

*North Carolina*  
**Preservation North Carolina**

*The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.*

*Saving historic places that matter to the diverse people of North Carolina.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Annie Jernigan, (919) 832-3652 ext. 227 or [ajernigan@presnc.org](mailto:ajernigan@presnc.org)

**J. Myrick Howard Receives National Preservation Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced eleven recipients of this year’s National Preservation Awards, including J. Myrick Howard of Raleigh, North Carolina who received the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award for Lifetime Achievement. A formal awards ceremony with presentations was held on the morning of November 8, during the PastForward National Preservation Conference in Washington, DC.

The slate of awards represents several of the most prestigious honors in the preservation field, and celebrates some of the distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through the preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

“We’ve gathered at the start of PastForward to honor a few of those leaders who are making a real difference in this field through the National Preservation Awards,” said Jay Clemens, interim president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “The theme of this year’s conference is Preserving Place, Empowering Community, and the award recipients each showcase the varied and impactful ways we can put that into practice.”

The National Trust for Historic Preservation first established its marquee Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award in 1960 to focus public attention on superlative achievements and to create incentives for preservation. That honor has expanded over the decades into the National Preservation Awards, which are now bestowed annually in multiple categories. The awards program has since 2012 included a subset of honors named for the late preservationist Richard H. Driehaus, and the eponymous Driehaus Foundation.

“The 2023 recipients demonstrate the many facets of preservation and multiple ways that this field can impact communities and individuals,” said Anne Lazar, executive director of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. “From the renovation of a large, white elephant; to the reimagining of a historic school building; to an innovative project that takes a proactive approach to protecting places, these projects highlight how diverse the preservation field can be.”

The 2023 National Preservation Awards recipients include:

- **Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award for Lifetime Achievement: J. Myrick Howard (Raleigh, NC).** An extraordinary thought leader, practitioner, and mentor, J. Myrick Howard has saved hundreds of historic places and advanced model public policies and incentives in North Carolina for more than four decades. Under his leadership at Preservation North Carolina, Howard’s

advocacy for revolving funds has resulted in the preservation of nearly 900 properties in 80 counties, leveraging over \$750 million in private investment. His book *Buying Time for Heritage: How to Save an Endangered Historic Property*, is the go-to resource on the subject and a textbook for preservation programs across the nation.

- **The President's Award: Angel Delgadillo (Seligman, AZ).** Angel Delgadillo grew up on Route 66, where he opened a barbershop and souvenir shop. When the Interstate was opened in 1985, Delgadillo experienced firsthand the devastating impact of the decommissioning of Route 66 as a U.S. highway. After several years of laying the groundwork, Delgadillo's tenacious advocacy and community engagement played a pivotal role in the preservation and celebration of historic Route 66.
- **Emerging Leaders Award: Dr. Joy Banner, Co-Founder, The Descendants Project (St. John the Baptist Parish, LA).** Dr. Joy Banner has led groundbreaking work in historic preservation through the innovative use of history, archaeology, community, and descendant engagement to fight environmental racism, unemployment, and poverty. Under her leadership as Co-Director of The Descendants Project, she has successfully prevented the construction of a Grain Elevator over residential land and sacred burial grounds.
- **Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence: Waterfront Historic Area League (New Bedford, MA).** Established in 1962, the Waterfront Historic Area League's tireless commitment to preservation has had a transformative impact on New Bedford. Since 2015, it remains the first and only organization in the country to be both a Historic Preservation Nonprofit and a Community Development Corporation. WHALE's historic restorations continue to adapt historic buildings for uses that create a thriving urban center, make neighborhoods strong, and bring economic gains to the city.
- **The National Trust/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation: The Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project (Ashland, OR).** The Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project is a grassroots federal, state, and local partnership initiated in underserved rural communities in southern and eastern Oregon. This trailblazing project is embedded in local communities but includes an exceptional public education component that reaches a state-wide audience and beyond. The research generated through public archaeology projects is helping to update and recenter the history of the Chinese diaspora in Oregon.
- **The John H. Chafee Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy: Congresswoman Terri Sewell (7th District, AL).** Congresswoman Terri Sewell has been a leader in advancing preservation policy through her long-standing advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. A champion for the African American Civil Rights Grant Program and the Historic Tax Credit, Congresswoman Sewell has provided critical support for the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area Act and the creation of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument.

