

AUGUST 2026 – VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Hello, Volunteers!

Welcome to this month's Volunteer Newsletter! Every month we'll fill you in on:

- News at the Trust
 - Updates from the Trust regarding events or operations
- Upcoming Events
 - Events in the Chicago area related to art, history, architecture, and of course, Frank Lloyd Wright
- Other News
 - Any other news that are relevant to our volunteers

As always, please submit any suggestions, events, or news to me at cjansen@flwright.org.



NEWS AT THE TRUST:

MEET KC!

The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust is excited to welcome our Interim CEO KC Gaudine, who will be leading the organization until a new CEO is hired. If you didn't see her message to the volunteers the other week, here it is in full:



Greetings,

Thank you, Conor for the introduction.

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you in person and would love to meet everyone before the new CEO arrives. I am excited to be here and share this treasure with you.

My service in the non-profit industry spans 40 year, 32 of which has been as a Professional Interim CEO. I have served every sector of the non-profit industry in many different parts of the country. My undergraduate degree is in Marketing and Finance from the Kelly School of Business/Indiana University, and my master's degree is in organizational psychology/organizational development. I have several certifications in coaching and consulting. My consulting practice includes, leadership development, strategic planning, succession planning, board development and change management. If you would like more information, let me know and I will be happy to send you my Bio.

First, I want to thank all of you for your outstanding service to the Trust. I understand that some of you have been here for a very long time. Your dedication, commitment and love for Frank Wright Lloyd, his talent and his story is so significant and such a positive influence on staff and the community.

The staff speaks so highly of you and the visitors are so complimentary of your tours/service. Non-profit organizations can not exist w/o the skills, talents and commitment of their volunteer core. No one knows our visitors better than all of you, and we are so grateful for all the work you do for the Development Department, Education and Programming.

The HR team and Conor have updated the Volunteer Handbook and will be sending it out soon. Please read it and sign it and return your signature page to Conor so that HR can document the receipt of all signatures. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Second, I want to update you with what I currently know about the search for a new CEO and to let you know that I have received all your programming ideas from the Search Survey and will be sharing this information with Alice Boone.

The Search Firm, Kittleman & Assoc., is a very good firm and the lead Principle is excellent. I trust her and believe she is the perfect person for this search. She knows a great deal about the organization, its good points and things that need improvement. The search Committee has gone through the first round of interviews and is now focused on the second round to choose finalists. The Committee is hoping to choose a finalist and make an offer in September. Depending on where the candidate is located will determine their arrival to the organization.

In the meantime, please reach out with any questions or to just say hello. I look forward to meeting all of you before I leave and please know that you are greatly appreciated.

Most sincerely,

K C Gauldine
Interim CEO

kgauldine@flwright.org

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Party is Sunday 10/4

The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust will be hosting our 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Party on **Sunday October 4, 2026 at 5PM** in the Courtyard of the Home & Studio. Please join us for dinner, drinks, and desserts, and help us recognize this year's Volunteer Service Award recipients.

Formal invitation with additional details and RSVP link forthcoming.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH CURIOSITY

Interested in the backstories of architects, the individuals that commission them, or the source of architectural details? Interested in getting involved with the research side of Wright Plus? The team wants to hear from you, whether you already have research experience or are someone looking to learn the ropes. It's a very rewarding experience.

Want to get involved or have any questions? Please contact Wright Plus 27 Co-Chair, Tom Drebenstedt at chilstedt@sbcglobal.net

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST ARCHIVES: JOIN US FOR TEA & TRANSCRIPTIONS ON AUGUST 27

Interested in transcribing historical text? Are you a tea enthusiast? Then you've come to the right place! Join the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust Archives for **Tea & Transcriptions**, a unique volunteer event that combines archival discovery with a cozy afternoon of tea and treats!

The Trust's archive preserves a plethora of historic photographs documenting the lives, homes and legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright and close contemporaries. During this event, volunteers will work with a special selection of photographs from Maginel Wright Barney's personal scrapbooks. Many of these photographs include handwritten inscriptions on the reverse—some written by Maginel herself—which provide valuable clues about the people, places, and moments captured in each image.

We're inviting volunteers to help us transcribe these handwritten notes so we can better understand the context of each photograph and preserve this information for future generations. Every transcription



contributes directly to the archive's ongoing cataloging efforts, enriching our records and helping make these collections more searchable and accessible. Our ultimate goal is to make these photographs and their accompanying inscriptions available digitally through the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust's website, allowing researchers, students, and the public to explore them from anywhere.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own laptops if they prefer to type their transcriptions. If you don't have a laptop available, don't worry- the Trust will provide iPads for use during the event. This will be hosted in Anna's first floor conference room, 931 Chicago Ave, Oak Park, in which there will be two sessions, the first taking place from **11:00am-1:00pm** and the second from **2:00pm-4:00pm**. Volunteers are welcome to join whichever session works best for their schedule!

