

# PHILF NEWS

RENEWING COMMUNITIES; BUILDING PRIDE



NO. 187 DECEMBER 2023



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# PHLF NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE  
PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

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Our mission of renewing communities through historic preservation is greatly enhanced by our ability to form partnerships with individuals, private developers, and community development groups.

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One of the most visible ways in which our organization recognizes historic places, which contribute to the distinctive character of city and region's built-environment.

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Now marking 25 years, our scholarship program has awarded more than \$500,000 to 88 recipients. The scholarship awards \$6,000 to each recipient's school of choice over four years.

Front Cover: Our organization cleaned the façade of the historic former Allegheny Post Office Building on Pittsburgh's North Side, in June. We used a mild cleaner and a pressure rinse to clear areas of the façade that had blackened over the years. Designed by William Martin Aiken, this 1897 building is one of our organization's greatest saves.

The tied arch of the West End Bridge rises 780 feet above the deck suspended beneath it.

Look up as you walk on it over the Ohio River between Western Avenue on the North Side and West Carson Street on the South Side, and see the almost rhythmic and airy pattern in the trusswork of the arch.

The pattern of ties in the trusswork prevents the arch from distorting under off-center loads. Built between 1930 and 1932, the West End Bridge was designed by George S. Richardson, as the principal engineer in the Allegheny County Department of Public Works at the time.

One of the most handsome, in our city of bridges, the West End Bridge is an individually-listed Historic Landmark in the National Register of Historic Places. Our organization awarded it a Historic Landmark Plaque in 2001.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This year, our organization's staff, aided by a complement of long-dedicated volunteers, created educational experiences for about 400 students in the third through sixth grades, mainly in Pittsburgh Public Schools and other districts within Allegheny County.

## On A SUN-SPLASHED LATE-MORNING IN MAY

a couple of Molly's Trolleys buses pulled up to the curb at 901 Centre Avenue in the historic Hill District, and a group of fourth-graders from Pittsburgh Greenfield alighted and streamed into Frankie Pace Park.

Located between Bedford and Centre Avenues, Pittsburgh's newest park, which opened in November 2021, is a three-acre green space that includes a rain garden, pedestrian pathways, bike routes, recreation and educational spaces.

It also serves as a freeway cap over Interstate 579/Crosstown Boulevard, connecting the Hill District to Downtown Pittsburgh again, decades after the failed experiment that was "urban renewal" severed the street grid connection of both communities.

**FOR THE FOURTH-GRADERS JUMPING OFF THE BUSES** accompanied by their teachers and a team of our docents, it might have seemed that

spending the lunch hour in a park on a splendid spring day is the stuff of great field trips. Yet that wasn't all it would be.

On a commemorative story wall under a metallic trellis, the group of 39 students was introduced to the story and outsize impact of Frankie Mae Pace, as not only a Hill District legend, but also a significant figure in our city's history.

An entrepreneur and community organizer, Pace was a leader of the

Hill District Community Council, which organized residents to push back against the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority by erecting a now-famous billboard that demanded no more development beyond Crawford Street. The city's "renewal" policies, the residents contended, had all but decimated the neighborhood's scale of buildings along with its sense of community.

Seated on the park benches and concrete walls of the rain garden in Frankie Pace Park, the fourth-graders of Pittsburgh Greenfield, after an almost three-hour excursion through the city, were called upon to reflect on their experience of learning about Pittsburgh luminaries and historic figures like General John Stanwix, Andy Warhol, John Heinz, Roberto Clemente, Rachel Carson, David Lawrence, and August Wilson, among others.

They did so by answering questions and completing activities, each in their own trip journal, drawing or writing about what they imagined they might be known for in the future or their impressions of the buildings they had seen along the journey—from their school, into Downtown Pittsburgh, crossing various bridges, and all the way to the city park in the Lower Hill District.

**FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS**, our education programs for children at all levels—elementary, middle, and high school—have been grounded in helping the students to see and understand the city, its history, and built environment through the context of the place.

We are proud that we have sought to inspire the kids through tours, poetry

and art workshops and demonstrations, artifact kits, career awareness, and other special programs to help them think of their place within the greater context of the city around them and how they can contribute to fostering its identity, sense of pride, and place.

Like many peer organizations across the country adjusting to the reality of financial and capacity limitations in the wake of the public health crisis of the last few years, our organization has been compelled to reimagine its operations and how we achieve our mission within our means.

In the coming years, our focus in education will be centered around creating original, relevant and detailed tours, lectures, and special programs for adult and near-adult audiences. This means that we will continue our architecture design and scholarship programs meant to engage older students, typically juniors and seniors in high school.

**THROUGH THE PAGES OF THIS NEWSLETTER**, we hope to give you a snapshot into the scale and breadth of our various programs—from bricks-and-mortar preservation, architectural history education and advocacy, to lending for community development and our ongoing commitment to the general preservation of the built environment.

Thank you for supporting us, and we wish you a happy holiday season. As we look forward to 2024, we hope you will continue to join us as we explore, advocate for, and save the distinctive historic buildings of our region.

*Karamagi Rujumba*

## WELCOMING THE NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL

We were delighted to host members of the National Trust Council, a community of donors and leaders whose philanthropy supports the National Trust for Historic Preservation, on their visit to Pittsburgh during the Trust Council Weekend, held from September 28 to October 1.

As part of the weekend's festivities, which included trips to Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, the Carnegie Museum of Art, and The Frick Pittsburgh, among other landmarks and neighborhoods, our organization took the group on a walking tour of Downtown Pittsburgh, including a tour of the historic Allegheny County Courthouse.

We also hosted the visitors at a luncheon in the Grand Concourse restaurant in Station Square, where we had a discussion about the beginnings of historic preservation in Pittsburgh and the leading role our organization has played in the historic preservation movement in this country.

Rob Nieweg, senior vice president for preservation services and outreach for the National Trust for Historic Preservation moderated a discussion with Arthur Ziegler, co-founder and Michael Sriprasert, president of our organization during a luncheon with members of the National Trust Council.



**SUCCESS!**

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

We cleaned the facade of the historic former Allegheny Post Office, now the home of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, in June. We hired Wilson Restoration, Inc., which used a mild cleaner and pressure rinse to clean the facade of the building, clearing areas which had blackened over the years. The work also included cleaning a stone wall at the front of the building and repointing of the stone staircase leading to the building's front entrance. Completed in 1897 as the post office of the former Allegheny City, the Italianate-style building, which was designed by William Martin Aiken, is one of our organization's greatest saves.



**News & Advocacy**

Similar to our work in cleaning the facade of Children's Museum's former Allegheny Post Office building, we have contracted a crew (as of early November) to clean the facade of the white brick and matching terra cotta building that houses the Latin American Cultural Center in Oakland. (See also the story on our Landmarks Heritage Society recognition event on Page 16.)

