursuing an undergraduate degree at a college or university of their choice.”

This program is funded by the Brashear Family Fund, Scholarship Committee members, and the Landmarks Scholarship Fund, including donations to the 2008 and 2014 Scholarship Celebrations.

We thank each donor for supporting this program that helps young people achieve their educational goals and stay connected to the Pittsburgh region through our organization.



A team from Greensburg Salem School District presented a model of their ideas for using interior and outdoor spaces at Braddock’s Battlefield History Center. They are one of eight teams from Derry High School, Franklin Regional, and Greensburg Salem School Districts in Westmoreland County to present ideas on how to make history accessible, engaging, and welcoming in a 4550-square-foot space and adjacent outdoor area.



# Historic Religious Properties Are Important Places in the Fabric of Our Communities

*Twenty-five years ago, we started a program through which our members, several private foundations, and singular generous donors helped us to provide matching grant-funds to help renovate and restore historic sacred spaces that offer social services within their communities.*

*This year, PHLF awarded a total of \$154,604 in matching grants to 17 congregations in Allegheny County. The monies, which leveraged over \$2.3 million raised by the congregations, will be used to fund restoration, renovation, and maintenance projects.*

*The work ranges from cornice repair to masonry, roof, wooden doors, stained glass, and stone masonry repairs, among other needs.*

### 2022 Award Recipients

- 1. \$10,000—Beth Shalom Congregation, Squirrel Hill—Cornice repair
- 2. \$10,000—Church of The Ascension, Shadyside—Stained glass window repairs
- 3. \$10,000—First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Oakland—Repointing & slate roof repairs

- 4. \$10,000—First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Downtown—Exterior wood door repairs and repointing
- 5. \$10,000,—First Presbyterian Church, Downtown—Exterior wood door repairs
- 6. \$10,000—Good Samaritan Baptist Church, Hill District—Roof replacement
- 7. \$10,000—Homestead United Presbyterian Church, Homestead—Masonry repairs
- 8. \$5,000—Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church, Natrona Heights, PA—late roof repairs
- 9. \$10,000—Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship, Uptown—Repoint exterior
- 10. \$10,000—Sixth Presbyterian Church, Squirrel Hill—Stained glass window repairs
- 11. \$10,000—St. Nicholas Croatian Church, Millvale, PA—Roof replacement

- 12. \$10,000—St. Phillip Parish, Crafton, PA—Restore exterior wood doors
- 13. \$10,000—Tarentum Central Presbyterian Church, Tarentum, PA—Stained glass window repairs
- 14. \$7,500—The Union Project, East Liberty—Replace lobby roof
- 15. \$10,000—Third Presbyterian Church, Shadyside—Restore exterior wood doors
- 16. \$2,825—Tree of Life Open Bible Church, Brookline, PA—Repoint entry stairs
- 17. \$9,279—Valley View Presbyterian Church, Garfield—Stained glass window repairs

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about the Historic Religious Properties Grant program, contact our Director of Real Estate David Farkas: [david@phlf.org](mailto:david@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext. 516.

1

Congregation Beth Shalom received a matching grant as part of its ongoing comprehensive façade renovation, which includes meticulous cornice repair. The 1920s-era buff brick and stone building dominates the streetscape at the corner of Beacon Street and Shady Avenue.

\$154,604 – Total Grants Allocated  
\$2,378,798 – Amount Leveraged







Staff, trustees, volunteers, and donors joined us at a recognition event and reception held at the Industrialist Hotel. The historic Arrott Building, originally an 18-story office skyscraper was converted into a boutique hotel and opened in May 2021. Built in 1902, the building was commissioned by James Arrott, an immigrant from Ireland who had accumulated his wealth from manufacturing iron kettles, pots, pans, and white enameled bathtubs. It was an office building until 2018.



GET INVOLVED





## Landmarks Heritage Society Helps Support and Celebrate Preservation Efforts

*Our organization was delighted to host our Landmarks Heritage Society recognition event at The Industrialist Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh on Thursday, September 15, 2022. This is the first time that staff, trustees, volunteers, and donors were able to congregate for this reception since 2019.*

Through this annual reception, we get an opportunity to thank and interact with a special group of donors for the continued support of the mission of our organization— helping renew communities through historic preservation.

