

DNR honors historic preservation standouts

Standouts in preserving cultural resources were presented with 2020 Indiana Historic Preservation Awards at small individual ceremonies in October and November. Awards are usually presented at the annual statewide historic preservation conference, but because of the pandemic, the conference was canceled.

The awards presented are:



Indiana Archaeology Award:

The recipient of this year's Indiana Archaeology Award is archaeologist Ryan Peterson. Mr. Peterson works for Cardno, and as Principal Investigator he successfully managed a large-scale archaeological excavation project for moving the historic Bethel Cemetery in Marion County, Indiana. Peterson is receiving this award for his coordination and leadership regarding this huge and detailed archaeological project, and for the efforts made to

involve, and keep informed, descendants of those buried in the cemetery.



Indiana Cemetery Award: The Indianapolis Airport Authority received this year's Indiana Cemetery Award in recognition of the respectful relocation of the Bethel Cemetery in Marion County. The IAA made the move a priority in planning, funding, support, and advocacy to assure that the archaeologists could work with family members and the community to relocate the cemetery.



Historic Preservation Award

The National Register staff presented an Indiana Historic Preservation Award to Decay Devils, Inc. in recognition of their outstanding grassroots efforts to preserve the historic resources of Gary, Indiana. Decay Devils, Inc. was informally founded in 2011 and became a certified non-profit organization in 2015. While supporting many northwest Indiana projects, they have focused their efforts on the Gary Union Station, a 1910 Beaux

Arts building that has been vacant since the 1970s. In order to transform the area, Decay Devils worked with local artists to create murals in open window spaces and hosted clean-up/workdays to help create a safe parklike area around the building. They have also hosted downtown walking/biking tours, art exhibits, and successfully nominated the Gary Union Station to the National Register in 2019.

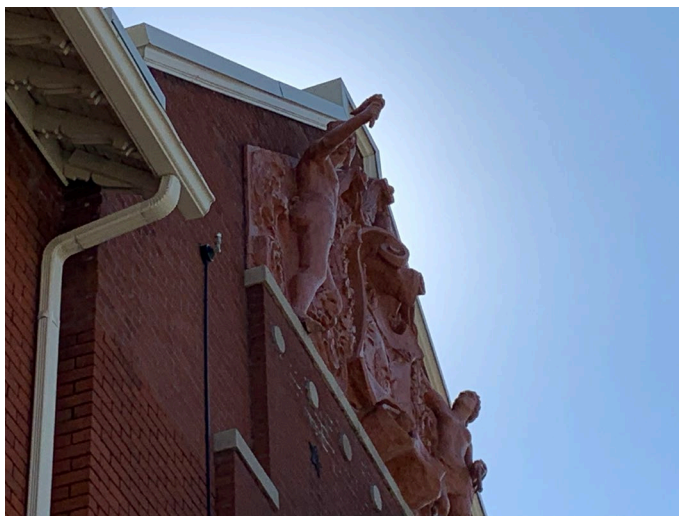


Outstanding Grant-Assisted Rehabilitation Award

The DHPA Grant Staff presented the award to the Indiana Medical History Museum for outstanding grant project management and on-going stewardship of its National Register-listed property, the Old Pathology Building on the former campus of Central State Hospital in Indianapolis. This not-for-profit organization recently completed four consecutive annual rehabilitation projects

using matching grant assistance from the federal Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service, which is managed in Indiana by the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. These grant-assisted projects have helped secure this one-of-a-kind building and its

unique collections against water infiltration, improved weatherization and energy efficiency, and increased security, functionality, and safety for staff and visitors. Together, these four annual grants totaled \$163,428 and were matched by the museum with more than \$189,000 for a combined investment of more than \$352,000 in urgently needed repairs and system upgrades. When it opened in 1896, this building was a state-of-the-art medical research and teaching facility, and remained in use until 1968. The museum now uses the building's features, furnishings, and collections to interpret the history of medicine and medical research to visitors and medical students.



Outstanding Rehabilitation Tax Credit Project

The DHPA presented the award to Point Comfort Underwriters, Inc. for their work on the South Side Turnverein Hall in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. The building was constructed in 1900 and was designed by Vonnegut & Bohn, one of Indianapolis' most prominent architecture firms at the time. The project involved the conversion of the building into office space for Point Comfort Underwriters and is an excellent

example of adapting a historic space to a new use while maintaining the character and features that made it unique. Of particular note is the recreation of the sculpture group on the west elevation gable, which was originally created by Austrian-born sculptor Rudolf Schwarz (1865-1912), who also worked on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Indianapolis.