The work to clean patches of the brick facade which had blackened over years, will also include repointing parts of the walls of the building and steps leading up to its main entrance. The work is expected to have been completed by early December.

Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, executive director of the Latin American Cultural Center, said our organization's offer to clean the building's facade was very timely and appreciated because it was a big component of the organization's ongoing master plan for renovation of the building.

**ENDANGERED!**

**HISTORIC HERBST HOUSE, SEWICKLEY**

Our organization continues to be 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. We are pleased that both the Sewickley Historic Review Commission and its Borough Council have denied Divine Redeemer Parish's request for a permit to demolish the building. The parish is taking legal action to counter the borough, but our organization stands in support of the borough's decision and we will continue to support the borough in efforts to save this building. The house is one of the few Victorian Gothic buildings left in Sewickley, and we believe the building can be saved and adapted for a new use that meets the needs of the parish and the community.



**SUCCESS!**

**GARDEN THEATER**

Congratulations to Trek Development Group and Q Development, for completing the restoration, renovation, and new construction, which comprises the redevelopment of the historic Garden Theater block on Pittsburgh's North Side. Located at the corner of West North Avenue and Federal Street, the \$21 million development includes renovation of buildings consisting of the Bradberry apartment building, the former Morton House, creation of Lofts @ the Garden apartments, and a new apartment building located 6 West North Avenue. Our organization has been intricately involved on both the design and Section 106 Review processes of this development, which will revitalize this part of the North Side.



**PROGRESS:**

Construction is underway at 300 Sixth Avenue, a 15-story building in Downtown Pittsburgh, that is currently fully covered with scaffolding. The building is being renovated and converted from offices to apartments, thanks in part, to the transfer of our organization's air development rights on a collection of historic buildings our organization owns in Downtown.



# LEARNING ABOUT PITTSBURGH, ITS HISTORY, AND ARCHITECTURE

## Showing Students Why Buildings and Places Matter

Our organization’s programs for K–12 students this year gave about 400 students in the third through sixth grades the opportunity to learn about the figures who have made history in our city, how that history is manifest in our buildings, and how buildings come to have meaning for people.

We introduced Pittsburgh Public School students to the Strip District, Downtown, and Station Square. The students learned about Rachel Carson, August Wilson, Robert Clemente, David Lawrence, Frankie Mae Pace, and others, as well as the many immigrant communities that have given Pittsburgh its distinctive character and history for more than two centuries. They also learned about the role of transportation in the development of Pittsburgh and its industries, and how old buildings can be repurposed to make them useful in the present.

Through our Architecture Apprenticeship program, we engaged students in an intensive and comprehensive project requiring research on historic preservation, building materials and interior finishes, environmental sustainability, landscape and the general functioning of buildings. The students designed the reuse of a small historic building through two iterations. In the process, they learned not only about these subjects, but also the importance of collaboration, compromise, and perseverance.

The foundation of all these experiences is our conviction that the first step to caring about our built environment is understanding it. Our hope is that these programs also ignite students’ perception of the interconnectedness of history, architecture, and people.

A group of a couple dozen docents helped us bring all these programs to life as they have done for more than 25 years, engaging kids directly in the process of thinking about history, design and the built environment.

Our K–12 Education programs were funded by corporate donations through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Education Improvement Tax Credit program.



Fifth-grade students from West Liberty PreK-5 Pittsburgh Public School were delighted to meet Sam Wholey, who is the third generation in his family to run the Strip District’s famous fish market that bears the family’s name.

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**STRIP DISTRICT STROLL**



**FRANKIE PACE PARK**



**AUGUST WILSON CENTER**



**PEOPLE & PLACES TROLLEY TOUR**

# 13 EVENTS • 400 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS



ARCHITECTURE APPRENTICESHIP

PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



STATION SQUARE SCAVENGER HUNT

# OUR TOURS INSPIRE EXPLORATION OF GREAT ARCHITECTURE

From a majestic church in Sewickley, once called “the Queen of Suburbs,” to an 5- by 8-foot cell in the Old Allegheny Jail Museum in Downtown, our public tours for adult audiences in 2023 brought more than 1,400 participants to places throughout Downtown, in city neighborhoods, and in surrounding communities within Allegheny County.

Our in-person tours were a substantially larger draw for participants this year reflecting a sense of more people’s eagerness to get out and about again after the long stay-at-home siege of the last couple of years, but we also continue to offer deep and expansive virtual tours and lectures.

We know that Pittsburgh continues to be a magnet for those who are more specifically interested in a broad range of architecture and the manner in which history and development of a city influences the different styles of architecture. We saw this in the groups of participants, some of them learning about Pittsburgh for the first time, while others sought to get even more immersed in their knowledge of our city’s history and world-class historic architecture.

We were delighted to explore the city and its surrounding communities with different private groups of tourists, including the Victorian Society in America and members of the National Trust Council, who came from all across the United States to see Pittsburgh.

The ever-changing ranks of real estate agents and brokers create ongoing demand for continuing education, in the form of both tours and in-classroom programs, to maintain their state licensure. Our organization is very pleased to provide these programs in collaboration with the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. Knowledgeable realtors can be advocates for well-cared-for places and histories and, in turn, help sustain Pittsburgh’s distinctiveness.

Wherever our tours might lead a person—whether physically or intellectually—they are a great way to enrich appreciation for this city we call home.



Our invaluable volunteer docents got to visit the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) this year—an excellent example of repurposing of a historic structure for contemporary uses. The Energy Innovation Center is located in the former Clifford B. Connelly Trade School, in the Lower Hill District. Shown here is Cory Bonnet, a tenant who is an artist and preservationist.



**DOWNTOWN, CITY  
NEIGHBORHOODS &  
SUBURBS • SPECIAL  
PUBLIC LECTURES &  
VIRTUAL TOURS • OLD  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
JAIL & MUSEUM**





# 76 EVENTS • 1,400 PARTICIPANTS

## 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.

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| LuAnn Abelson            | Sandra A. B. Levis |
| Jim Aiello               | Tim Merrill        |
| Sarah J. Bradford        | Arnold Miller      |
| Karen Cahall             | Lisa Pilewski      |
| Karen Demmler            | Mace Porac         |
| Patricia DiRienzo, Ph.D. | Sandra Preuhs      |
| Debbie Edwards           | Josi Smith         |
| Pat Farkas               | Al Stanish         |
| Gabe Funaro              | Cindy Stanish      |
| Mary Louise Green        | Paul J. Tellers    |
| Barbara Helmecci         | Sue Vines          |
| Ken Holmes               | Dorothy Voelker    |
| Bob Jucha                | James R. Weddell   |
| Ginger Lambeth           | Joe Zemba          |
| Bette Landish            |                    |



DOWNTOWN'S BEST



DEUSCHTOWN



FINIEWIEW



A group of Duolingo employees joined us for a history-and-architecture tour of Grant Street in Downtown.



ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE



PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

## A Legacy in Stone:

# THE ORAL HISTORY OF A CULTURAL LANDMARK

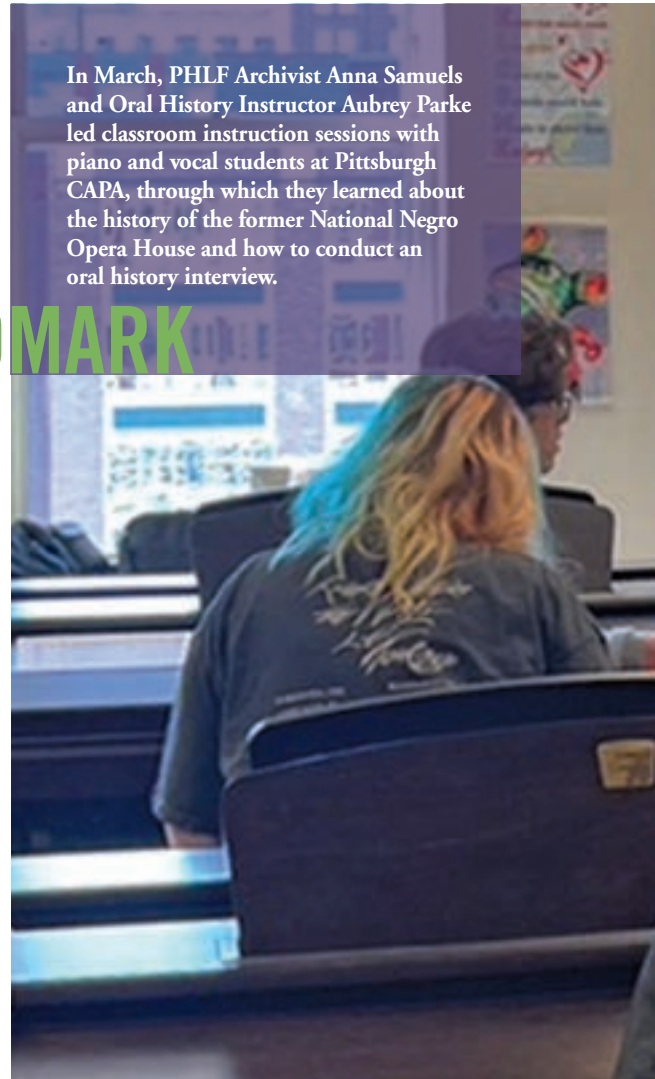
Working with a group of students and educators from the Pittsburgh School for the Creative and Performing Arts Academy (CAPA) 6—12, our organization compiled a collection of audio interviews about the house commonly known as the former National Negro Opera House.

Located at 7101 Apple Street, the monumental Queen Anne-style mansion built in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood in 1894 is known to have been the home of the National Negro Opera Company, organized under the direction of Mary Cardwell Dawson from 1941 to 1962. A City of Pittsburgh-designated Historic Landmark, the house is currently undergoing renovation for adaptive use by the National Opera House, the nonprofit organization overseeing the redevelopment of the building.

"A Legacy in Stone," our oral history project, saw us pair a group of students and educators with local community narrators who shared memories about the house, the neighborhood where it is located, and its significance as an historic cultural landmark on the landscape of American history.

This collection of oral history interviews and transcripts are now part of our organization's archives and are available to the public upon request. We also worked with a local videographer to produce a short video, which documented this oral history process from start to finish. This work will not only provide a glimpse into the history of the former National Negro Opera House, but also offer educators a template on how to conduct a student-led oral history exercise.

This project was funded by a grant from the African American Civil Rights Grant Program through the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.



In March, PHLF Archivist Anna Samuels and Oral History Instructor Aubrey Parke led classroom instruction sessions with piano and vocal students at Pittsburgh CAPA, through which they learned about the history of the former National Negro Opera House and how to conduct an oral history interview.

# COMMUNITY

People had forgotten, to a certain extent, the National Negro Opera Company. People had forgotten the history of Pittsburgh that was so amazing. —DEMAREUS COOPER

We have a tendency to know history but not always preserve history, so we're trying to preserve that landmark that was forsaken for so long. —DR. HERBERT JONES

The key step...is educating the public. I think once you start anything, in order to build a community and get advocates and get people on board, it starts with education. —JONNET SOLOMON

There are probably five or six major events, organizations, types of activities that only happened in this building, nowhere else in Pittsburgh. —MILTON OGOT

The whole idea of them having to have a...Negro Opera House, is because we didn't have the opportunity to share our talent with the world. —VIKKI "AYANNA" JONES

... I was talking to one of my mentors and I learned that I'm connected to the Opera House in terms of my vocal lineage. —CANDACE BURGESS





# VOICES



Pittsburgh CAPA students and teachers had a chance to tour the former National Negro Opera House building currently undergoing renovation and restoration in the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

# “OUR PROGRAM OF MATCHING-GRANTS, AND

Congregation Beth Shalom in Squirrel Hill is an example of the impact of our organization’s matching-grant program. Partly because of our funding last year, to complete the meticulous cornice repair of its façade, the congregation was able to dedicate resources to the renovation of other aspects of its grand 1920s-era buff brick and stone façade this year.

## Helping to Preserve our Historic Religious Buildings

**\$1.8 MILLION AWARDED IN MATCHING GRANTS IN 26 YEARS**

**LEVERAGING \$24 MILLION IN HISTORIC RESTORATION**

*Over the last 26 years, our organization has awarded more than \$1.8 million in matching grants to help renovate, maintain, and restore the architecturally significant buildings that house congregations of different religious groups in Allegheny County. The result is that our matching grant program has made it easier for congregations to undertake major exterior improvements and continue their mission of service and faith within their historic structures.*

The impact of our program, which awards grants of up to \$10,000 to active places of worship that are at least 50 years old and also provide a component of social and community services in their area, is that religious organizations are able to dedicate more financial resources to restoring historic buildings in the community.

Since 1997, this program has leveraged about \$24 million in renovation and restoration of buildings of religious organizations that reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural origins of this region’s population.

This year, our organization awarded a total of \$120,000 to 16 congregations in Allegheny County. These monies,

which leveraged \$490,000 raised by congregations will be used to fund restoration, renovation, and maintenance projects.