We are especially thankful for members of the Landmarks Heritage Society, who donate an annual gift of \$1,000 or more— or a planned gift commitment— to our organization. It is because of the critical support of members that we are able to lead historic preservation efforts at the very heart of renewing our city and region.

The need for our programs and services—creating affordable housing in restored historic buildings; expansive educational programs to inspire the next generation of preservationist, and compelling advocacy for saving our region’s distinctive built environment, which continues to grow as our communities age.

**We** are thankful for your support, and while a cash contribution is always welcome, we also encourage other ways in which you can support historic preservation through:

- Gifts of appreciated securities or stocks
- Creating a Donor-Advised Fund
- Gifts of real estate
- Including PHLF in your will or estate plan
- Creating a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Creating a Retained Life Estate

If you’re interested in joining our Landmarks Heritage Society or would like to support a specific preservation initiative, contact Director of Development and Communications Karamagi Rujumba: [karamagi@phlf.org](mailto:karamagi@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext 547.

For more information about giving, visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)

## Al Tannler Memorial Fund Raises \$462,000 Thanks to Your Support

The Al Tannler Memorial Fund, established to celebrate his life and underwrite various preservation efforts in memory of him has grown significantly since its creation early this year. Thanks to your generous contributions, and a major gift from his estate, the Al Tannler Memorial Fund has so far realized \$462,391.47 in contributions.

“We are exceedingly grateful for the generous contributions to this fund. Al was a great scholar, architectural historian, and preservationist. We are very thankful for this support to a fund that will help us carry forward Al’s memory through supporting historic preservation,” said PHLF President Michael Sriprasert.

We remember Al as a consummate researcher, editor, and archivist. For many years, he profiled more than 120 architects whose work defined the architectural landscape of our city and region through his writing, lectures, and specialized tours. He joined our organization in 1991 and retired in 2019.

In that time, he authored and co-authored books, guidebooks, pamphlets, and many essays on various aspects of the built environment. His articles appeared regularly in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review’s Focus section from 1994 to 2004.

His *Pittsburgh Architecture in the Twentieth Century: Notable Modern Buildings and Their Architects*, was published by PHLF in 2013, and is the first guidebook devoted solely to the twentieth-century buildings in the Pittsburgh area.

Al was also the author of *Charles J. Connick: His Education and His Windows in and near Pittsburgh*, which he wrote after more than a decade of research into architectural glass and the discovery that buildings in Pittsburgh had some of the most inspired glass to be found anywhere. Published by PHLF, the book was selected by the *Pittsburgh*

*Post-Gazette* as one of the best books of 2008.

He was incredibly fascinated by the lives and stories of the architects and their clients, who built Pittsburgh and the significance of their work in establishing an aesthetic that continues to define and impact how we appreciate the built environment. He established meaningful connections with architectural scholars and organizations in Pittsburgh, throughout the United States, and overseas.

Al also authored a guidebook on H. H. Richardson’s Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail, published by PHLF in 2016, and he served as a co-editor of several other architectural guidebooks and publications.

In addition to his scholarly work, Al distinguished himself as a tour guide who relished the prospect of helping visitors appreciate the exceptional quality of Pittsburgh’s historic built environment. Over the years, he gave tours for assorted groups and organizations including the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Heinz Architectural Center, Friends of the Gamble House, the American Museum and Gardens in Britain, and the Society of Architectural Historians, Chicago Chapter, among many others.

A native of northeastern Pennsylvania, Al received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity degrees at Franklin & Marshall College (Lancaster, Pennsylvania) and the University of Chicago, respectively. His extensive work in documenting our region’s architectural heritage will be accessible to the public through our organization’s James D. Van Trump Library.

You may also send a check to PHLF marked in memory of Al or contact Karamagi Rujumba: [karamagi@phlf.org](mailto:karamagi@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext. 547 for more information on ways to support this fund.