#### **Headquarters**

Mail: P.O. Box 27644, Raleigh NC 27611-7644

Street: 814 Oberlin Road, Raleigh NC 27605

919-832-3652 • fax: 919-832-1651 • e-mail: [info@presnc.org](mailto:info@presnc.org) • [www.PreservationNC.org](http://www.PreservationNC.org)

- **The Trustees Emeritus Award for Historic Site Stewardship: Colectivo El Ancon de Loiza (San Juan, PR).** At the historic entrance of the Municipality on the banks of the Rio Grande de Loiza, Colectivo El Ancon de Loiza offers a variety of tools for community empowerment and development through art, education, economic growth, and leadership opportunities. By honoring its history, Colectivo El Ancon de Loiza proudly highlights their Afro-Caribbean roots and recognizes their significant contribution to Puerto Rican culture.
- **The Trustees Emeritus Award for Historic Site Stewardship: Alabama Historical Commission (Mobile, AL).** Over an intense five-year period, the Alabama Historical Commission led a highly successful response to the surprise discovery of the wreck of the schooner Clotilda, the last known vessel to force captive people from Africa into enslavement in the United States. Their collaboration with private, state, federal, and not-for-profit entities, as well as direct descendants in Africatown, serves as a model in historic preservation and community engagement.
- **Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award: TEP Center (New Orleans, LA).** The McDonogh No. 19 Public School was one of two schools first desegregated in New Orleans and across the Deep South. Leona Tate, one of the “McDonogh Three” who attended the formerly white-only school on November 14, 1960, now co-owns the renamed Tate, Etienne & Prevost Center. McDonogh was redeveloped into an adaptive reuse space that includes an interpretive center dedicated to teaching New Orleans’ history of school desegregation and the broader Civil Rights Movement, an anti-racism educational and training space, and 25 affordable apartments for senior households.
- **Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award: OSF HealthCare Ministry (Peoria, IL).** Passion, technology, and preservation expertise fueled the remarkable exterior and interior preservation of a dilapidated 7-floor, 3-sublevel 1905 department store in historic downtown Peoria. The building carries a longer history in the development of social services and healthcare to the community since the 1876 founding of the Sisters of the Order of St. Francis (OSF). Believing strongly in the continued investment of their community, the Sisters chose to renovate the long-neglected downtown icon instead of building anew. This mixed-use project included the historic-tax-credit-supported rehabilitation of 275,000 SF of space into a modern hub that has brought in over 500 employees and millions of dollars to downtown Peoria.
- **Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award: Historic Houses of Worship and Disaster Aftermath, a Toolkit to Increase Resilience (San Antonio, TX).** In the aftermath of hurricanes and other disasters, communities often recover with help from neighborhood houses of worship. But many historic houses of worship, especially those that serve under-resourced communities, are at greater risk during major weather events. In response, the University of Texas at San Antonio collaborated with three universities to develop the highly accessible Toolkit to Increase Resilience. Considering every individual building, landscape, and

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cultural heritage component, the toolkit empowers faith-based groups to strengthen their buildings from future climate impacts.

**About The National Trust:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places to enrich our future. <https://savingplaces.org/>

**About PastForward:** PastForward is the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, November 8-10, attracting thousands of people passionate about saving places. Attendees include preservationists, advocates and architects, city planners and historic site directors, students and elected officials, commissioners, and main street directors. This year's conference theme is "Preserving Place, Empowering Community." <https://savingplaces.org/conference>

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*Founded in 1939, Preservation North Carolina (PNC) is North Carolina's only private nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization. Its mission is to protect and promote buildings, landscapes and sites important to the diverse people of North Carolina. Through its award-winning Endangered Properties Program, Preservation North Carolina acquires endangered historic properties and then finds purchasers to rehabilitate them. PNC has protected nearly 900 historic properties statewide.*

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*Additional photographs available upon request*

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