### 2023 Matching-Grant Awards

**\$8,190 to Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside**—Wood narthex entry door restoration

**\$4,225 to Church of The Ascension, Shadyside**—Stone entry stair repairs

**\$8,190 to Deer Creek United Presbyterian, West Deer Township, PA**—Replace five sets of exterior doors

**\$8,190 to Fairhaven United Methodist Church, Overbrook**—Stained glass window restoration

**\$8,190 to First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Oakland**—Masonry and roof repairs

**\$8,190 to First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh, Bloomfield**—Stained glass window restoration

**\$8,190 to Holy Faith Tabernacle Church, Knoxville**—Roof repairs and masonry repairs/repainting

**\$8,190 to King of Kings Baptist Ministries, Garfield**—Masonry repairs, replace steel lintels

**\$8,190 to McKeesport Area Shared Ministry UMC, McKeesport**—Slate roof repairs

**\$3,912 to McKeesport Central Presbyterian Church, McKeesport**—Roof repairs to chapel

**\$9,500 to Mulberry Community Church, Wilkensburg, PA**—Stained glass window repairs

**\$8,190 to Pittsburgh New Church, Point Breeze**—Masonry repairs to bell cote

**\$8,190 to Praise Temple Deliverance Church, Hazelwood**—Slate and flat roof repairs

**\$8,190 to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Highland Park**—Roof replacement

**\$9,075 to Sewickley United Methodist Church, Sewickley, PA**—Masonry repairs and sealing

**\$3,200 to Trinity Cathedral, Downtown**—Repointing along Oliver Avenue-side of building

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.

# LENDING ENHANCES HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE REGION.”

—Michael Sriprasert, President

*The Landmarks Community Capital Corporation, a non-profit lending arm of our organization, this year made available \$1.8 million to help finance the renovation and acquisition of buildings as part of comprehensive redevelopment initiatives in city neighborhoods and surrounding communities.*

Our lending includes partnerships with individual developers, community development corporations, and the Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation—a housing development entity of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

**Loan Projects:**

**\$225,000 for Destiny International Ministries**, a non-denominational church, to comprehensively renovate an old church building to create office, daycare, and community space.

**\$240,000 for the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation** for gut rehabilitation of 5219 Colombo Street, a single-family-house in the Garfield neighborhood.

**\$527,000 for the Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation** for the renovation of 838 Eureka Street, 730 McLain Street, and 725 Excelsior Street, three houses in the city’s Allentown neighborhood, which will be sold to new buyers at 80 percent of the Area Median Income.

**\$500,000 for Penn Heights Dwellings, LLC**, to purchase the campus of St. Bartholomew Church in Penn Hills as part of a phase one of the development to convert the buildings into 85 units of affordable rental housing.

**\$332,000 for Erik and Kalina Kath** for the gut rehabilitation of an historic building located at 900 Chestnut Street in the East Allegheny neighborhood of Pittsburgh. When finished the building will feature live/work space and a rental apartment.

**Federal Government Grant to Finance Affordable Housing**

In April, Landmarks Community Capital received a \$661,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) to be applied to fulfilling loan applications for affordable housing and community space projects.

As part of the grant, Landmarks Community Capital is also applying five percent of the funds \$33,000—to making grants to non-profit groups in an effort to boost needed real estate development in various communities.

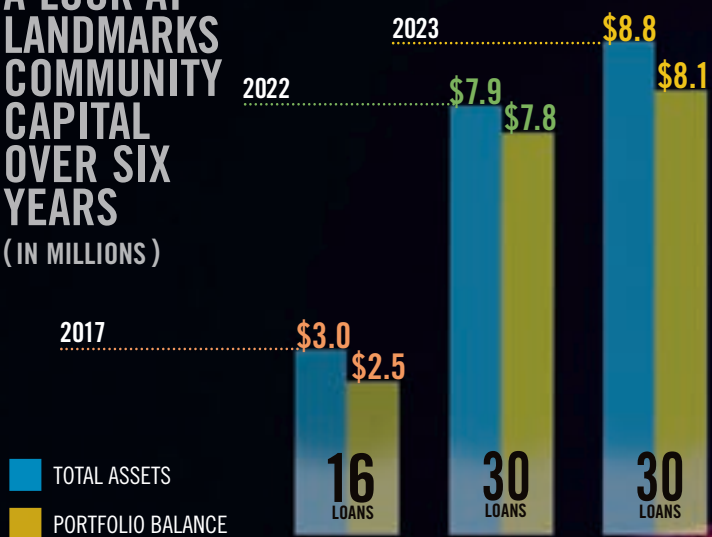
Certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution in 2007, Landmarks Community Capital is a reliable small-balance purchase/construction lender with expertise in historic preservation, commercial lending, and construction management. It provides loan capital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

purchasing and rehabilitating affordable housing and commercial buildings.

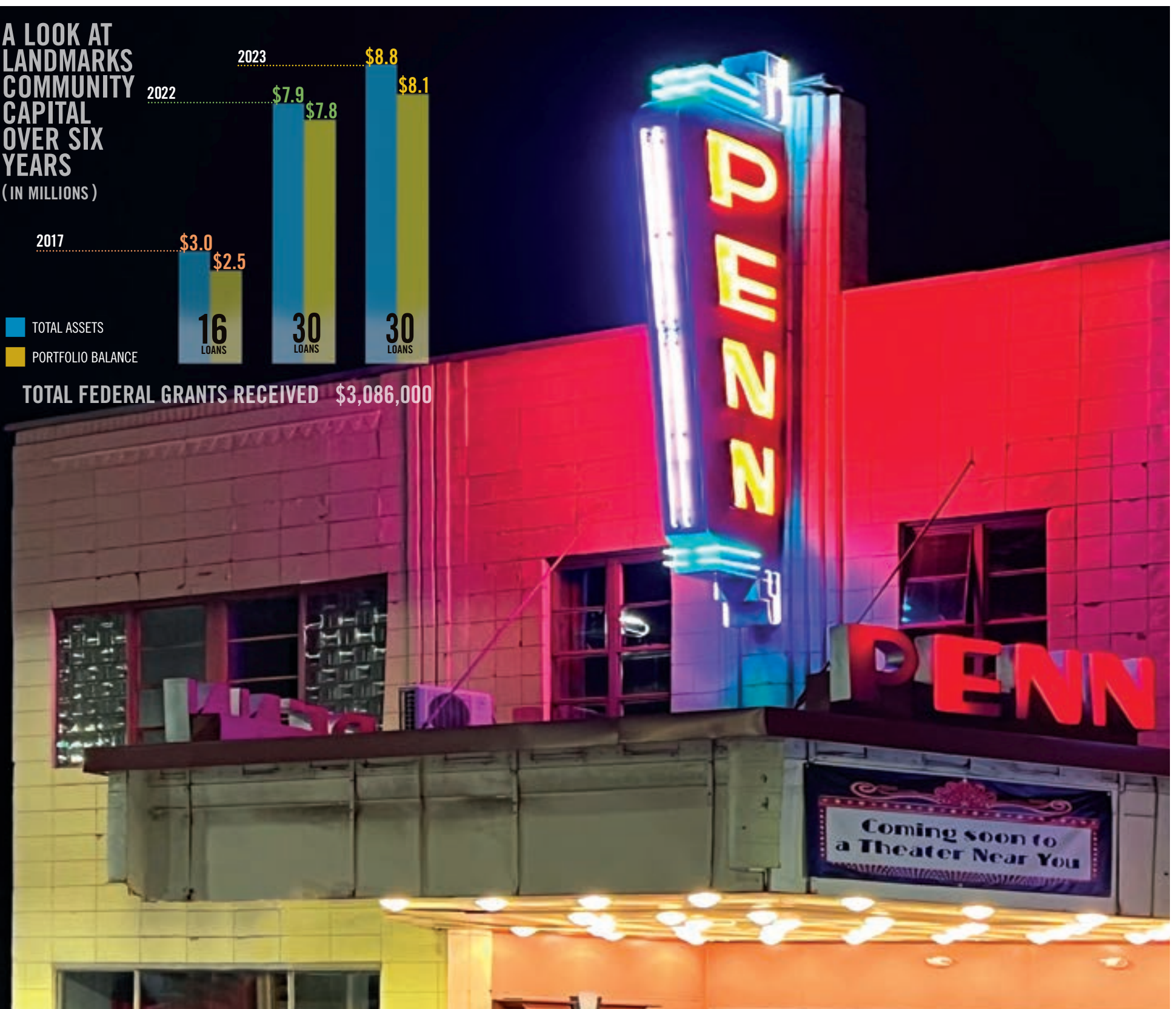
For more information or if you wish to discuss your project or to apply for a loan, contact Senior Loan Officer Rob Wagner: rob@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