Albert ‘Al’ Tannler, an architectural historian and author of significant books on the history and architectural heritage of Pittsburgh, was the director of historical collections for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation for 28 years. He passed away in February 2022.



Photo by Pytlik





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*Your gifts support historic preservation programs and services throughout the Pittsburgh region and make possible so much of the work featured in the pages of this newsletter. Below is a presentation of your contributions. This list reflects contributions as of October 31, 2022.*

FOUNDATIONS

\$10,000+

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Thomas Gillooly  
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Jenny Ladd  
Ginger Lambeth  
Naomi Lee  
Stephen Lee  
Alice Leich  
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Ann Levin & family  
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Debbi Linhart  
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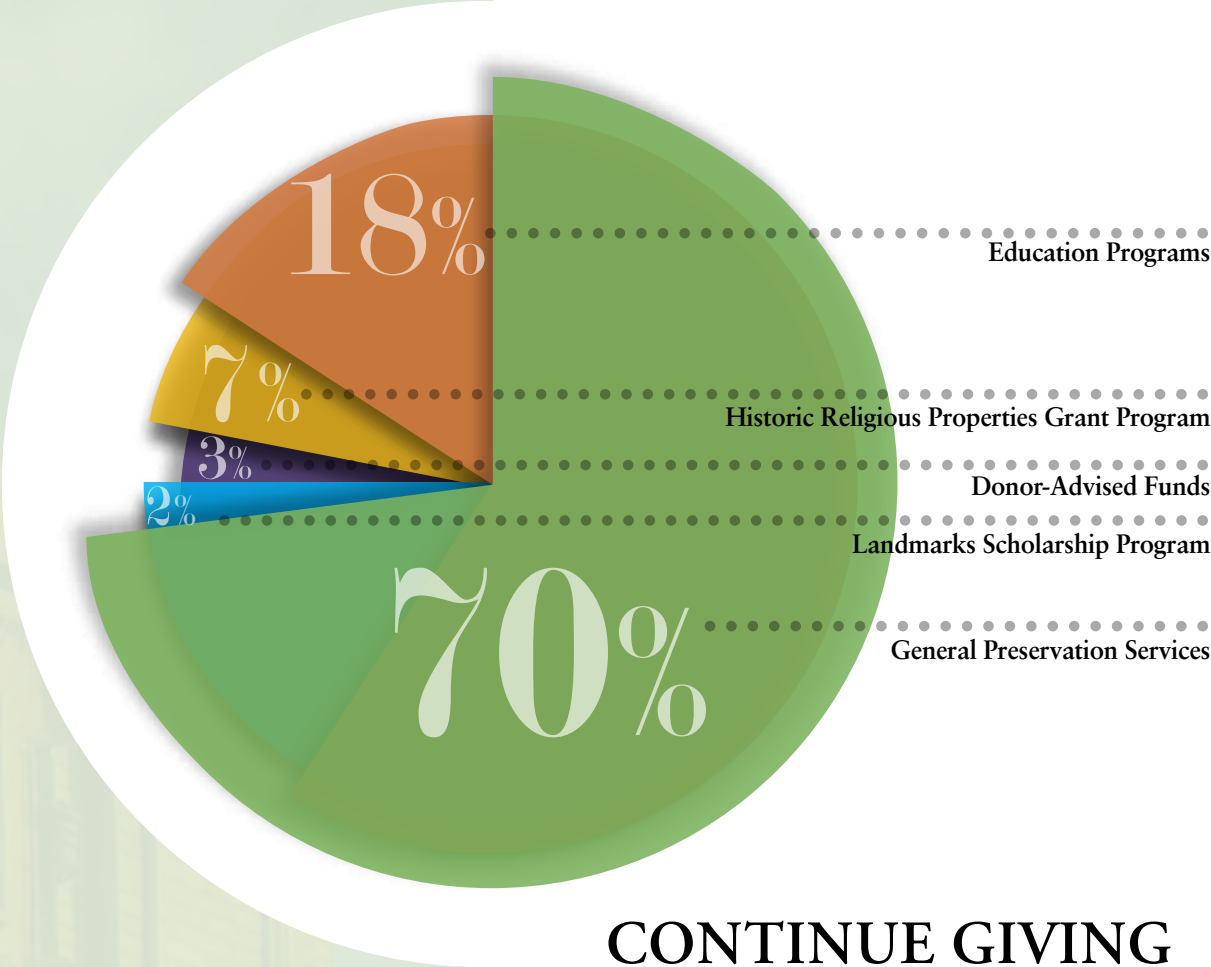
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Cheryl Yochum Tree Initiative  
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Bruce Yuhas  
Robin Ziegler