Of course, no afternoon of transcription would be complete without refreshments! Enjoy a selection of specially blended teas inspired by some of Frank Lloyd Wright's most beloved sites including Home & Studio, Robie House, The Rookery, and Unity Temple. A variety of baked goods will also be available throughout the event.

Whether you're passionate about history, photography, fascinated by handwriting, or are simply looking for a relaxing way to support the Trust's mission, we'd love to have you join us! Every word you transcribe helps bring these remarkable photographs to life and makes them more accessible for future research and discovery.

Any questions or concerns? Feel free to reach out to Conor Jansen, Alice Boone or Andria Castillo at cjansen@flwright.org, aboone@flwright.org and acastillo@flwright.org.

Plan to attend? Let us know here: [Tea & Transcriptions Interest Form – Fill out form](#)

FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES AT ROBIE AND THE HOME & STUDIO

The next round of training classes for Robie House and the Home & Studio are set. If you're interested in adding one of these sites to your repertoire or know somebody interested in becoming a volunteer, let me know!

FREDERICK C. ROBIE HOUSE INTERPRETER TRAINING DATES

- **WED 9/16/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 1:** The History and Artistry of Robie House
- **WED 9/23/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 2:** Fundamentals of Interpretation and FAQs
- **WED 9/30/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 3:** Practice with Mentors

EVENING GROUP PRACTICE SESSIONS:

- WED 10/21/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- WED 10/28/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- WED 11/4/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

All Robie House classes and practice sessions will be located at Frederick C. Robie House, 5757 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL

OAK PARK HOME AND STUDIO INTERPRETER TRAINING CLASS

- **THURS 9/17/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 1:** The History and Artistry of the Home & Studio
- **THURS 9/24/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 2:** Fundamentals of Interpretation and FAQs
- **THURS 10/1/26, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM - Session 3:** Practice with Mentors

EVENING GROUP PRACTICE SESSIONS:

- THURS 10/22/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- THURS 10/29/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- THURS 11/5/26, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

All Home and Studio classes and practice sessions will be located at the Oak Park Home and Studio, 925 Chicago Ave, Oak Park, IL

TO SIGN UP, EMAIL CONOR JANSEN AT cjansen@flwright.org

GUEST SERVICES NEWS

AMORINO OPEN AT THE ROOKERY BUILDING

The long-awaited Amorino gelato shop has finally opened in The Rookery on the ground floor. We're hoping this will increase interest in our tours and our shop. There has been a lot of social media buzz about this new location, and the buzz seems to be drawing a lot of positive attention and new visitors to The Rookery.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST IS ON Groupon

We currently have our guided tours of Home & Studio, Robie House, Unity Temple and The Rookery available to purchase on Groupon. We hope this will capture an audience who wouldn't normally be aware of our sites. The first month of the campaign seems to be doing well so far. [FLW Trust Groupon](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD AUDIO WALKING TOURS:

Every Thursday in August, (August 6, 13, 20, 27) Trust members receive up to (4) free neighborhood audio walking tours at both Robie House and the Home and Studio. No reservations are required. Simply go to the museum shop any Thursday in August with proof of membership.

The offer applies to these tours:

- Historic Neighborhood Walking Tour – Self-Guided (H&S)
- Robie Self-guided Exterior Audio Tour (Robie)
- Robie and H&S Inside + Out tours

CELEBRATE BOOK LOVERS' DAY with a 20% DISCOUNT:

Trust members receive 20% off regularly priced BOOKS online at ShopWright.org and in our Museum Shops (Robie and H&S)

Book Lovers' Day only – **Sunday 8/9/2026** – with code **GoodRead20** (case sensitive)

Questions? Not a Trust member and interested in becoming one? Contact us at membership@flwright.org



SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS:

We know that our volunteers have a wide variety of interests. Curated here are some upcoming events related to history, art, architecture, Chicago, and Frank Lloyd Wright that you may be interested in.

AUGUST:

- **FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST ARCHIVES: TEA & TRANSCRIPTIONS**

- **WHEN:** Thursday August 20, 11AM-1PM, 2PM-4PM
 - **WHAT:** Enjoy curated Wright-inspired teas while helping the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust Archives in transcribing handwritten notes. You are encouraged to bring your own laptop or device for typing up transcriptions, but iPads will be available as well.
 - **WHERE:** Anna's House, 931 Chicago Ave, Oak Park, IL
 - **REGISTER:** Walk-ins welcome, but if you plan to attend, please sign up in advance so we can get a sense of how many people to expect: [Tea & Transcriptions Interest Form – Fill out form](#)