**Below: Our organization is delighted to see the ongoing and near completion of the renovation of the historic Penn Theater building in Butler, Pennsylvania. The last of Butler’s great movie houses, which opened in 1938, the building sat vacant for many years and a loan from our organization enabled the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler to acquire the building and market it for redevelopment. Butler native Bryan Frenchak and his wife Marina, acquired the building in 2022 and are renovating it to make it a movie house and multi-purpose events space. Our organization owns a preservation easement on the building which is a contributing resource in the National Register-listed Butler Historic District.**

**A LOOK AT LANDMARKS COMMUNITY CAPITAL OVER SIX YEARS (IN MILLIONS)**



**TOTAL FEDERAL GRANTS RECEIVED \$3,086,000**



# The Historic Landmark Plaque is One of the Most Visible Ways in

**T**he Historic Landmark Plaque is one of the most visible ways in which our organization recognizes historic places, which contribute to the distinctive physical character of our built environment.

This year, the Historic Plaque Designation Committee, chaired by Selene Davis during its meeting on June 20, awarded nine plaques to significant buildings that were designed between 1893 and 1956, and awarded a plaque to recognize a historic district.

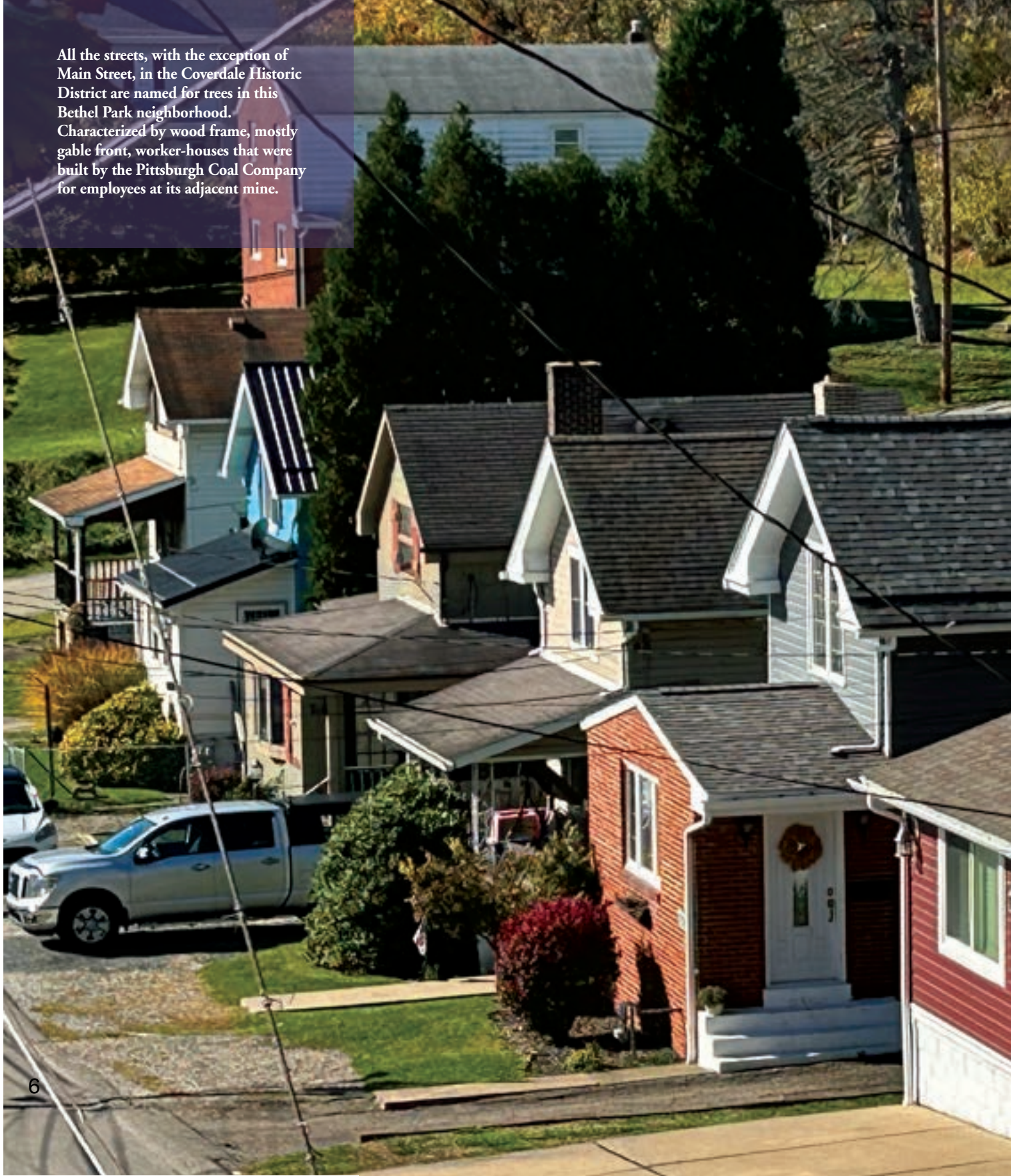
Among the recipients of our 2023 cycle are preservation successes and respectful reuse stories. We found in each of our current caretakers a passion for preservation, continued use, and promotion of historic properties.