# TOTAL DONATIONS

General Preservation	\$320,932.87
<i>General Preservation includes the following programs:</i>	
· Neighborhood Restoration Initiatives	
· Saving Landmark Architecture	
· Preservation Planning & Advocacy	
Education Programs	\$81,479
Historic Religious Properties Grant Program	\$32,700
Donor Advised Funds	\$12,831.98
Landmarks Scholarship Program	\$10,749.98
.....	
TOTAL	\$458,693.83

Thank you !



# CONTINUE GIVING

Your donations create preservation opportunities. New requests from groups throughout the region come in daily, often asking for our help on significant preservation challenges. They often range in need—from stabilization and restoration of a singular important building, to helping underwrite a plan to reverse the decline of a historic main street or helping identify a use for a vacant building.

As you prepare your end-of-year giving plans, consider supporting a preservation effort that appeals to you.

Visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) for more information about giving and how to get involved in helping us advance historic preservation.



*Landmarks Community Capital Corporation:*  
**Made \$4.2 Million Available to Incentivize Historic Preservation Through Financing Adaptive Use in Historic Buildings**

Thanks in part to a \$1.8 million grant received in 2021 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Landmarks Community Capital—a non-profit lending arm of PHLF—closed eight loans totaling \$4.2 million in 2022.

“This is a record volume of loans that will help finance projects that improve the quality of people’s lives in diverse communities in our city and region,” said Michael Sriprasert, president of both PHLF and LCC.

Certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution in 2007, Landmarks Community Capital is a reliable small-balance purchase/construction lender with expertise in historic preservation, commercial lending, and construction management. It provides loan capital to both non-profit and for-profit developers for the purpose of purchasing and rehabilitating affordable housing and commercial buildings.

See the details of the loans here:

- 1. **\$1 million** for That’s It, Fort Pitt!, LLC to purchase and renovate the building at 235 Fort Pitt Boulevard in Downtown  
**Preservation Easement donated on Fort Pitt façade**
- 2. **\$37,000** for Bloomfield-Garfield Corp. for renovation of a building at 5129 Penn Avenue in Garfield in the east end of Pittsburgh
- 3. **\$776,000** to East Ohio Capital, LLC to help purchase and renovate buildings at 422, 424, and 426 East Ohio Street in Deutschtown on the North Side of Pittsburgh
- 4. **\$160,000** to Faith Community Partners, LLC for renovation of the former GC Murphy Building at 412 Corbet Street in Tarentum Borough

- 5. **\$320,000** to POORLAW and Praise Temple Deliverance Church for the purchase and renovation of the building at 124 Johnston Avenue in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Hazelwood  
**Preservation Easement donated**
- 6. **\$280,000** to Belmar Campus, LLC to help purchase the former Belmar School for redevelopment in Homewood, in the east end of Pittsburgh
- 7. **\$1.3 million** to KBK Enterprises, LLC for pre-development of the former Burrell Scientific buildings at 2211, 2223, and 2231 Fifth Avenue in Uptown, near Downtown  
KBK Enterprises, LLC  
**Preservation Easement Donated**  
239 Fort Pitt Boulevard  
Downtown

- 8. **\$375,000** to RT Wilkinsburg, LLC for the purchase of the building at 1007–1013 Penn Avenue in the Borough of Wilkinsburg  
**Preservation Easement donated**

Contact Senior Loan Officer Rob Wagner: [rob@phlf.org](mailto:rob@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext. 538 for more information or if you wish to discuss your project or apply for a loan.



