

RENEWAL



A POAH MIDWEST NEWSLETTER

Mattie Butler Apartments and Development Team Receive 2022 Landmarks IL Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award

This past May, Congressman Bobby Rush, Mayor Lori Lightfoot and others gathered to celebrate Mattie Butler's work in Woodlawn and the partnership between her organization, WECAN, and POAH that will preserve 106 apartments in East Woodlawn and keep them affordable for future generations.

This November, that critical partnership will be recognized and celebrated more broadly when Landmarks Illinois presents POAH and WECAN with the 2022 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Leadership.

The properties, formerly known as the Johnson and Butler-Lindon Apartments, were initially saved from market conversion by WECAN in the 1990s. In 2017 Mattie sought a preservation-minded new owner with the infrastructure and resources needed to preserve the housing for the future.

POAH and WECAN worked together to transfer ownership to POAH to ensure both long-term affordability and the financing needed for extensive modernization and repairs. The event in May celebrated both Mattie and the renovations that guarantee the buildings are healthy well into the future. To acknowledge Ms. Butler's work, the buildings were renamed the Mattie Butler Apartments.

For fighting to preserve affordable housing, 20th Ward Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor said the renaming of the buildings "makes Ms. Butler's activism and work so very important, especially during today's resurging housing instability and inequity among some segments within the Woodlawn area."

And as Landmark Illinois' President and CEO Bonnie McDonald said, "POAH, Mattie Butler and WECAN demonstrate the impact preservation has in our Illinois communities. They have created an inspiring place where people want to live and visit, while boosting economic activity and strengthening local pride."