Our organization has now awarded 630 plaques since 1968, when we launched the program. The plaques do not protect a building from alteration or demolition, but they may make one pause to contemplate what in our built environment makes Pittsburgh home. The loss of a site is forever.

**The awards in order of construction:**

1. **Engine House No. 22.** 1500 Fernleaf Street, South Side Slopes. 1893–94. Charles Bickel, architect. Sam Taylor, architect for residential conversion, 1982. Renovations by Michael C. Smith, 2015–22.
2. **Ora Lee Carroll House at Cornerstone Village (Larimer School).** 121-135 Winslow Street, Larimer. 1896, 1904. Ulysses J. L. Peoples; 1932. George M. Rowland, architects. Renovations by Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, 2023.
3. **Fairhaven United Methodist Church.** 2415 Saw Mill Run Boulevard, Overbrook. 1907.
4. **Church of The Epiphany of Bellevue.** 336 South Home Avenue, Avalon. 1912–13. Vrydaugh & Wolfe, architects. Michael W. Pappas, architect for residential reuse, 2021.
5. **Verona United Methodist Church.** 798 Herron Avenue, Verona. 1913–15. Fulton & Butler (Uniontown), architects.
6. **Coverdale Historic District.** South of South Park Avenue at Main Street, Bethel Park. 1920. Pittsburgh Coal Company, builder.
7. **Alpha Evangelical Lutheran Church (Total Salvation Ministries).** 130 Grant Street, Turtle Creek. 1925. George C. Baum (Philadelphia), architect.
8. **Honor Bilt house. “The Walton” model, 1921–29.** 9643 Hilliard Road, McCandless Township. 1926. Sears, Roebuck and Co.
9. **William “Bill” Boyd McKechnie house.** 1 Scenery Road., Wilkinsburg. 1927.
10. **Saul and Edith Lipkind house.** 1137 Onondago Street, Swisshelm Park. 1954–56. Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Brierly, architects. The house was awarded a special designation in 1989 recognizing the works of Peter Berndtson.

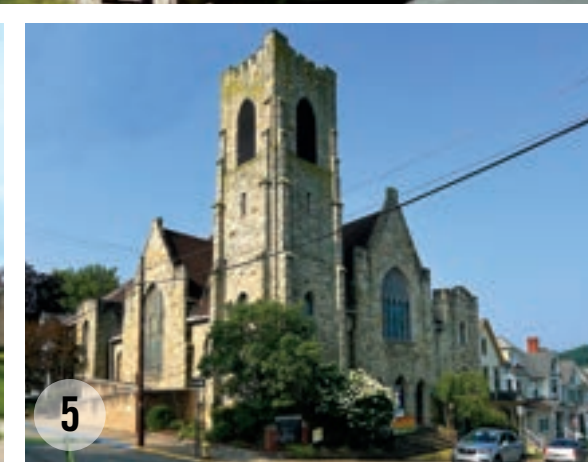
All the streets, with the exception of Main Street, in the Coverdale Historic District are named for trees in this Bethel Park neighborhood. Characterized by wood frame, mostly gable front, worker-houses that were built by the Pittsburgh Coal Company for employees at its adjacent mine.



# Which We Recognize Historic Places



We thank the Pennsylvania Macaroni Company for hosting the Strip Historic District plaque — awarded in 2019, along with the National Register of Historic Places designation nominated by our organization and approved in 2014.





LAURA GREENBERG

**“The Landmarks Scholarship Program of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and Louise’s involvement in particular, have been extremely influential to my career. They provided financial support during college, a network of wonderful people, a connection back to Pittsburgh, and an intellectual grounding in the importance of context and preservation. I am thankful to be a part of such a strong and supportive network and look forward to seeing what the future holds for the program.”**



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## *Creating Impact:* The Arc of a Landmarks Scholarship Recipient

*By Laura Greenberg*

The Landmarks Scholarship, which I received in 2009 when I completed high school at Pittsburgh Allderdice, has been a meaningful tether for me in my career, and to Pittsburgh, my home city. Being awarded the scholarship was a great boost of confidence for me heading to college at the University of Miami in Florida, to study architecture.

I found that being a Landmarks Scholarship recipient was more than getting a financial package to help defray college expenses. Because I attended an out-of-state school, being connected to a network of other Landmarks Scholarship recipients spread out across the country was important to me because it gave me a sense of connection to home.

In the winter, during school breaks, I enjoyed the gatherings of previous Landmarks Scholarship winners,

organized by PHLF, because they allowed me to meet other recipients in various schools, work, and fields of study. As an architecture student, those get-togethers gave me a chance to meet and interact with local design professionals, which helped me in understanding the field I was preparing to enter. Those get-togethers were good because many of us are still in touch today.

Louise Sturgess, the former longtime director of education and executive director of PHLF, was integral to keeping the scholarship recipient network connected. She would reach out to introduce new recipients every year, make sure we felt welcome at events, and connect us to opportunities as they arose. During two college summers, Louise helped me get a job with the Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Summer Dreamers program. I worked with her, PHLF staff and a fantastic group of kids. It was in those years that I got to learn more about Downtown Pittsburgh.

When I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture, I took a job at a big architectural firm in New York City, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, commonly known as RAMSA, a renowned firm in the city and the country.

After a few years of working experience, I went on to complete a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. In graduate school, I was able to broaden my knowledge

base and refocus on topics I care most about—Pittsburgh, equitable and sustainable design frameworks, and adaptive use strategies.

Louise was one of the first people I called when I moved back to Pittsburgh after graduate school to help me get a sense of our city’s design scene. I am currently an Associate at Urban American City (urbanAC), a planning and design practice rooted in addressing issues of urban justice through inclusive collaborations.

Our work has expanded my view of preservation beyond physical assets to include much more cultural heritage, though the two go hand-in-hand, and to be more critical of whose history we prioritize when we talk about preservation.

Some of my recent projects include cultural heritage work in Indianapolis and an adaptive reuse project in Rochester, New York. urbanAC has done work in Pittsburgh before and we are excited to do more here in the near future!

*Laura Greenberg is an Associate at Urban American City where she contributes as an urban designer, registered architect, and researcher. Recent work includes public realm design and activation, community wealth-building efforts, and the creative reuse of vacant spaces in legacy cities.*

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MARIE MILLER: MARIE@PHLF.ORG  
OR 412-471-5808 EXT. 526.**





Our 2023 Landmarks Scholarship recipients, accompanied by their friends and relatives, joined members of the Scholarship Committee, trustees, and staff at an awards reception held in the dining room of the Grand Concourse restaurant in Station Square on Wednesday, July 12.