Photo by Pytlik



235 and 239 Fort Pitt Boulevard

As part of our lending activity, we received preservation easement donations on four important buildings. Two of them—235 and 239 Fort Pitt Boulevard (photo 1)—cover important façades of the iconic river-facing buildings in the Firstside Historic District. We also received easements on the Sperling Building (photo 8) in Wilkinsburg, which is individually listed in the National of Historic Places, and the former Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (photo 5).

**\$4.2 million – A Record Volume of Loans to Incentivize**





# Historic Preservation



# Preservation News



Guests at the groundbreaking included, among others: Jonnet Solomon executive director of the National Opera House, PHLF President Michael Sriprasert, Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and Brent Leggs, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, celebrated the start of construction at an event held in Homewood in May.

## Technical Assistance: Restoration of Historic National Negro Opera House Underway

Our organization is underwriting the cost of the civil engineering work for the hilly site on which the former National Negro Opera House is situated in Homewood. The work will entail restoration of two historic stone walls that support the structure of the house, stormwater and erosion mitigation, and landscaping of the steep hillside behind it.

We were delighted to join neighborhood residents, community supporters, and funders to mark the start of construction in May. Jonnet Solomon, executive director of National Opera House, the nonprofit overseeing the redevelopment of the building, welcomed our organization, together with a group of local and national funders of the effort to save the house which is a significant landmark in American history.

Built in 1894, the house, not only reflects the complicated history of race in this country, but also the aspirations of African Americans who dreamed of developing and pursuing their love of music, opera, and the performing arts.

Located at 7101 Apple Street, the house is known to have been the home of what was then known as the National Negro Opera Company, organized under



President Michael Sriprasert, Co-Founder Arthur Ziegler, and Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, chatted during the community celebration that marked the start of construction as part of the restoration of the historic National Negro Opera House in Homewood.

the direction of Mary Cardwell Dawson, from 1941 to 1962.

The house was designated as a City Historic Landmark in 2008. Our organization has nominated the building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## Endangered: Historic Herbst House in Sewickley

Our organization is currently engaged in an effort to save from demolition the historic former Herbst House located on Broad Street, on the campus of St. James School in the Borough of Sewickley.

This c. 1880 Victorian Gothic building, located in the borough’s Third Historic District, is owned by Divine Redeemer Parish, which applied for a

permit to demolish the three-story building in July. The Historic Review Commission denied the application, which is now pending a decision by Sewickley Borough Council.

Working with a group of concerned neighbors and borough residents, we expressed our opposition to any demolition of this building to borough elected officials, leaders of the Divine Redeemer Parish, and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

One of the few Victorian Gothic buildings left in Sewickley, the building is significant for its history. It served as the summer home of the Herbst family—D.C. Herbst, of the Independent Natural Gas Co. and Standard Oil Company—from 1914 to 1954 before it was converted into a school, a convent, and a private residence.

We are currently engaged in discussions with the leadership of the parish, members of the borough council, and other community and philanthropic leaders to create a viable plan for the reuse of the building according to the needs of the parish.

## Success! PNC Bank Acquires Historic Skinny Building for Redevelopment

We are delighted that the historic Skinny Building has been acquired by PNC Bank as part of its plan to redevelop and reuse historic buildings on Wood Street for the bank’s expanded campus in Downtown Pittsburgh.

The Skinny Building is 5 feet 2 inches wide and 80 feet long. It is believed to be one of the skinniest buildings in the world. PNC acquired it together with two other buildings in the Downtown area near the intersection of Wood Street and Forbes Avenue.

As part of the sales agreement with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, PNC agreed to a 99-year preservation agreement to protect the façades of the Skinny and its neighboring former Roberts Jewelers building, which has a Beaux Arts granite façade.

Our organization was involved in a review of the bank’s design plans as a condition for the completion of the sale. PNC plans to use its acquired buildings for flexible office space and conference rooms for its diversity programs and as space that could be used to help small businesses grow.

