

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

A G E N D A

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers
401 Whitney Boulevard
5:30 pm**

ROLL CALL

Members:

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair
Claudia Colla, Vice-Chair
Alexandra Omiotek
David Larson
Dawn Brooks
Kim Coniglio
Vacant

Staff:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Ex-Officio:

Clint Morris, Mayor

MINUTES: January 23, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2024 Awards Program: Potential recipients
Promotional/Fundraising Events: Potential 2024 Fundraisers
Maintenance None
10 Year Plan: Section 3
Expenditures: None.
Friends of Preservation: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of America: Belvidere and Boone County, Boone County Journal Postcard

Books, A Walk Through Time

Royalties- No update.
Book Sales- 11 A Walk Through Time books

DISCUSSION:

COMMUNICATIONS/PLANNING REPORTS:

Staff Report:

Next Meeting Date: April 23, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
January 23, 2024
5:30 pm
City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard**

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sonya Dobberfuhr, Chair
Claudia Colla, VChair
David Larson
Barbara Volk
Alexandra Omiotek

Staff Present:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Members Absent:

Kim Coniglio
Dawn Brooks

Sonya Dobberfuhr called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (Larson/Volk) to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2023 Awards Program: Gina DelRose stated that she felt the Library served as a nice space to hold the events.

Barbara Volk stated that she was disheartened by the award recipients that did not attend and also by those winners that seemed overly boastful.

David Larson stated that he would like to see the Commission present legislation to the Belvidere City Council to allocate City funds towards historic preservation.

Barbara Volk discussed the now defunct Main Street Program.

Gina DelRose stated that the lack of community buy-in, especially from property owners that live out of the area is a difficult thing to overcome in any community.

The Commission encouraged David Larson to draft a written proposal to submit to the City Council that they can review.

Barbara Volk stated that she would like to see new award recipients instead of the same people repeatedly being recognized.

Gina DelRose noted properties that are currently mid-renovation that may be worthy of an award once completed.

Promotional/Fundraising Events: Gina DelRose stated that Sonya Dobberfuhr created a book highlighting the history of South State Street and donated it to the Commission. The books are available to purchase for \$20.

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Sonya Dobberfuhl discussed her book.

Barbara Volk stated that she would like to see another Stained Glass Window Tour. Ms. Volk stated that the fundraiser was unique and appealed to many people.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she would like to see another scavenger hunt and a sales event like Claudia Colla discussed previously.

Maintenance Small Grant: Gina DelRose stated that due to the lack of fundraisers during Covid and having smaller ones in 2023, the amount of available funds has significantly declined. Ms. DelRose stated that she would recommend decreasing the maximum amount of the grant from \$2,500 to \$1,000 which is what the limit was when the grant was created. This will prevent inadvertently misleading applicants that such a grant award is available.

Gina DelRose stated that another option is to not award grants in 2024 in order to allow the Commission to increase their fundraising efforts and the current funds to roll over into 2025. Ms. DelRose stated that one grant was awarded in 2023 and the recipient did not proceed with the renovation project because the amount awarded was not enough to make the project financially feasible for them.

It was the consensus of the Commission to not award grants in 2024 in order to increase the available funds in 2025.

10 Year Plan: Gina DelRose stated that she would include the Plan's goals and objectives in the next packet.

Expenditures: No updates.

Friends of Preservation: No updates.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of America: Belvidere and Boone County, Boone County Journal Postcard Books, A Walk Through Time

Royalties: No updates.

Book Sales: 2 postcard books at Hometown Christmas

DISCUSSION: None.

Staff Report: Gina DelRose provided an update on downtown restorations and businesses.

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Recorded by

Gina DelRose
Community Development Planner

Section Three >>

Implementation

Implementation Matrix

The matrix on the following pages summarizes recommended implementation phasing for each of the key initiatives identified in the 10-Year Historic Preservation Plan.