- **GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL**

- The Grant Park Music Festival is coming to a close this month. Check out one of the August shows:
 - **WED AUGUST 5, 6:30 PM:** Ohlsson Plays Chopin
 - **FRI AUGUST 7, 6:30 PM:** Mozart Requiem
 - **SAT AUGUST 8, 7:30 PM:** Mozart Requiem
 - **WED AUGUST 12, 6:30 PM:** Dvořák New World Symphony
 - **FRI AUGUST 14, 6:30 PM:** Beethoven Symphony No. 9
 - **SAT AUGUST 15, 7:30 PM:** Beethoven Symphony No. 9
- **All shows located at Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, 201 E Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60601**
- **All shows are free to attend on a first come first serve basis.** Free seating is available in the Seating Bowl on a first come first serve basis, or you can bring a picnic blanket or fold-up chair to the

Great Lawn. Paid reserved seating options are also available. More information here: <https://www.grantparkmusicfestival.com/plan-your-visit/>

- Read more about the individual shows and about open rehearsal dates here: <https://www.grantparkmusicfestival.com/events/>

EXHIBITIONS CLOSING SOON:

- **INTUIT ART MUSEUM: *Impressions of a City: Drawings by Marvin Young***
 - **CLOSING AUGUST 23**
 - **WHAT:** “*Impressions of a City* explores the complexities of daily life as experienced and remembered by artist Marvin Young (b. 1961), a lifelong Chicago South Side resident. He honors the memories of his childhood by portraying vibrant cityscapes filled with people and vehicles in motion using graphite, colored pencils, crayons, pens and markers. Subjects include vintage Chicago walk-ups, high-rises, city streets, taxis, classic cars, school buses and the city’s people. Many of the buildings in his childhood neighborhood were torn down as part of the Chicago Housing Authority Plan for Transformation (c. 2000). This was a city-wide initiative that aimed to replace and revitalize public housing to include more mixed income housing yet remains ongoing and ultimately left the city with significantly fewer public housing units.”
 - **READ MORE:** <https://art.org/exhibitions/impressions-of-a-city-drawings-by-marvin-young>
 - **FREE DAY:** August 22, 11AM-6PM; other admission and hours information here: <https://art.org/plan-your-visit>
 - **LOCATION:** Intuit Art Museum, 756 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL, 60642
- **BRIDGEPORT ART CENTER: *COLOR SONGS: MUSICIANS AS VISUAL ARTISTS***
 - **CLOSING SEPTEMBER 4**
 - **WHAT:** “Art is a universal language that has many modes of expression. *Color Songs: Musicians as Visual Artists*, curated by Dr. Yaoundé Olu, focuses on a marriage between the disciplines of visual art and music. Visual artists who also create music, or musicians who compose visual artworks were invited to exhibit paintings, drawings, sculptures, mixed media, printmaking, fiber arts,

photography, & digital works. While works of art addressing music as a subject were encouraged, the pieces of visual art featured in *Color Songs* are not limited to this theme."

- **READ MORE:** <https://www.bridgeportart.com/call-for-artists-color-songs/>
- **FREE ADMISSION**
- **GALLERY HOURS:** Mon-Sat, 8AM-6PM; Sun, 8AM-12PM
- **LOCATION:** 1200 W. 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60609. Enter on North Side off of Racine / 34th Place.
 - **FREE PARKING IN NORTH LOT**
 - **More information/map:** <https://www.bridgeportart.com/plan-visit/>



OTHER NEWS:

A GINGKO TREE GROWS IN LAWRENCE

A special thank you to interpreter Mark Scott for sharing this story:

In 1996, a FLW fan was visiting the H&S and sitting on a bench by the Ginkgo tree when he noticed a shoot coming out of the mulch. He proceeded to pull the shoot out of the ground and wondered if he should take it or try to put it back in.

He decided to take the shoot home with him back to Lawrence, Kansas where he put the shoot in a cup with dirt on his window. He watered it faithfully and it continued to grow. The following spring he replanted the shoot, now a foot tall, in his back yard. It continued to do well until it was 4 feet tall and then he replanted the sapling in the parkway of his street.

The tree is now over 30 feet tall, doing well, and if you ever want to see the offspring of our own Ginkgo tree at the Home & Studio, it is located at 3121 Oregon Trail in Lawrence, Kansas:



BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO: “Artifacts Of Louis Sullivan Building, Demolished In The '50s, Are Protecting South Shore's Lakefront”

If you haven't already read, check out this article published by Block Club Chicago this past month, featuring our very own Tom Drebenstedt:

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2026/07/08/artifacts-of-louis-sullivan-building-demolished-in-the-50s-are-protecting-south-shores-lakefront/>

SURVEY: WRIGHT SITES AS FOOD

The staff at the Trust has been having some fun debating this question, and we want to hear what our volunteers think: if our four Wright sites were foods, what foods would they be? Let us know what you think and I'll share the results in September:

[Food Lloyd Wright: Which Foods Best Describe Our Sites – Fill out form](#)