Our organization restored the façades of both buildings in 2014 as part of a major façade restoration program, through which we restored 11 façades on 10 buildings in Downtown. The program was funded through a \$4 million grant to the City of Pittsburgh from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.



Photo by Pytlik



Left: Our organization is currently working with the leadership of Divine Redeemer Parish in Sewickley and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, together with a group of residents and philanthropic leaders to help save from demolition this historic building in Sewickley. We believe that this c. 1880 building located on the campus of St. James School at 201 Broad Street, can be adapted for a new use for the needs of the parish.

Below: A rendering of the proposed new use of the restored Skinny and Roberts buildings by PNC Bank as a part of its expanded Downtown campus at the intersection of Wood Street and Forbes Avenue.

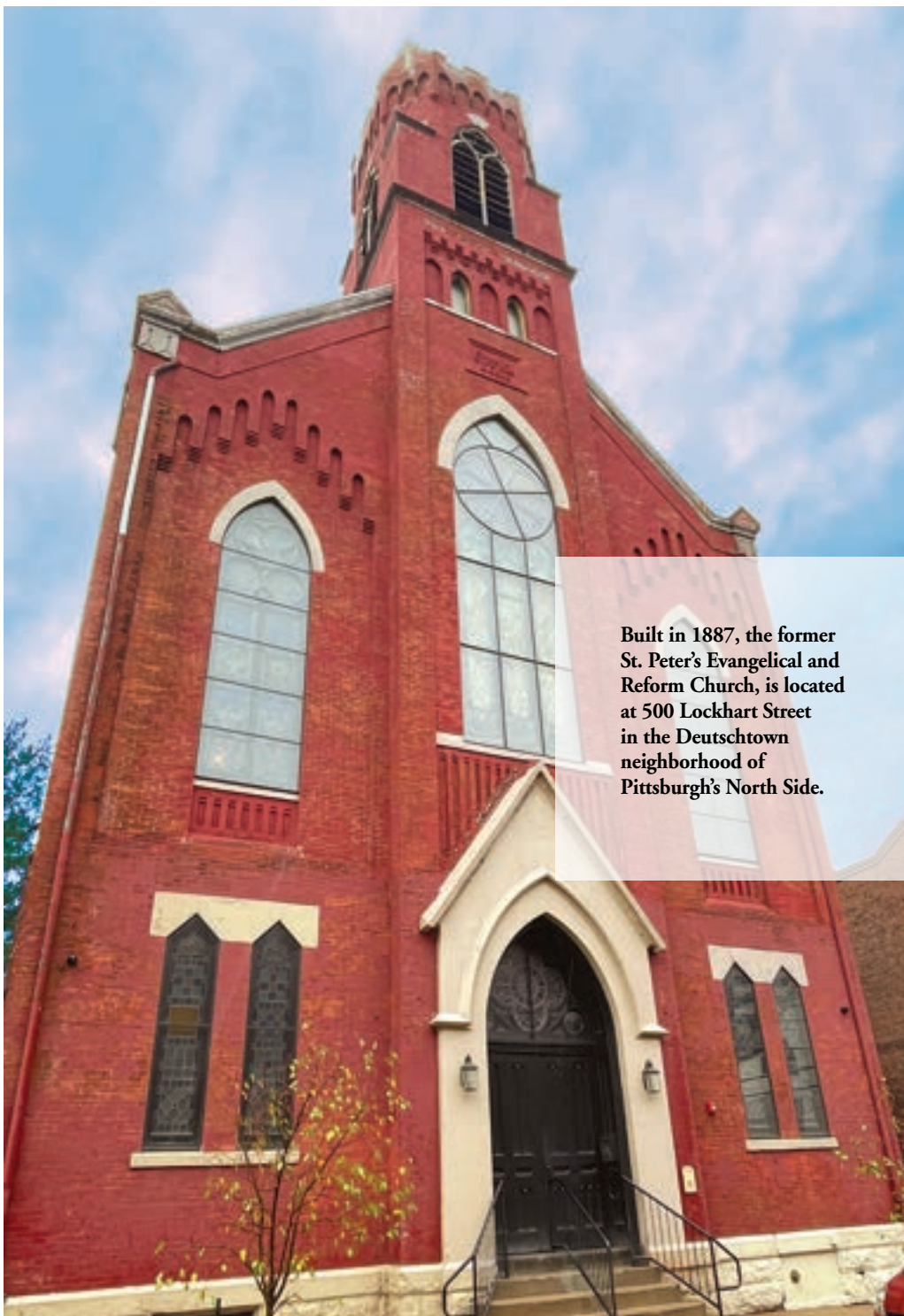


# Accepted Preservation Easements on Five Historic Buildings

Our organization is pleased to have accepted preservation easements on five historic buildings in 2022. Early this year, we acquired a preservation easement on the former St. Peter’s Evangelical and Reform Church, located in the Deutschtown neighborhood of Pittsburgh’s North Side. Located at 500 Lockhart Street, the building which sat vacant from 2006 to 2017, was renovated and turned into an apartment building with 16 units, now known as St. Peter’s Residences. Built in 1887, it is located in a City Historic District and the Deutschtown National Register Historic District. The easement includes a church façade on Lockhart Street, and a church school façade on Avery Street.

As part of our lending activity through Landmarks Community Capital, a subsidiary of PHLF, we also acquired easement donations on 235 and 239 Fort Pitt Boulevard, two commercial buildings located in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Firstside National Register Historic District (see lending story on page 14). Other easement donations include the Sperling Building located at 1007–1013 Penn Avenue in Wilkinsburg, which is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the former Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd located at 124 Johnston Avenue in Hazelwood.

