

PRESERVATION MATTERS

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PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP AT PACA

by Thomas Garza

PACA is poised to enact changes to our membership structure for the first time since the organization began over thirty years ago, and so I thought I'd take a moment to talk a little bit about what we're doing.

In many ways a nonprofit like PACA is the exact opposite of a regular business. Your usual for-profit business venture does its work so that it can generate income, whereas a nonprofit must generate income in order to do its work, and that means that for a nonprofit there is often twice as much that needs to be done at the end of the day because it's not until you first make your money that your chosen work can actually begin.

PACA is extraordinarily lucky however, in that one of its activities - salvaging still usable materials from doomed structures and finding new homes for them - is actually an income generating process in and of itself, and so thanks to the proceeds from our architectural salvage warehouse we've been able to fund almost all of our own operations; something non-profits which must rely solely on member dues or grants usually struggle to do.

Because of the prominent role that the warehouse therefore must, of necessity, play in our work, and because salvaging is our most visible activity, many people are left with the impression that salvaging is all that we do, and that by donating spare items to the warehouse from time to time or coming in to shop occasionally they are doing everything necessary to help PACAs in its efforts, and while this is true up to a point - we do depend upon those things in



PACA's 25th Anniversary party held at the campus YMCA. Mike Jackson from IHPA was the keynote dinner speaker

order to remain viable and it is a vital part of our work - it misses the important role that membership plays in an organization such as this, and why we really need you to be both shoppers and members.

But hasn't membership always been important to PACA? Why this renewed emphasis on membership now?

I think that the answer to the first question is of course yes, membership has always been important, but over the years the scope of PACAs operations have changed and with it our focus, and so the emphasis we placed on expanding our membership base was diminishing at the same time as other activities began to require more immediate attention.

When PACA was first organized in 1981 we were a lonely voice in the wilderness. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

wasn't established until 1986 and neither Champaign or Urbana had their Historic Preservation Commissions yet (created in 1996 and 1999 respectively), so at our inception there were few legal mechanisms in place to protect historic properties and our powers of persuasion were all that we had to work with. At that time public awareness of the importance of our shared architectural heritage was generally fairly low, and so many of PACAs early battles weren't solely attempts to save this house or that building, we were also simultaneously engaged in trying to heighten awareness of the larger issues surrounding the loss of historic structures overall. A big part of our work was to try to change the terms of the debate away from the widely accepted assumption that development was a goal unto itself - that 'change' was automatically synonymous with 'progress' - to one that included an acknowledgement and understanding of the important



Volunteer party at the warehouse.

roles played by history and continuity in the life of a healthy community. In order to do this we needed all the members we could get, because our membership role was used as much to send out calls to action as it was a mailing list for newsletters. Our membership list was to us then what our volunteer list is today. Over time however, interest in historic preservation has expanded dramatically across the country and at least in a broad sense many of our once seemingly novel arguments have become mainstream. Laws protecting historic properties have been passed both on a federal and state level, and systems for working with local governments created, and so the desperate scrambles to respond to unexpected crises that seemed to dominate our early days have been in large part replaced by a more steady participation in the kind of institutionalized bureaucratic processes that we had been advocating throughout.

Because of this however, and on account of its sporadic nature, salvaging became the activity that required the greatest amount of ad hoc organizing, and so the need for available 'hands-on' volunteers became more crucial even as the need for broadening our membership base took on less urgency.

But I still haven't answered my second question . . . why the renewed emphasis on membership now?

The answer is, to put it simply, because

PACA is growing, and increasing membership is just one of the many ways we hope to keep pace with that growth and successfully build upon the foundation that we've created. As you may already know, we've increased the hours the warehouse is open from two to five days a week and we are even seeking additional storage space so that we can keep up with the increase in salvage materials and donations that have come to us as one of the results of this added contact with and accessibility to the public. At this point we are being offered more things than we have volunteers to get or places to store them in.

But there are other aspects to PACAs mission - aside from salvaging - that have been languishing for some time that require attention, and amongst those are outreach, advocacy, and education. All of these are important areas where membership plays a vital role and they require people who are willing and able to spend the time necessary to do that kind of work, but we need a broad enough base of support so that we can find people who have the skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to fill those roles, staff the committees, and do the legwork necessary to get those jobs done. As we have worked on establishing and expanding our salvage operations over the years, we let some of these other things fall by the wayside because there was only so much energy to go around and always too few people to do the work, and this is why there is a renewed interest in membership at this time. It's true that we are growing

now, but we won't get very far if we don't expand our membership base in order to support the increased activity. We recruit our volunteers primarily from amongst our members, and volunteers are our life-blood. We do occasionally have people who volunteer who aren't interested in becoming members, but as our members are literally a part of the organization itself they therefore have a sense of ownership over what the group as a whole does that the occasional volunteer does not, and this difference is reflected in the enthusiasm and long term commitment they show and the work that they do.