### Our 2023 Landmarks Scholarship Recipients:

- Emily Barrie from Upper St. Clair High School, now at the University of Virginia
- Andrew McLaughlin from North Allegheny Senior High School, now at the University of Pittsburgh
- Nelson Morris from Pittsburgh Westinghouse, now at Penn State University

### Our 2023 Honorable Mention Recipients:

- Taylor Billet from Riverview Jr.-Sr. High School, now at Ohio University
- Kendal Chilcoat from Pine-Richland High School, now at the University of Pittsburgh
- Dylan Folan from Pittsburgh CAPA, now at the University of Pennsylvania
- Maya Leyzarovich from Shady Side Academy, now at the University of Pennsylvania
- Lindsey Storey from Gateway High School, now at the University of Pittsburgh
- Annali Thomas from Thomas Jefferson High School, now at Slippery Rock University
- Sejal Verma from South Fayette High School, now at Purdue University; and
- Brayden Wisniewski from Avonworth High School, now at the Savannah College of Art & Design



DAVID BRASHEAR  
CHAIRMAN, LANDMARKS SCHOLARSHIP  
COMMITTEE

**G**ROWING UP IN PITTSBURGH, the history and culture of our region was deeply imprinted on me. As we all know, Western Pennsylvanians share a broad set of basic, humanistic values—some would call it a midwestern mindset. While our circumstances span the economic spectrum, we are uniformly hardworking and kind, and always there to lend a helping hand. We are proud of our hometown, and all of its wonderful attributes.

The mission of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation resonated strongly with me, and in 1998 I approached Arthur Ziegler, the then-president and co-founder of the organization, about creating a scholarship program that would help connect young

# LANDMARKS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**LAUNCHED IN 1999**  
**AWARDED MORE THAN**  
**\$500,000 \$6,000 OVER**  
**4 YEARS PER RECIPIENT**  
**88 SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AWARDED SINCE 1999**  
**59 HONORABLE**  
**MENTIONS\* AWARDED**  
**SINCE 2016**

\*THE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD IS A ONE-TIME GIFT OF \$250, PAYABLE TO THE STUDENT'S COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

people to our organization and our work. He was enthusiastic, and our effort launched in 1999. I partnered with Louise Sturgess, who was director of education and executive director for many years, and we immediately formed a scholarship committee. Some of the committee members have served on the team since our beginning.

Over the years, we have learned the personal stories of hundreds and hundreds of high school students, through their applications and their essays. The vibrancy of the high school experience in our region, the developmental support of community institutions, and the strength of families and personal perseverance have impressed me time and time again. It has been an honor to meet so many scholarship winners and runners-up through the years, along with their parents and guardians.

Our winners have gone on to become leaders and people of impact in the Pittsburgh region and across the country. They have developed careers in many different arenas, and many have continued their connections to our organization. It's hard to believe the Landmarks Scholarship Program has existed for more than 25 years.

I look forward to the continuing impact of the program in the years to come.

*David Brashear, a former vice-chair of the board and longtime trustee of our organization, is the director of the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.*

# LANDMARKS HERITAGE SOCIETY RECOGNITION



## Celebrating Donors While Enjoying Culture, History, and Great Architecture

**OUR ORGANIZATION WAS DELIGHTED** to host our Landmarks Heritage Society recognition event at the Latin American Cultural Center in Oakland on Thursday, September 7. Through this annual reception, we get an opportunity to thank and interact with this special group of donors for the continued support of the mission of our organization, which is to help renew communities through historic preservation.

The members of the Landmarks Heritage Society help us achieve our mission through donation of an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, or make a planned gift commitment to our organization.

For this year's reception, we were particularly happy to spend time together exploring the Latin American Cultural Center, which is a relatively new museum in Oakland dedicated to celebrating the arts, history, and cultures of Latin America. We were pleased to be joined by Milagros Pereyra-Rojas, executive director, and Sandra Budd, curator. The vision of the museum, they said, is to showcase the vitality and vibrancy of Latin American history, life, and culture as a great contributor to the richness of our world.

Housed in the former Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania building located near the corner of Bigelow Boulevard and O'Hara Street, the museum is an outreach initiative of the Latin American Studies Association, a non-profit organization of nearly 14,000 scholars and students from around the world that has been associated with the University of Pittsburgh since 1986. The center houses both museum gallery and exhibition spaces and the world headquarters of the Latin American Studies Association.

Completed in 1912, the white brick and matching terra cotta building, which houses the museum in the heart of Oakland, was completed in 1912 by the architectural firm of Ingham & Boyd the predecessor to the current Pittsburgh firm IKM, Inc. The fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance style-building is listed in both the City of Pittsburgh and National Register Historic Districts.

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
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If you're interested in joining our Landmarks Heritage Society or would like to support a specific preservation initiative, contact Director of Education, Development and Advocacy 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)

On the evening of September 7, our Heritage Society members and donors, together with volunteers, trustees, and staff enjoyed an evening together at the Latin American Cultural Center in Oakland. The evening included a guided exploration of the museum's permanent exhibition, Latin America and the Caribbean—an overview of its Peoples, Cultures, Arts.



# \$355,924

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General Preservation includes Neighborhood Restoration Initiatives, Saving Landmark Architecture, and Preservation Planning & Advocacy

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# 2.2%

# 16.2%

# 70.8%

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.

# 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 from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023.

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Daniel Lovering, a videographer and producer with Bagamor Media, and Brandon Vincent, a camera operator, filmed Stanton Eckstut as he explained the philosophy and design principles he applied in his work to reimagine the historic wharf as a large scale, mixed-use urban development that can be a place where people enjoy spending their time.



## EDUCATION & ADVOCACY THROUGH FILM

**T**HOUGHTS ON REIMAGINING URBAN SITES, is a mini-documentary we produced this year as a part of our ongoing education and advocacy efforts to highlight how design choices can lead to the creation of public spaces that encourage high engagement of people and economic activity.

The film features Stanton Eckstut, a pioneering architect who has designed iconic public spaces in cities across the United States, as he offers ideas on how to redevelop urban sites while walking the grounds of one of his recent projects, The Wharf, in Washington, D.C.

Eckstut, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a longtime collaborator of our organization, whose thinking has helped us better understand how to utilize historic buildings in large-scale developments over the years, takes us on a journey through which we experience the reimagined value, utility, and human scale of the historic Wharf. We see how his singular

approach to architecture as a practice of designing large-scale, mixed-use developments brings a distinctive sense of enjoyment of the built environment.

Eckstut's reputation as an innovator and leader in large-scale architecture was forged more than 30 years ago, when he worked on the master plan for New York City's Battery Park City. His work has since focused on strengthening the urban fabric of cities nationwide by creating centers of social and civic activity.

"Even my smallest buildings are about being part of a larger community," says Eckstut.

Featured at the *Better Cities Film Festival* held in Detroit, Michigan, from October 5 to October 8, where it won the Better Planning & Design Award, *Thoughts on Reimagining Urban Sites*, can be found on our organization's web site and social media channels, including Facebook and YouTube.



The redeveloped historic wharf in Washington, D.C., is a mile-long stretch along the Potomac River, with restaurants, retailers, and residences.