Goal #1: Continue active efforts in identifying and documenting Belvidere heritage as a basis for future preservation efforts.				
POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
Policy #1.1: Support, fund and implement initiatives that document Belvidere's heritage resources, including buildings, sites, structures and objects throughout the community.	Recommendation #1.1: Prioritize new areas in Belvidere for future survey and inventory activities.	Ongoing	High	HPC, BCMOH, Other Parties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 1 - North Courthouse Square 	1 - 3 Years	High	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 2 - Northwest Kishwaukee Street - West Lincoln Avenue Neighborhood 	4 - 10 Years	High	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 3 - Allen Street - 5th Street Neighborhood 	4-10 Years	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners

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POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 4 - Pearl Street - East Avenue Neighborhood 	4-10 Years	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Parties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 5 - Logan Boulevard - Pleasant Street Neighborhood 	4-7 Years	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 6 - Pearl Street - 6th Street Neighborhood 	4-10 Years	Low	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Area 7 - Andrews Drive - Channing Avenue Neighborhood 	4-10 Years	Low	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<p>Recommendation #1.2: Use internet and Geographic Information-System-based technologies for future survey and documentation activities.</p>	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB, BC
	<p>Recommendation #1.3: Create new GIS layers that include all levels of historic significance determined through survey projects.</p>	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB, BC

POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
	Recommendation #1.4: Conduct oral history projects for the National Sewing Machine Company complex and other important aspects of Belvidere's historical development.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, BCMOH
	Recommendation #1.5: Conduct or sponsor a community archaeological assessment.	4-10 Years	Low	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	Recommendation #1.6: Conduct additional context research related to Belvidere's vernacular architecture types and ethnic groups.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
Policy #1.2: Register and designate significant architectural and historical resources and districts as identified through survey and documentation activities.	Recommendation #1.7: Prepare an annual study list of potential landmarks and districts.	Ongoing	High	HPC
	Recommendation #1.8: Pursue a National Register nomination for the Belvidere Old Town neighborhood.	1-3 Years	High	HPC, Other Partners

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POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
	Recommendation #1.9: Designate the Courthouse Square and East Lincoln Avenue as Local Historic Districts.	1-3 Years	Medium	HPC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #1.10: Expand the West Hurlbut Avenue Local Historic District.	1-3 Years	High	HPC, Other Parties
	Recommendation #1.11: Document and landmark Belvidere's pre-fabricated housing types and historic gas stations.	1-3 Years	Low	HPC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #1.12: Register important publicly-owned historic buildings, structures, and objects.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB, Other Partners

Goal #2: Review and enhance preservation program administration.

POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
Policy #2.1: Review and update the historic preservation ordinance and other regulatory tools to advance community preservation planning goals.	Recommendation #2.1: Update the Belvidere Historic Preservation Ordinance.	1-3 Years	High	COB, HPC
	Recommendation #2.2: Reconstitute the Downtown Design Overlay District as a Local Historic District.	1 - 3 Years	High	COB, HPC, Other Partners
Policy #2.2: Consider and adopt new tools that support and encourage preservation of important historic resources.	Recommendation #2.3: Develop a comprehensive design guideline manual.	1-3 Years	High	COB, HPC
	Recommendation #2.4: Establish a Neighborhood Conservation District program.	4-7 Years	Medium	COB, HPC, Other Partners
Policy #2.3: Improve historic preservation commission operations and develop local preservation leadership.	Recommendation #2.5: Adopt internal rules and procedures for Historic Preservation Commission operations.	1-3 Years	High	HPC

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POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
	Recommendation #2.6: Actively recruit new members to the Historic Preservation Commission.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB, Other Partners
	Recommendation #2.7: Orient incoming historic preservation commission members to commission operations.	Ongoing	High	HPC
	Recommendation #2.8: Provide opportunities for the ongoing training and education of Historic Preservation Commission members.	Ongoing	High	HPC
	Recommendation #2.9: Maintain the City of Belvidere's Certified Local Government status.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB
	Recommendation #2.10: Establish a budget for publications and community outreach.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, COB, Other Partners
	Recommendation #2.11: Benchmark Historical Preservation Commission operations and accomplishments.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB
	Recommendation #2.12: Designate a preservation specialist among City building inspectors.	1-3 Years	High	HPC, COB
	Recommendation #2.13: Utilize GIS technologies to track vacant and deteriorating historic properties.	1-3 Years	Medium	HPC, COB, BC

Goal #3: Facilitate reinvestment and revitalization of Belvidere’s historic buildings and neighborhoods.

POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
<p>Policy #3.1: Establish incentive programs to address a range of community preservation needs.</p>	<p>Recommendation #3.1: Re-establish a Façade Grant Improvement Program.</p>	<p>1-3 Years</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COB, HPC, Other Partners</p>
	<p>Recommendation #3.2: Offer fee waivers and other incentives to encourage building stabilization, adaptive use, and upper-floor development.</p>	<p>1-3 Years</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>COB, HPC, Other Partners</p>
	<p>Recommendation #3.3: Provide design assistance to downtown property and business owners.</p>	<p>1-3 Years</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COB, HPC, Other Partners</p>
	<p>Recommendation #3.4: Re-establish a Downtown Tax-Increment Financing District.</p>	<p>4-7 Years</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COB</p>
	<p>Recommendation #3.5: Maintain the Historic Preservation Commission's small grant program for housing rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COB, HPC, Other Partners</p>
	<p>Recommendation #3.6: Create a Downtown Venture Fund.</p>	<p>4-10 Years</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>COB, Other Partners</p>

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POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
	Recommendation #3.7: Explore creation of a historic preservation revolving fund.	4-10 Years	Medium	HPC, COB, Other Partners
	Recommendation #3.8: Advocate the expansion of the Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit program.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, COB, Other Partners
Policy #3.2: Support and build the community's capacity to implement preservation-based revitalization and development initiatives.	Recommendation #3.9: Re-establish a Downtown Belvidere revitalization program.	1-3 Years	High	HPC, COB, Other Partners
	Recommendation #3.10: Pursue organized efforts at promoting historic home rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB, BC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #3.11: Consider alternative financing and intervention mechanisms for the National Sewing Machine Complex rehabilitation.	Ongoing	1-3 Years	HPC, COB, Other Partners
Policy #3.3: Integrate historic preservation within future community planning and development initiatives.	Recommendation #3.12: Conduct surveys or add preservation elements to future district or neighborhood plans.	Ongoing	Low	HPC, COB, Other Partners

**POLICY FOR
DECISION MAKERS**

RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
Recommendation #3.13: Consider historic preservation in other City departmental planning initiatives.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB
Recommendation #3.14: Review zoning and parking requirements in Local Historic Districts.	1-3 Years	High	COB, HPC
Recommendation #3.15: Focus capital improvements in Local Historic Districts.	Ongoing	Medium	COB
Recommendation #3.16: Maintain a list of threatened, vacant and deteriorating historic properties.	Ongoing	High	HPC, COB
Recommendation #3.17: Prepare a hazard mitigation with a historic preservation element.	1-3 Years	Medium	HPC, COB, Other Partners

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Goal #4: Promote the awareness and increased public understanding of historic preservation benefits through ongoing education and advocacy efforts.

POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
<p>Policy #4.1: Invest in technologies to enhance accessibility to information regarding Belvidere’s heritage.</p>	<p>Recommendation #4.1: Create an Internet portal for Belvidere survey data.</p>	1-3 Years	Medium	COB, HPC, BC
	<p>Recommendation #4.2: Write and publish a post-survey book or publication.</p>	4-10 Years	Low	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<p>Recommendation #4.3: Create a “crowdsourced” Belvidere history website.</p>	1-3 Years	Low	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<p>Recommendation #4.4: Develop an internet-accessible database for headstones in the Belvidere Cemetery.</p>	4-10 Years	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	<p>Recommendation #4.5: Create online versions of brochures, materials and other historic preservation information.</p>	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, Other Partners
	<p>Recommendation #4.6: Create an interpretive program for Belvidere historic resources.</p>	4-10 Years	Medium	HPC, BCAC, BCMOH, Other Partners

POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
Policy #4.2: Support and invest in ongoing outreach and preservation education activities.	Recommendation #4.7: Conduct a regular Downtown property owners workshop.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.8: Provide training to local realtors and bankers.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.9: Enhance Boone County Museum of History lecture series and open houses with preservation content.	Ongoing	Medium	BCMOH, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.10: Conduct an annual "State of Historic Preservation" address and report.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.11: Create toolkits for researching historic properties and other preservation topics.	1-3 Years	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.12: Involve local senior citizens in public education efforts.	Ongoing	Medium	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners

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POLICY FOR DECISION MAKERS	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE	PRIORITY SCALE	PARTIES
Policy #4.3: Engage other partners and organizations in preservation education and advocacy	Recommendation #4.13: Expand partnerships with the Boone County Museum of History.	Ongoing	High	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners
	Recommendation #4.14: Seek partnerships with other organizations and entities.	Ongoing	High	HPC, BCMOH, Other Partners

Local Incentives and Funding Sources

There are currently several incentive programs managed by the City of Belvidere and others at the local level that help facilitate preservation activities. These programs are summarized in this section.