With these easements, our organization now controls 56 easements since we started the program in 1979. Our organization is one of the few in southwestern Pennsylvania that is qualified, as defined by Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, to accept donations of a preservation easement, which can ensure that a historic property is protected in perpetuity. An easement is a legal agreement between a property owner and our organization that places permanent, mutually-agreed-to restrictions on a historic property to protect it from inappropriate alteration, development, and destruction. The primary benefit of donating a preservation easement on a historic property is that the historic character of a property is permanently protected. Another benefit is that a federal charitable contribution deduction may be available for the donation of a qualified preservation easement to a qualified organization, such as PHLF if the donation complies with all of the requirements of Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations. For more information about easements, contact our Director of Real Estate David Farkas: [david@phlf.org](mailto:david@phlf.org) or 412-471-5808 ext. 516.



Built in 1887, the former St. Peter’s Evangelical and Reform Church, is located at 500 Lockhart Street in the Deutschtown neighborhood of Pittsburgh’s North Side.





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Arthur Ziegler, *Co-Founder*

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Thomas Keffer, *Director of Construction*  
Nunurai Mavesere, *Staff Assistant*  
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Rachel Ranii, *Senior Accountant*

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Donald Kortlandt, Esq., *General Counsel*

PLUS VOLUNTEERS!

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

BECOME INVOLVED: CONTACT US

[marylu@phlf.org](mailto:marylu@phlf.org)  
412-471-5808, ext. 527  
[www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)

PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

*Renewing Communities; Building Pride*  
[www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)  
100 West Station Square Drive, Suite 450  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-471-5808

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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;
- 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)**, 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 real-estate limited partnerships.

CONTINUE GIVING

As you prepare your end-of-year giving plans, consider supporting a preservation effort that appeals to you.

Use the enclosed card to determine how to give and get involved in helping us advance historic preservation.