You can play a big part in helping us fulfill our potential even if you don't have the time or energy to sit on a committee or become actively involved yourself because you very likely know someone who does, and all that we ask of you is that you keep our need for new members in mind and send anyone you can think of our way.

Over the years PACA has worked very hard to establish itself in the community. Through careful planning and wise management we've created a solid and sustainable salvage business and through our other work acquired a reputation as a dependable voice on behalf of preservation in this area. Not everyone agrees with all of the choices we've made or how we picked our battles of course, but the important thing is that for the most part people recognize that we have always tried our best to fulfill our mission and earn the trust that the community has placed in us, and from the comments I get from people coming into the warehouse, our reputation overall is a very good one and all of PACAs members both past and present should be proud of that.

As we begin this new year PACA is looking forward to the future, and we invite you to join us as we renew our commitment to helping preserve the historic integrity of our community and continue to try to save still usable materials from ending up in the landfill.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION **PACA** BOX 2575, CHAMPAIGN , IL 61825

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

- New Renewal

NAME: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$25
- Student \$15
- Senior Citizen \$15
- Family \$40
- Corporate
 - Bronze \$250
 - Silver \$500
 - Gold \$1000
 - Platinum \$2000

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

- I wish to make an additional contribution: \$ _____

Note: Please make your check payable to PACA. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**PACA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural and built environment. Offices are located at our salvage warehouse: 44 East Washington Street, Champaign, IL 61825
217-359-7222 - www.paca.org**

HERITAGE GRANTS

The PACA Heritage Grant Program was established in 1994 to share the proceeds of our salvage warehouse with other not-for-profit organizations in Champaign County who may be in need of financial assistance for preservation and conservation related projects. Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, public institutions, recognized neighborhood associations and public agencies based in Champaign County. Projects must involve preservation, conservation, and/or education related to history, architecture, or archeology in Champaign County and may fall

into any of five categories: bricks and mortar, land acquisition/move, professional architectural feasibility study, preservation education, and interpretation.

Grants are good for one year from date of notification and if not completed within this time frame the grant is rescinded although projects are eligible for refunding during another grant cycle. Grants are reimbursement grants and are only issued after completion of the project and submission of a final report along with supporting invoices for the work

completed.

When judging applications we consider the impact of the project, the effect the grant will have in accomplishing the project, and the need for financial assistance.

The deadline for the Heritage Grants Program will be March 15th. Applications can be picked up at the PACA warehouse or sent via email. Please call 217-359-7222, or email us at pacaexdir@gmail.com for more information.



**Preservation and Conservation Association
Heritage Grant Program
Grant Request**

Submitted by: _____ **Date:** _____
Name of Organization

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Contact Person:** _____

Tax Exempt Status: _____ **Tax Identification Number (TIN):** _____

Statement of Organization's Purpose/Mission:

Amount of Request: _____ **Project Budget:** _____
(A copy of the organization's total operating budget must be submitted)

Purpose of Funds:

(One continuation page may be attached)

Expected completion date of project (Grants expire after one year): _____
(A short final report on how the funds were expended is required)

Additional information pertinent to this project may be submitted. If you have any questions please call 359-7222.

HERITAGE AWARDS

The Heritage Award Committee is seeking nominations for the 2015 Heritage Awards. Categories include noteworthy Residential and Commercial rehabilitation projects; Institutional (schools, churches, governments, etc) projects that have kept the historic character of the building; conservation, educational, or restoration Landscape projects; and projects that have restored a Landmark building or site.

Neighborhood Heritage Awards are given to rehabilitation projects that help stabilize a historic neighborhood or area, while Historically Respectful Design Awards are for additions or new construction that integrate well into the historic streetscape. Adaptive Use Awards are for projects that have converted a building to a new use while keeping its historic character; and Place in History Awards are for

institutions that have continued to operate in a historic setting for 100 years or more. Special Heritage Awards are given to individuals who have worked to preserve a special aspect of our heritage or who have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community. Please submit your nominations by March 15.

Heritage Award Nomination Form

Name of building, site, or person _____
Address/location _____
City/township/county _____
Name and address of owner _____
Has the owner been notified of the nomination? _____

Category

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Heritage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Use Heritage Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Heritage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heritage Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Heritage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Place in History Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Heritage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Heritage Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historically Respectful Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Heritage Award |

To assist in the review and selection, please complete as much as you can of the following. Additional pages may be used. Attached photos – digital images of work (before, after, and during) - are very useful.

Historical Data

Date of construction _____
Date of renovation/restoration _____
Original owner _____
Important residents, owners, events _____
Significance to the community _____
Architectural data _____
Architect/builder _____
Style _____
Interesting/unusual features (interior or exterior) _____
Nominator's name, phone, and email _____

Return to PACA, P.O. Box 2575, Champaign, IL 61825-2575
Send questions to: pacaexdir@gmail.com

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The newsletter of the



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*If you would like to contribute
to the PACA newsletter, email
pacaexdir@gmail.com*

Would you be interested in receiving the news-
letter in a digital format instead of through the
mail? If so contact Tom at pacaexdir@gmail.com

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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