Belvidere-Boone County Enterprise Zone

The Belvidere-Boone County Enterprise Zone, established in 1985 and re-authorized in 2006 as part of Chapter 82, Article V of the City's Municipal Code, was designed to help stimulate economic development through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief, and improved governmental services. The Zone currently encompasses the Downtown area and provides the following incentives:

- Sales Tax Exemption – a 7.5 percent state sales tax exemption is permitted on building materials bought and used in the Enterprise Zone.
- Enterprise Zone Investment Tax Credit – a state investment tax credit of 0.5 percent is allowed for taxpayers who invest in qualified properties in the Zone, including machinery, equipment and buildings.
- Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement – local property tax abatement is available for improvements to commercial and industrial properties.
- Building Permit Fee Reduction – permit fee reductions of up to 50 percent are available for improvements to commercial and industrial properties.

Other state tax exemptions are available in the Enterprise Zone for larger-scale job-generating businesses and industries.

City of Belvidere Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Tax Increment Financing is a State authorized program administered by a municipality that allocates future increases in property taxes from a designated area for improvements dedicated to that area. Under TIF, the property taxes due to an increased value from new development, increases in new assessments due to rehabilitation or improvement or tax rate changes, are allocated to the municipality in a Tax Increment Allocation Fund to be used for various redevelopment activities within the designated area. Other taxing districts continue to receive property taxes at the same level as before the TIF district was instituted. Belvidere currently has one TIF district encompassing portions of its Downtown. Tax increment proceeds can be used for building and façade improvements, loans as part of a development financing package, and infrastructure improvements and easement purchases; such proceeds have been used as gap and bridge financing for historic buildings rehabilitation projects.

Façade Grant Improvement Program

Façade and storefront rehabilitations can be partially financed through a re-established Façade Improvement Grant Program, which can underwrite varying amounts of improvements depending on what type of commercial activity is housed in the building. The program should be administered by the City of Belvidere with a dedicated and sustainable funding source.

Special Service Area (SSA)

A Special Service Area is a State authorized financing program that can be administered by the City or by a designated service provider agency, to deliver a wide range of additional services and physical improvements in a defined geographic area. An SSA is funded by a special tax assessment paid by the property owners in the designated SSA district and can finance a variety of activities including capitalizing a façade or storefront rehabilitation program, or physical improvements in a historic area or district.

Capital Improvement Plan

Many communities incorporate some public improvement initiatives for historic areas within the municipal capital improvements plan. This could include physical enhancements to historic areas or districts.

Venture Fund/Community Supported Financing

A venture or community-supported equity fund for building rehabilitation or small business capitalization aimed at reducing the Downtown Belvidere storefront vacancy rate should be explored. This might take the form of a small group of local investors, or more significant participants, such as private corporations and local or regional foundations, pooling funds to capitalize a venture fund that provides seed monies to start-up businesses, such as a local restaurant or grocery store. Additionally, customer-owned cooperatives and community-owned stores structured as local stock corporations have become increasingly common in starting new business ventures in traditional downtown districts.

Community Foundations

Local community foundations may provide support for preservation outreach and education activities.

Preservation Easement

A preservation easement donation is a one-time charitable, Federal income tax deduction equal to the appraised value of the preservation easement. The easement assigns the right to review and approve alterations to a qualified non-profit organization for the purpose of preserving the property in perpetuity. Property must be a certified historic building within the National Register of Historic Places, individually listed, or contributing to a local landmark district.

Regional, State and Federal/National Incentives and Funding Sources

The 20 Percent Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC) lowers the amount of federal taxes owed by the buildings owner. The National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior administers the program in cooperation with Illinois SHPO and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The 20 percent Rehabilitation Tax Credit is available for depreciable properties rehabilitated for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes, but it is not available for owner-occupied housing. In addition, a property must be individually listed or be in the process of being individually listed on the National Register, be a contributing building in a district that is listed in or is in the process of being listed in the National Register, or be a contributing building in a local historic district specifically certified by the NPS for the purposes of the tax credit program. An application to receive the tax credits must be submitted to Illinois SHPO and work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The tax credit has not been utilized in Belvidere, although most commercial buildings in the North and South State Street National Register Historic Districts are eligible to use them.