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, Co-Founder





## News from the Library & Archives:

Archivist Anna Samuels completed a grant-funded records rehousing project. We are pleased to announce the receipt of a second grant to rehouse the work and writings of Founding Chairman Charles C. Arensberg, Co-Founder James D. Van Trump, and architectural historian Walter C. Kidney. These projects are supported by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Historical Archives and Records Care Grant, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- We are thankful for the following gifts to the James D. Van Trump Library:
- *Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and the Adjoining Boroughs* from Pinecrest Branch Library, Miami-Dade Public Library System;
  - 35 titles on Art & Architecture from Robert Glenn including Russell Sturgis and A. L. Frothingham’s *History of Architecture*, Volumes I–IV;
  - *Carnegie Magazine* collection (1927–1995) and selected Carnegie Institute annual reports from Robert Gangewere;
  - *Carnegie Heritage* by Charles Kinder Bradbury and Henry Steuart Fotheringham from Frank Connelly, Dunfermline, Scotland;
  - *First Directory of Pittsburgh* – Year 1815 Presented by Duquesne Smelting Corporation, March 1940 from Kathy Ruffing;
  - 13 Pittsburgh vintage postcards from Katherine Carpenter; and
  - Ephemera on the Pittsburgh Renaissance and historical attractions assembled by Madeline (Skerly) Sovic from her daughter Sandra M. Carnahan.

The gift acceptance policy of the James D. Van Trump Library restricts donations to books, manuscripts, periodicals, historic site survey data, photographs and other visual documentation, maps, renderings and blueprints, and other materials that document the activities of our organization, regional built environment history, architecture, historic preservation, urban planning, construction engineering/technological development, interior design, and landscape design not already contained within the collections.

- Gifts to the Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive included:
- *Pittsburgh & Lake Erie in Allegheny County, Volume I: Pittsburgh to Esplen* from co-author Jack Polaritz and P&LE RR, ephemera originally given to the Grand Concourse Restaurant by Judy and Paul Manfredo, and a selection of train magazines from Mrs. Joan Fairbanks.

### OPEN TO MEMBERS

One of the benefits of a PHLF membership is free access to our James D. Van Trump Library and Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive. Our library includes architectural surveys, books, and periodicals pertaining to regional history, architecture, historic preservation, urban planning, engineering, interior design, and landscape design.

The Fairbanks Archive contains train timetables, official rail guides, a library of transportation books and magazines, and Frank Fairbanks’ personal papers on his extensive rail travels. Please contact Frank Stroker: [frank@phlf.org](mailto:frank@phlf.org); 412-471-5808 ext. 525; or Anna Samuels: [anna@phlf.org](mailto:anna@phlf.org); 412-471-5808 ext. 542.



“Uncle Jamie,” was a poster designed by Mark D. Ruffner for the Griffith Collection, a private poster collection owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. Blaine Griffith, Jr. of Sewickley. It was exhibited at the former Old Post Office Museum—now a part of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh—from late April to July of 1978.

## Welcome New Members

(As of October 31, 2022)

Members are vital to the work and growth of Landmarks. Many members volunteer their time to help with educational programs, office work, and preservation projects. By joining, each person demonstrates his/her belief in our mission—and contributes to a strong, collective voice for historic preservation in Pittsburgh.

### Individuals

- Teriangela & Taylor  
Abbett & family  
Megan Achezinsi  
Karen Arendt  
Roberta Aronson  
Jamie Blatter  
Donald Booth  
Jen Bronder  
Julia Brown  
Bridget Budda  
Katherine Bunge  
Kristy Byers  
Sandi Callahan  
Nancy Marple Carter  
Nancy T. Carter  
Nancy Lee Cochran  
Arthur Crivella & family  
Rachel DelleFemine  
Sarah Desciak  
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Anita DiPaolo  
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Bethel United Presbyterian Church  
Blessed Francis Seelos Academy  
Bull Creek Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Elizabeth Forward School District  
Environmental Charter School  
Fallingwater  
Hilltop United Methodist Church  
Holy Faith Tabernacle Church  
Home Away from Homeschool  
John F. Kennedy Catholic School  
Knoch High School  
Linton Middle School  
Logan Elementary School  
Neighborhood Academy  
North Allegheny School District  
Oliver Citywide Academy  
Quaker Valley School District  
Rochester Area School District  
Saint Margaret of Scotland School  
Seton LaSalle Catholic High School  
Sixth Presbyterian Church  
Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka  
South Butler Primary School  
South Butler School District  
South Fayette Elementary School  
West Allegheny School District  
Westinghouse Academy  
Westmont Hilltop School District  
Yeshiva School