## THOUGHTS ON REIMAGINING URBAN SITES

**Stanton Eckstut, FAIA**  
Architect, urban designer,  
and ambassador  
for placemaking  
and the creation  
of iconic  
public spaces.





Karamagi Rujumba and Daniel Lovering attended the *Better Cities Film Festival*, held in Detroit, Michigan, from October 5 to October 8, where *Thoughts on Reimagining Urban Sites* was screened in a block of mini-documentaries about designing walkable urban spaces.



The Walter C. Kidney Collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, and research material related to the history of Pittsburgh's built environment.

*Library and Archives:*

## Rehousing Important Research Records

The writings, extensive research, and published works of Jamie Van Trump, Charles C. Arensberg, and Walter C. Kidney are vital source materials that help us understand the origins of our organization within the arc of the historic preservation movement and why we advocate for saving buildings and components that define our distinctive built environment.

The collected works of these three individuals—a co-founder, a longtime chairman of the board, and one of the most profound thinkers and

writers on the architecture of our city—reflect a deep base of knowledge about Pittsburgh and the region and will continue to serve as great research texts for many a scholar in the future.

To that end, our organization's archivist Anna Samuels, working with the help of interns Hannah LeComte and Katie Ploger, has spent the year processing the paper-based collections of the three writers, rehousing them in acid-free folders and boxes, guaranteeing that these valuable materials will be preserved for

generations to come. As a part of this process, we have scanned Jamie Van Trump's script-written essays on historical architecture creating a digitized version of his essays, which we expect to make available on our website in the near future.

This project was supported by a grant 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:

- *Pittsburgh from the Northwest in 1873* lithograph by Trinity Court Studio from C. Vaughn Strimlan, MD.
- *Monongahela Incline* line drawing by Nevin Robinson from Dan Stolick and Blade Stolick.
- "Homewood" Judge William Wilkins house painting by Floyd G. Ackerson, 1928 from The Family of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Stiltz.
- Edward Fraher Collection from Trish Monroe, consisting of Civic Arena photographs, urban renewal area photographs, and a latch-hook of the Civic Arena by Helen Dobranski.
- Rich Cummings and Patty Evans in honor of Edward Tannehill, Bette Landish, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Marvin, and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. for titles added to the book collection.

### Gifts to Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive:

- Mike and Carol Foglia for a P&LE RR monogram platter by the Orondaga Pottery Company.
- Mrs. Joan Fairbanks for a continuing subscription to *Trains* magazine.
- Margaret W. Dury for ephemera including railroad tickets, passes assigned to paymaster Mr. John H. Dury, and a railroad frank.

## Landmarks Scholarship Recipient Co-Authors Book on Western Pennsylvania

**L**AINEY NEWMAN HAD ALWAYS LOVED PITTSBURGH, HER HOMETOWN, BUT DIDN'T REALLY REALIZE HOW SPECIAL A PLACE IT WAS TO HER OR HOW MUCH SHE IDENTIFIED WITH IT, UNTIL SHE'D LEFT IT. First, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for college and yes, even in Philadelphia for a brief while,

she was pleasantly impressed to discover the warmth with which friends and perfect strangers reacted to her Pittsburgh roots. "Pittsburgh," an acquaintance would tell her once, was "a city that punches above its weight."

A 2017 graduate of Pittsburgh Obama Academy, in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Lainey, who studied Government at Harvard College, decided she would focus on Pittsburgh and the political evolution of western Pennsylvania as part of her senior thesis. A 2017 Landmarks Scholarship Recipient, Lainey exemplified the ideals for which our scholarship program was created—to help inspire capable young people who care deeply about the Pittsburgh region. "I was interested in the

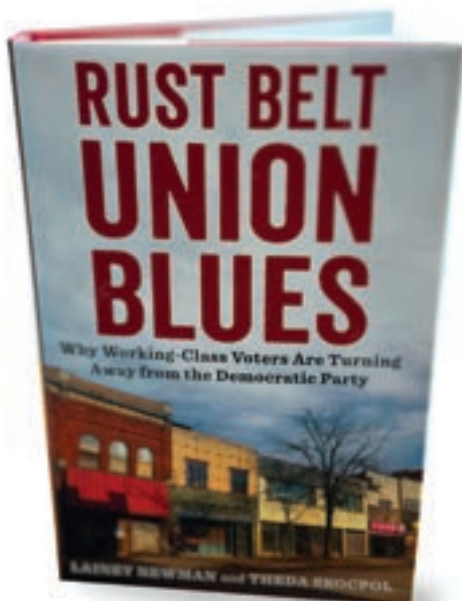
political evolution of the region, and particularly in how union decline and the steel collapse impacted electoral outcomes in the counties surrounding Allegheny County. For the project, I spoke with dozens of retired and current steelworkers and other industrial union members. Though my life is very different from theirs—in age, occupation, and almost always gender—I felt connected to them through Pittsburgh," she said.

Her senior thesis project would ultimately evolve into *Rust Belt Union Blues*, a book that is in many ways a product of her love for western Pennsylvania and its people. In it, she and Theda Skocpol, a sociologist and political scientist argue that union loyalty was predicated on member-to-member commitment and the community interconnectedness of local unions in the mid-twentieth century.

They discovered that voting for the Democratic Party in

western Pennsylvania, a byproduct of that union loyalty, was not simply a measure of which party had better economic policies for a working family. Instead, it was predicated on group identity—think of the prototypical "union man," for example. This group identity, they contend, has almost entirely disappeared because involvement in civic associations in American life started to decline in the latter-half of the mid-twentieth century.

Currently a second-year student at Harvard Law School, Lainey hopes to move back to Pittsburgh soon. Her book *Rust Belt Union Blues*, published by Columbia University Press in September 2023 is available for purchase at any major bookseller. If you get a chance to read *Rust Belt Union Blues*, Lainey would love to hear your thoughts about it. Contact her at: [enewman@jd25.law.harvard.edu](mailto:enewman@jd25.law.harvard.edu).



Lainey Newman  
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The background image is an architectural rendering of the building plans for the Saul and Edith Lipkind House, 1137 Onondago St. Swisshelm Park, 1954-56. Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Brierly, architects. This Usonian house was designed by two former Frank Lloyd Wright students. (See also story on Page 13.)

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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.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*(November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023)*

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

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 LAURA BRANBY  
 CHAD BRINKLEY  
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### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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 CHRIST CHURCH FOX CHAPEL  
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 MULBERRY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
 ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 ST. MARK'S AME CHURCH  
 SEWICKLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Lit up! The historic Landmarks Building (William George Burns, architect, 1901), formerly the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Passenger Terminal in Station Square, redeveloped by our organization from 1976 to 1994, and now owned by Brookfield Properties.

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—Arthur Ziegler, Co-Founder