Illinois River Edge Redevelopment Zone – State Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Authorized as part of the State of Illinois River Edge Redevelopment Zone program, the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit in an amount equal to 25 percent of qualified expenditures incurred by a qualified taxpayer during the taxable year in the rehabilitation of a qualified historic structure located in a River Edge Redevelopment Zone. A qualified rehabilitation plan must be prepared; the project must equal \$5,000 or more and must exceed 50 percent of the purchase price of the property. Currently only five cities in Illinois are eligible to use the Tax Credit Program, including Rockford, Elgin, Aurora, Peoria, and East St. Louis.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit

Established as part of the U.S. Tax Reform Act of 1986, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for investors in affordable housing projects, investors who usually provide equity to housing developers as part of a syndication process. The credit is allocated in Illinois through the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) as part of an annual or semi-annual competitive application process. Claimed over 10 years, the LIHTC can be used to construct new housing or rehabilitate existing rental buildings. The credit can be used to rehabilitate historic buildings in tandem with the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit

The Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit program provides donors to qualified non-profit affordable housing sponsors with a credit to their Illinois income tax equal to 50 percent of the donation value. Eligible donations may include money or securities, or real or personal property, and may not be less than \$10,000 in total value. The credit can be used to rehabilitate historic buildings in tandem with the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

IHDA Tax Exempt Bond Programs

The Illinois Housing Development Authority offers several tax-exempt bond programs for financing housing programs in conjunction with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund - Single Family Rehabilitation Program

Administered by IHDA, the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program provides funding to municipalities or non-profit organizations in assisting local homeowner rehabilitation projects. Applicants to the program must demonstrate experience or have partnerships with local or regional agencies that possess such experience. Funding partners must also demonstrate capacity for construction management. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$45,000 in financial assistance but must also meet certain household income requirements. The program is funded through the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

IHDA Abandoned Property Program

The IHDA Abandoned Property Program provides grants to municipalities and counties to assist with the costs incurred in facilitating the rehabilitation of abandoned properties. Like the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program above, the applicant must demonstrate the capacity to carry out and manage the abandoned property project. Administered by IHDA, the program is funded by the State of Illinois through foreclosure filing fees.

Illinois Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program

Owner-occupied residential properties listed in the National Register individually or contributing as part of a district, or a locally landmarked or contributing building to a local district in a community whose ordinance has been certified for the tax freeze by the Illinois SHPO, are eligible to participate in the Illinois Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program administered by the Illinois SHPO. The program freezes a property's assessed valuation for a period of eight years, after which the valuation is raised in steps to its actual market value over a period of four years. In addition, to qualify, a property owner must spend an amount equal or exceeding 25 percent of the fair cash value of the house, as determined by the local assessor on a qualified rehabilitation that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Review of the projects seeking to qualify for the program are conducted by the Illinois SHPO.

Illinois Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants

Administered by Illinois SHPO, CLG grants are meant to partially underwrite several preservation activities, including survey and documentation, National Register nominations, historic preservation plans, design guidelines, and various education and outreach activities. Such grants require a 30 percent local match.

Preservation Heritage Fund

Landmarks Illinois, the statewide preservation advocacy organization, currently manages the Preservation Heritage Fund, which provides grant monies to preserve or protect significant buildings or sites in Illinois. Significant buildings or sites in Illinois that are under threat of demolition, imminent deterioration, or are of such architectural importance that their preservation will benefit the Illinois public, are considered high priority candidates for the Fund.

Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund Grant Program

Landmarks Illinois also manages the Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Grant Program, which funds a variety of preservation initiatives including National Register nominations, building feasibility studies, design guidelines, historic structures reports, and educational initiative.

World War I Monument Preservation Grant Program

Initiated in 2017, Landmarks Illinois, with generous support from the Pritzker Military Foundation, administers the World War I Monument Preservation Grant program to communities seeking to rehabilitate and restore World War I monuments and memorials. Eligible monuments need not be listed in the National Register to be eligible to qualify.

National Trust Preservation Funds

Preservation Fund Grants, offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are intended to encourage local level preservation at the by providing seed money for preservation projects. NTPF grant funds can be used for technical assistance needs and in facilitating private-sector involvement in preservation initiatives. Specific initiatives may relate to community sustainability, stewardship of historic places, promoting cultural diversity and preservation, and protecting heritage resources located on public land.