

# Preservation Chicago

Citizens advocating for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture

July 01, 2020

Brad Suster

*President*

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

Jacob Kaplan

*Vice President*

City of Chicago

121 N. LaSalle Street



Debbie Dodge

*Secretary*

Chicago, Illinois

Re: Citywide Adopt-a-Landmark 2020 Funding Priority-“Together Now Fund”



Stuart Berman

*Treasurer*

Dear Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

*Board of Directors*

Cathie Bond

Diane Gonzalez

 Joyce Jackson

Jack Spicer

Andrea Reed

Charles Vinz

Joanne Yasus

Preservation Chicago supports the "Citywide Adopt-a-Landmark 2020 Funding Priority" and "Together Now Fund Applications and Programs," noted in the July 1, 2020, Special Virtual Meeting of The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, as a one-time-only special program to address some of the damage caused by the recent unrest in our City.

We understand that this program is specifically addressing Designated Chicago Landmarks and buildings within Designated Chicago Landmark Districts. We find this to be a very noteworthy way of supporting our City, and our Chicago Landmarks, and further incentives for building owners to consider such support of both current and future Landmarks and Landmark Districts, as the City of Chicago is viewed as a partner in such efforts.

As Members of the General Public, it would be most helpful looking to the future to have half-yearly reports and updates on the Adopt-a-Landmark Program and the funds available for Landmark buildings and Districts.

Also, acknowledging that the Uptown Theater restoration project appears to again be stalled (noting it was two years ago that its restoration was announced and Adopt-a-Landmark funds were dedicated to the project), could these funds, or a portion of these funds estimated to be at \$3 million dollars, be used in the program for other Landmarks in need, until the Uptown Theater project is ready to start?

We very much support the idea of using Adopt-a-Landmark Funds for the Uptown Theater project, but it appears that once again the project is delayed, as it has been for decades and perhaps these funds could assist other Designated Chicago Landmark structures across the City for the time being.

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Also, perhaps in the future a larger portion of the Adopt-a-Landmark developer generated funds could be allocated to the Adopt-a-Landmark program, as this could help communities like the proposed Pilsen Historic District and with homeowners and commercial building owners with some type of assistance, towards repairs and incentives with their smaller buildings.

As you may be aware, most of the building owners in the Pilsen District would not qualify for many programs that would help developers and large building owners, so this could be a huge incentive if such a program were extended to small building owners in Designated Chicago Landmark Districts. Perhaps this could occur within the first three to five years of a Landmark District's Designation, as an idea. This could be viewed as a huge bonus towards a community's support of Landmark Districts.

While such ideas may appear to perhaps be a costly, please remember that these funds would be derived from "developer funds" for additional FAR and for taller building projects in the central area, and not the City's general funds and budget. And that such an investment in a community like Pilsen would most likely be on par with just the tax incentives and programs of one large downtown building project, receiving similar types of large-scale benefits. This would be an amazing tool and incentive in our opinion.

Anyway, we just wanted to share this idea and concept with all of you for your consideration, looking to the future and also encouraging a Pilsen Landmark District. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Ward Miller*

--

Ward Miller, Executive Director

[Preservation Chicago](#)

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